

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Audley Pensioners Hall 17th April 2014 at 6.30pm

Present: Chairman: Mr T Sproston
 Councillors: Mr H Proctor, Mrs V Pearson, Mr P Breuer, Mr N Blackwood, Mr A Wemyss, Mr C Cooper, Mr P Morgan, Mrs A Beech and Mr M Dolman.
 Clerk – Mrs C. Withington

Mr Neil Breeze, Mrs Holleen Breeze, Mrs Linda Johnson – Halmer End
 Mrs Pam Patten, Ms Rachel Bailey and Mr Roger Beech – Audley Allotments

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>To receive apologies Apologies were received from Mrs K Davison, Mrs C D Cornes, Mr E Durber, Mr D Cornes, Mrs B Kinnersley and Lewis Moore.</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of minutes from last meeting 21st March 2013 These were approved as a true and accurate record and signed at the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Agreement of siting of allotment fencing with Audley Allotment Association – letter from Audley Millennium Green Trust Brief discussion took place, following Mr Blackwood reading a letter on behalf of the Millennium Green Trust raising concerns about the process of carrying out the fencing work by the Allotment Association and where it has been sited, although it was noted there were no concerns with the quality of the work. Noted that further work was required to complete the job.</p> <p>RESOLVED that a site visit would take place with the MGT Chair, Parish Council and Audley Allotment Association to discuss the concerns and resolve the issues. This will be brought back to a future meeting. Site visit arranged for Thursday 24th April 2014 at 6pm – Mrs Pearson gave her apologies.</p>	
4.	<p>To discuss other issues raised by tenants, if any Mr Breeze reported several issues at Halmer End including rubbish being burnt and dumped on the football pitch, missing (no dogs) signs at the play area and football pitch and the allotments being open at the bottom due to a lack of a fence.</p> <p>RESOLVED – clerk to instruct Mr Hough to arrange for skip or dumper for one day to collect the rubbish and to reinstate the missing signs. Mr Sproston and Mr Proctor to visit the site and if necessary instruct the work for a new fence due to the H&S issues.</p>	
5.	<p>To discuss the lease for Audley Allotments Association for the site at Audley This was discussed earlier on the agenda following the MGT issue. Mr Proctor proposed that the lease (based on the version approved and issued by NSALG) be based on a 50 year basis to allow external funding applications. Mr Beech stated that they had issued new terms and conditions and a new constitution for the Allotment Association, with over £4k received in external funding towards the new fence. The Parish Council commended the Allotment Association on the work and progress made to date. It was noted that a previous resolution had been made to allow half of the annual rent to be waived and the outstanding balance of £250 be collected later in the year – as a contribution towards completing the fencing project.</p> <p>RESOLVED that a 50 year lease be granted for the whole site to the Audley</p>	

	Allotment Association, subject to the clerk confirming there are no legal issues with that length of term. Clerk to seek advice from Staffordshire County Council.																													
6.	To note income and expenditure accounts for 2013/14 The accounts were noted and approved:																													
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="3">Accounts for year ending 2013/14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opening Balance at 31.03.13</td> <td></td> <td>-£2,055.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Receipts received during 13/14</td> <td>Interim</td> <td>£24.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Receipts for 14/15</td> <td>Audley (new & Old)</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Receipts for 13/14</td> <td>Halmer End</td> <td>£152.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£176.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Expenditure 13/14</td> <td></td> <td>-£310.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plus outstanding rent Audley Allot</td> <td></td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance at 31.03.14</td> <td></td> <td>-£1,938.97</td> </tr> </table>			Accounts for year ending 2013/14			Opening Balance at 31.03.13		-£2,055.47	Receipts received during 13/14	Interim	£24.50	Receipts for 14/15	Audley (new & Old)	£0.00	Receipts for 13/14	Halmer End	£152.00			£176.50	Less Expenditure 13/14		-£310.00	Plus outstanding rent Audley Allot		£250.00	Balance at 31.03.14		-£1,938.97
Accounts for year ending 2013/14																														
Opening Balance at 31.03.13		-£2,055.47																												
Receipts received during 13/14	Interim	£24.50																												
Receipts for 14/15	Audley (new & Old)	£0.00																												
Receipts for 13/14	Halmer End	£152.00																												
		£176.50																												
Less Expenditure 13/14		-£310.00																												
Plus outstanding rent Audley Allot		£250.00																												
Balance at 31.03.14		-£1,938.97																												
	MEETING CLOSED AT 7.00pm																													

