

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** held Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street, Audley on 21st August 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr H Proctor
Councillors: Mr T Sproston, Mrs V Pearson, Mr P Breuer, Mr C Cooper, Cllr A Beech, Cllr A Wemyss, Mrs B Kinnersley, Mr M Dolman.

Clerk – Mrs C. Withington
2 members of public were in attendance

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>To receive apologies Apologies were received from. Mrs C D Cornes, Mr D Cornes and Lewis Moore (STBH rep)</p>	
2.	<p>To consider approving and signing minutes of Parish Council meeting on 17th July 2014 These were approved as a true and accurate record and signed at the meeting. Mr T Sproston arrived at this point.</p>	
3.	<p>Declaration of interest in any item No declarations.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Participation The residents did not wish to raise any separate issues, however one wished to speak about an agenda item at that point on the agenda.</p>	
5.	<p>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-</p> <p>Cllr Proctor handed over to Mr Sproston to chair this item, due to his membership of the Borough Council's Planning Committee. Cllr Proctor did not take part in any votes on the applications and discussions.</p> <p>14/00583/TDET - Replacement of the existing 15 metre monopole for a 17.5 metre monopole with antennas, transmission dishes and ancillary equipment Bignall End Cricket Club Boon Hill Bignall End Staffordshire ST7 8LA The application, due to the post not being received in time for the agenda issue, was considered as an urgent issue. It was RESOLVED that due to the tight timescales it would be considered for this meeting and delegated authority powers would be used to allow the Clerk to make the comment on behalf of the Parish Council as an urgent decision. There were no objections raised and the application is therefore to be SUPPORTED.</p> <p>Proposed 4 no. detached bungalows Land Rear Of 24 To 36 Heathcote Road Miles Green Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LH Ref. No: 14/00533/FUL Planning Committee/Village Env adj to Green belt</p> <p>Mr Dale's letter was read out at the meeting. It was RESOLVED that the Planning application be NOT SUPPORTED for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable drainage will is an issue • There is more traffic now than in past years and often the speed limit is ignored, this is also a school route • The entrance is not wide enough and will cause access problems • Undesirable back infill • There are still enough brown field sites within the Parish and the Borough that can be built on before green belt and green field sites are used • The collection and storage of waste is still considered to be an issue • It is overlooked by properties 24 – 36 Heathcote Road, Miles Green. 	

Audley Rural Parish Council would like to again request the Planning Committee carry out a site visit with the Planning Officers to view this site for the above proposed planning application in order to fully appreciate and consider the Highway issues and the impact on the adjacent green belt plus neighbouring properties.

The Parish Council would like to request that the Applicant submits an ecological study to confirm that there is no impact of the location of the waste collection point/refuse sanctuary which is located near to the brook, and any potential spillages and leakages from the waste, on the water voles or other wildlife in this area.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following conditions would be requested in the event of the planning permission being approved by the Borough Council, despite the Parish Council's lack of support and the residents' objections:

1. Access is retained for neighbouring properties to maintain their boundaries
2. The refuse sanctuary (including containers for recyclable materials) is screened to avoid any negative visual impact on neighbouring properties
3. The refuse sanctuary is only used by the residents on the day of waste collection.

Proposed 2 no. detached dwellings with detached double garages, associated hard standings and landscaping.

Land Rear Of 78 To 94 Chapel Street Bignall End Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8QD

Ref. No: 14/00503/FUL **Del Authority/Village Env adj to Green belt**

There is concern that the measurements taken by Highways officers and the Applicant regarding the proposed road changes for an improved visibility splay are incorrect and need to be remeasured. The land is landlocked as there are no access rights for the land owner over the Church land – therefore it is undevelopable due to there being no ability to create access for vehicles/residents to the site thus the applicant is unable to fulfil any planning requirements to create suitable off road parking per property in accordance with national planning policy guidance.

There are issues regarding the impact on the neighbouring church services in particular funeral services which are held at the cemetery. The ability for large funeral hearses to safely park close to the cemetery is imperative along with grieving relatives, and the elderly/infirm paying their respects.

The issues of the drainage and the current problems faced with a high water table at the site, should not be underestimated or overlooked by the Borough Council. By creating hard surfaces with water run off due to the removal of the sustainable drainage of the greenspace, will only add to the unresolvable flooding issues currently experienced in the cemetery and may overload the existing drains.

The Parish Council feel most strongly that due to the neighbouring primary school, the extreme parking difficulties already experienced by residents and safety concerns for the young school children using sustainable methods to access the school (such as bikes and walking) should be a material consideration in this planning application. In light of the current discussions with the Police about road safety issues for the school, plus also the current survey being carried out by the Police Crime Commissioner regarding dangerous

	<p>parking near to schools, by allowing this development to go ahead will further exacerbate an already severe problem which the Police are currently looking at ways to solve. The Parish Council would like assurances that the Education Authority and the School have had opportunity to be consulted along with the Police Architectural liaison officer due to the road safety issues – and any comments received have been taken into consideration in the design.</p> <p>Numerous representations have been made by local residents objecting to the development and the Parish Council would urge the Planning Committee to take on board <u>the Parish Council's real local knowledge of the area</u> and refuse this application.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Parish Council do NOT SUPPORT the application for the above reasons.</p> <p>FOR INFO ONLY: <u>Works to trees - thinning of crowns and removal of 3 no. trees</u> Bank Cottage 22 Nantwich Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DH Ref. No: 14/00515/TCA Noted</p> <p><u>Works to Lime tree</u> 46 Wilbrahams Walk Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8HL Ref. No: 14/00513/TWA Noted</p>	
6.	<p>To consider the co-option of a Parish Councillor for Halmer End and for Bignall End Wards</p> <p>Cllr Proctor took the position of Chair for the rest of the meeting.</p> <p>A total of 6 applications had been received from the following individuals: Avril Frankish, Christine Richardson, Jean Stevenson, Rev John Taylor, Michael Boughey and Mike Joynson. A secret ballot was taken to select a Parish Councillor for each Ward. RESOLVED that the following be appointed:</p> <p>Mr Mike Joynson – Halmer End Ward Revd John Taylor – Bignall End Ward</p> <p>The other candidates would be notified of the outcome and thanked for their interest.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>Update on Audley Library review by Staffordshire County Council (Standing item)</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported that he had attending a presentation by Cllr Lawrence and felt that the outcome would not be favourable for Audley Library despite the objection by Audley residents. A petition has been raised by the LAP and a large number have signed it possibly as many as 1000. A further meeting will be held on 18th September to provide more detail about the involvement expected from voluntary groups. Unfortunately despite a potential funding solution towards Audley Library, this would still have no impact to retain it with Staffordshire County Council.</p>	
8.	<p>To receive information regarding a potential Audley Police Post – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported that following a discussion with the Police Crime Commissioner and also the Divisional Commander, there is a good case for Audley receiving a Police Post. However there are no guarantees and this will not increase current staffing which is 1 PC with 2 PCSOs.</p>	