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held in Audley Pensioners Hall 17th April 2014
at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Mr T Sproston
Councillors: Mr H Proctor, Mrs V Pearson, Mr P Breuer, Mr N Blackwood,
Mr A Wemyss, Mr C Cooper, Mr P Morgan, Mrs A Beech and Mr M
Dolman.
Clerk –Mrs C. Withington

7 members of the public were present

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>To receive apologies Apologies were received from Mrs K Davison, Mrs C D Cornes, Mr E Durber, Mr D Cornes, Mrs B Kinnersley and Lewis Moore</p>	
2.	<p>To consider approving and signing minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 18th April 2013 The minutes were noted as approved and signed at an earlier meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Chairman's Annual Report The report was noted, as attached at Appendix A.</p>	
4.	<p>To receive presentations from Community Groups who have received Parish funding support during 2013-2014 Mrs Mary Margaret Pointon, treasurer of the MGT presented the last years activities from the Trust. In particular it was noted that it is a charity that look after the green (granted in perpetuity) for the benefit of the parish. The Trust is grateful to the Parish Council for the ongoing donation which funds the increasing insurance and grass cutting costs. They are guardians of the Scheduled Ancient Monument on the site. Grants are also achieved from the Community Chest.</p> <p>Mr Brian Billings and Mr Kevin Phillips from the Audley Anglers Association attended to present how they had spent the donation received from the Parish Council. Noted that £2297 had been spent on Cloggers Pool to improve it. There is 85 members with a waiting list of 65. PCSOs have noted the difference in ASB etc and feel the benefits much wider than Halmer End. There are 42 youths who are interested with 8 signed up. The group are looking to install more pegs which are DDA compliant and will be seeking more funds. The Parish Council congratulated the group on the hard work and the tremendous impact in such a short space of time.</p> <p>Both organisations were thanked for their attendance and presentations. MEETING CLOSED 7.15pm.</p>	

Appendix A**AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT 17th April 2014

The Parish Council A.G.M takes place May each year, at the 2013 meeting, Mr. T Sproston and Mrs. K Davison were appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the ensuing year.

Audley Rural Parish Council consists of fifteen councillors and is divided into three district wards.

Audley Ward	Councillor	Mr D Cornes
	Councillor	Mrs V Pearson
	Councillor	Mrs B Kinnersley
	Councillor	Mr P J Morgan
Bignall End	Councillor	Mrs C D Cornes
	Councillor	Mrs A Beech
	Councillor	Mr A Wemyss
	Councillor	Mr H Proctor
	Councillor	Mr M Dolman
Halmer End	Councillor	Mr N Blackwood
	Councillor	Mr E Durber
	Councillor	Mr T Sproston
	Councillor	Mr C C Cooper
	Councillor	Mrs K Davison
	Councillor	Mr P Breuer

Council Meetings

Meetings are normally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at various locations around the Parish, there may also be additional meetings during the year to cater for any extra volume of business.

County and Borough Council Representation

The Parish is represented at Staffordshire County Council by Cllr Ann Beech and at Newcastle Borough Council by Cllr Andrew Wemyss, Cllr Ann Beech, Cllr Dylis Cornes, Cllr Ian Wilkes and Cllr David Beckett.

Parish Clerk

Our parish clerk is Mrs Clare Withington, who for the majority of the year has been absent on maternity leave. Mrs Claire Dillow, (Acting Clerk) took over Mrs Withington's duties, despite her not living locally and travelling distance being a problem, Mrs Dillow performed her duties in a professional manner and has been a great asset to the parish council.

Planning applications

Throughout the year, the Council receives planning applications for consultation. The Council is committed to avoiding inappropriate developments and may comment on behalf of the residents in an advisory capacity, however, the final decision in each case rests with the relevant Planning Authority.