9.	<p>Grants – Community Chest (uncommitted balance £1676)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alsagers Bank Preschool (£750 towards flooring in church hall) <p>Discussion took place regarding this application, and it was felt that as a result of it being a church owned building, the application would not be valid as it would be maintaining a church building. RESOLVED that the application be refused due to the loss of amenity for the community of Alsagers Bank and the grant application is for work to be carried out to a property belonging to the parish church.</p> <p>Clerk asked to request that the Kick Boxing mats which were funded by the Community Chest in 2010 are returned to the Parish.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas/Allotments inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for August and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority This was noted. RESOLVED that Mr Hough be asked to paint Bignall End Road and Halmer End under the Annual Maintenance contract. Clerk has instructed Aardwolf to remove the moles at Albert Street. Mr Hough to be instructed to repair the damaged trip rail at Alsager Road. <p>All to provide details to the Clerk as to what sign is at each Play area and what is required with respects to the Dog Control Orders and fouling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bignall End Road Play area repair to fence – noted that this was done due to damaged caused under Delegated Authority. Removal of seat Wereton Road – this had been carried out as it had been vandalised, potentially attempted theft. Seat will be re-sited in concrete. Leddys Field – approval of draft survey and to consider quotes for tree work/markings <p>The quote received from Tim James to mark the trees for further quotes was approved. Mrs Pearson to be informed of the day he attends. The draft Tree Survey was approved as circulated.</p> <p>A complaint had been received from a person located on Hill Terrace about weeds (possibly bindweed) causing damage to their property. Agreed that due to unclear ownership issues, Mr Proctor would enquire with the likely owner of the strip of access land at the rear of the properties and report back. To be included on the next agenda. Holding letter to be sent in the meantime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bluebell Woods – Feedback from councillor visit and required actions A site visit had been held by Cllr Proctor, Mr Cooper, Mr Sproston and Mr Breuer. Mr Sproston stated that the wood was lovely small woodland which did not require any work, with the exception of the removal of the dilapidated fence at the rear due to barbwire. Mr Cooper agreed. Noted that the footpath could be located by the hedgerow. <p>RESOLVED to invite the public to speak in accordance with Standing Orders. Mr Matthew Whitmore spoke on the subject and in particular disagreed due to the sycamore that was dominating the woodland. There was also a tree guard which needed to be removed from a planted tree. He also felt that the footpath could be diverted so that it runs through the wood.</p> <p>Following the public speaking, Cllr Proctor closed the public participation. Mr Cooper agreed it would be beneficial but not crucial to divert the footpath, as this could be dealt with as a permitted right of way. It was also agreed that the tree guard should be removed asap. However it was noted that the</p>	<p>Clerk (SH)</p> <p>Clerk (SH)</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Clerk (SH)</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Next agenda Clerk</p>

	<p>Parish Council had to be mindful that it did not create a managed woodland, due to the cost and the negative impact on the ancient woodland.</p> <p>RESOLVED that quotes would be obtained for removal of 4 sycamore trees and 2 broadleaf replanted. A quote would also be obtained for removal of one tree to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Hough to be asked to remove the fence and the tree guard in the meantime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage Alsagers Bank – Cllr Wemyss Cllr Wemyss requested that the Clerk ask for the graffiti' d road sign to be cleaned up – on the approach from Blackbank. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk (SH)</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11.	<p>Request for bin at Rileys Field – Cllr Beech Cllr Beech stated that there was not a bin near to Rileys Field for the children to put their rubbish. RESOLVED that a bin would be purchased and installed, and Mr Hough would be asked to empty it on his playground visits. Mr Hough to look at the perimeter fence and monitor for damage.</p>	Clerk (SH)
12.	<p>To finalise and agree the Audley Allotment Lease for signature by 2 councillors The Association's terms and conditions for tenants were noted and approved. It was also noted that there was a condition regarding the size of sheds etc included in their terms.</p> <p>RESOLVED that this same clause would be included in the Parish Council lease, and this would then be issued as a final document for signing with the Association.</p>	Clerk BP
13.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Proctor Noted that the LAP had been collecting signatures for the Library petition. Events for older people to attend memorial events and school children had been organised. Police liaison meeting had been held as normal, with PCSO Blythe in attendance. The main issue raised was kids congregating on Kent Hills.</p>	
14.	<p>To consider a request from a resident at Co-operative Lane for a bin and bollards at the end to close it off (plus a site visit) Cllr Proctor, Mr Cooper, Mr Sproston and Mr Breuer had attended a visit with the resident. Noted that there was a dispute over maintenance and ownership between the Borough and County Council. It was agreed to await the outcome of this before any further action could be taken. If there were Parish land available, the Borough would locate a bin.</p>	
15.	<p>Clarification regarding access for Audley Anglers over Bateswood – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported that a PCSO has been told he cannot access the land for the youth fishing events by a resident. It was stated that the land is leased from SISWO to the Borough Council, and as the PCSO was carrying out legitimate business in agreement with the Borough Council it should be acceptable. Cllr Proctor to raise ownership issues with the Borough Council and SISWO if necessary.</p>	BP
16.	<p>Arrangements for the Community Awards 18th Sept (deadline for nominations 18th August)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>R.W Edwards Community Award</i> 2. <i>Capewell Naylor Trophy for Services to the Environment</i> 3. <i>Elsie Kelsall Young Persons Award</i> <p>Discussion took place regarding the awards. Nominations were not received therefore it was RESOLVED to award the trophies as verbally agreed at the meeting. Participants will be invited to attend the next meeting to receive the award. Clerk to acquire a new trophy for the Elsie Kelsall award.</p>	Clerk Clerk

17.	<p>To approve the use of Margaret's Garden for an archery "have a go" event during Pink week in October – Mrs C D Cornes</p> <p>There was concern about the implications for our insurance in particular a vicarious liability, due to inexperienced users firing the equipment. It was felt it would be safer and more appropriate to direct them to Leddys Field, where the existing competitions are held and safety measures can be put in place. RESOLVED to not allow the use of Margaret's Garden due to safety concerns, but to allow Leddys Field for the events during Pink week, subject to the usual precautions expected.</p>	Clerk
18.	<p>Correspondence and circulars</p> <p>To review other items as listed for information and consider for next agenda inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation on Allotment review by Newcastle Borough Council (closing date 31st August) – No comments made, although Mr Cooper to consider and pass comments to the Clerk if any. - Consultations on Election Review by Newcastle Borough Council (closing date 31st August) – No comments, information was circulated. <p>Other items:</p> <p>Thank you letter from Halmer End Allotments tenants Mr and Mrs Matthews and text from Mrs Lindop – Mr Hough to receive a copy of the letter and to be thanked again. It was agreed that the standard of work was extremely high and well received by the tenants.</p> <p>SPCA Gazette – noted and circulated</p> <p>Supporting people review – Noted</p> <p>Amey Partnership with Staffs County Highways – noted</p> <p>Do the Honours – Circulated</p> <p>Vernon Ave/Chester Road/Wereton Road junction double yellow lines installation – formal approval noted.</p>	CC Clerk (SH)
19.	<p>Clerks Update</p> <p>This was noted as circulated.</p>	
20.	<p>Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda)</p> <p>Mr Breuer reported van loads of dogs being let out onto Alsager Road and Red Hall Lane by businesses from outside the area around 8am every day. Mr Breuer stated that the new development opposite the Halmer End Fish shop might result in the loss of the seat. Mr Sproston to monitor developments and the Clerk to check the plans.</p> <p>Mr Sproston reported a badly overgrown hedge on Alsagers Bank. Clerk to write to the expected owner.</p> <p>Cllr Beech reported a bin had been provided by Boyes Hall Road and a new road sign by Rileys would be erected showing Alsagers Bank, Halmer End and Audley.</p> <p>Mr Cooper requested that the Clerk as Cheshire East (Helen Beech) as to why the Parish Council is not consulted on major developments in the nearby area (eg Twyfords site Alsager development of 350 houses).</p>	TS/Clerk Clerk Clerk
21.	<p>Report back from the Newcastle Borough Council Parish Council Forum meeting held on 22.07.14 and concurrent funding review</p> <p>The Clerk and the Chair attended a meeting on 22nd July, a further meeting will be held to discuss the use of the concurrent funding received from the Borough Council. It was RESOLVED that the Chair and the Clerk would put forward a case to retain the funding, otherwise this could result in an increase in precept – due to the large assets that the Parish Council have and the provision of the 8 children's play areas, allotments, bus shelters and other buildings.</p>	BP Clerk

22.	<p>Administration To reaffirm the decision taken on 15th Sept 2011 regarding Clerk's training at Gloucestershire University RESOLVED that the decision still remained as before and the Clerk should re-enrol for the remaining 3 years, and attend the associated tutorials.</p>	
23.	<p>Accounts RESOLVED that the following items be of a private nature that should be discussed at the exclusion of the Public and Press, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 1 (2). The 2 members of public left at this point.</p> <p>To approve the Accounts (Appendix A) and note current budget position RESOLVED that this was approved for payment as per the schedule at Appendix A. The current budget position was noted.</p> <p>To receive the Notice of conclusion of the Accounts 13-14 by External Auditor and report This was noted as concluded satisfactorily, and the Auditor's report regarding the value of the assets being based on the actual cost not insurance value was noted.</p>	