Allotments

The parish has allotment sites at Audley and Halmer End, 75 plots being provided between these sites; normally allotments are generally well cultivated.

Community Chest Applications

Four applications, shown below, have been supported by the Parish Council amounting to funding of £3.100

*Community First Responders
Audley Parish Angling Club
Audley Football Club
Audley Allotments Association*

Notice Boards

There are eight Parish Council notice boards situated throughout the parish.

Children's Play areas and Wildlife Area

The Parish provides and maintains 8 play areas situated at Alsager Road Audley, Albert Street and Bignall End Road in Bignall End, Miles Green, Halmer End, Alsagers Bank and Scot Hay, also, 'Leddy's Field' wildlife area in Audley, is a very popular venue with residents.

Play areas are subject to monthly inspections, reports on each are submitted to the parish council meeting. On-going painting and maintenance of all the equipment is carried out as required during the year. A grant of £10,000 was obtained from 'Awards for All', for the provision of seven items of adult exercise equipment that is now installed, four units at the Queen Street Site and three at the Miles Green. The Queen Street site under the jurisdiction of C.A.R.A (*Children of Audley Residents Association*) has been included in the 'Fields in Trust', Queen Elizabeth II Playing fields deed dedication involving the National Playing Fields Association to ensure its future as a play area. A new main gate entrance has been installed together with new play equipment, a youth shelter and other improvements are planned for the C.A.R.A site as funding is secured. Again, it must be said that C.A.R.A has worked tirelessly to improve the facilities for the young people.

Website

A website exists to provide Parish information to the wider community. The website is updated at regular intervals, and to date has been visited by a large number of people.

Millennium Green Trust

Once again, a payment of £700 was authorised to the Millennium Green Trust for its on-going work.

Annual Maintenance Programme

The Annual Maintenance programme continues for the year up to the end of 2013/14, when it will be again reviewed to ensure the best value for 2014/15.

Bateswood Park

Despite being designated as an alcohol free zone and fishing being banned on the lake, this park had been problematic for years, constantly littered with empty alcohol containers plus evidence of vandalism. In addition to general litter, discarded line and fishing tackle left by people fishing the lake illegally, on which many of the waterfowl were often injured was of grave concern to residents.

Newcastle Borough Council, who have jurisdiction over Bateswood recently revised their outlook designating the lake as a 50/50 split between Angling and Wildlife area.

The parish council was able to act as intermediaries between N.B.C and local residents who

.....SignedDated

volunteered their services to help manage the site, to this end an organisation has been formed to work in partnership with N.B.C, managing the fishing and provide wardens. With this new partnership in force, remedial work has been undertaken and a great many improvements made.

Great Oak/Diglake opencast mining

An additional parish/public meeting requested by residents was called on the 2nd April 2014 at the Audley Methodist Church Sunday School Room. Once again, this was a result of an open cast mining proposal made by UK Coal for the Great Oak and Diglake area of Bignall End through to Red Street and Talke Pits, land that UK Coal do not own.

The hall was full, circa 150/200 people attended the meeting and with the exception of officials from UK Coal etc, not one single voice was raised in support of this 'Open Cast' proposal. In fact, quite the opposite, the general feeling is that for so small an amount of coal, (450.000 tonnes) raping the landscape is undesirable. Add to this, the proposal is on the site of the old Diglake Mine disaster, which is the final resting place of approximately seventy-five miners who could not be rescued, or their bodies retrieved, making this a hallowed site. Concern was also expressed that as UK Coal does not own this site and (*as announced by the media the same day,*) are currently in financial difficulty, the danger of it becoming a 'landfill site' close to residential property could not be ruled out.

Bowling Greens

The Audley Bowling Club continues to thrive, however, Halmer End Bowling Club is at risk due to falling memberships, the Parish Council offers support wherever possible to retain this asset at Halmer End.

Public Seats

A total of 75 seats are located around the Parish and an ongoing maintenance programme will continue to keep these in good condition.

Parish Precept

The parish council again took the decision not to increase the parish precept in the present difficult times.

Annual presentations

The Parish Council annually awards two trophies for an individual's work in the community; this year a third will be added in memory of the late Mrs. Elsie Kelsal, a long serving member of the parish council and stalwart of the community.

As Chair of the Parish council, I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their support during the year and their on-going hard work on behalf of the people of the Parish of Audley.

Greve Spriet

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **COUNCIL MEETING** held in Audley Pensioners Hall 17th April 2014 at 7.20pm

Present: Chairman: Mr T Sproston
 Councillors: Mr H Proctor, Mrs V Pearson, Mr P Breuer, Mr N Blackwood, Mr A Wemyss, Mr C Cooper, Mr P Morgan, Mrs A Beech and Mr M Dolman.
 Clerk –Mrs C. Withington

4 members of the public were present

No.	Item	Action
1.	To receive apologies Apologies were received from Mrs K Davison, Mrs C D Cornes, Mr E Durber, Mr D Cornes, Mrs B Kinnersley and Lewis Moore	
2.	To consider approving and signing minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20th March 2014 The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.	
3.	Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda Cllr Beech declared an interest in the UK Coal Planning application, due to her involvement with CAGOO. RESOLVED that the Planning item would be adjourned to allow for any additional members of the public. Other items were therefore brought forward in the meantime.	
4.	Public Participation No issues raised.	
5.	Grants – Community Chest (uncommitted balance £2976) The new allocation was noted and that this represents a reduction of 20% from the previous year. Applications can now only be submitted up to a maximum of £800. No applications received for this meeting. <i>(Last year's schemes were totalled £3100 of the allocation of £3720.00 – leaving £620 unspent.)</i>	
6.	To consider providing funding of £2500 for a replacement First Responders vehicle in Audley Parish – Mr Proctor Mr Proctor reported that the Rotary club had donated £5,000 towards the new car (costing £7.5k). Cllr Beech would provide a further £1000 towards the car, leaving £1.5k outstanding. RESOLVED that the Parish donate £1.5k. Mr Cooper requested that the LAP publicise where the defibrillators are located in the Village. Cllr Beech to raise this.	AB
7.	To discuss the Pillar Box, Station Walks – A Wemyss Cllr Wemyss reported that the pillar box has been missing for a while, thought to be stolen, as previously reported to Mrs Dillow. Clerk to follow up the action, and request that any replacement is plastic.	CW
8.	To discuss bus shelters – A Wemyss Cllr Wemyss reported the shelters are looking untidy. RESOLVED that the Parish Council owned bus shelters (5) would be painted by Mr Hough in the usual green. Clerk to request the Borough does the same.	CW
9.	Consider the purchase of PA systems use of community organisations – Mr Breuer To be discussed on the next agenda due to allow costs to be obtained.	PB
10.	To consider action for parking issues at Sir Thomas Boughey – Mr Breuer Mr Breuer suggested that the land by Station Walks is converted into a car park to assist with the parking issues faced around the school. RESOLVED that in the first instance, as there are only 20 or so cars which cause the problem, Mr Gould would be given the opportunity to resolve the problem by asking that the parents give consideration to the residents and park responsibly.	CW

11.	<p>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-</p> <p><u>Staffordshire County Council consultation in connection with planning application ref N.14/03/2013 M - Surface coal mining scheme to extract up to 450.000 tonnes of coal and fireclay and restoration to agriculture, nature conservation, woodland and public access over a two and a half year period (within that period coal extraction to be completed within 15 months)</u> Land Around Wedgwood Monument Deans Lane Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 14/00128/CPO / Del</p> <p>Following the public meeting held on 2nd April 2014, the Application was discussed. Discussion took place regarding the financial situation facing UK Coal, requiring £10m cash injection from the Government to keep a deep mine pit from closure. It was felt that the scheme is not cost effective and there is concern regarding the income that could be generated from landfill. It was RESOLVED that the application be objected to for the reasons attached at Appendix 2, and that CAGOO be supported and congratulated on their efforts.</p> <p><u>Proposed 6 no. bungalows</u> Land Rear Of 24 To 36 Heathcote Road Miles Green Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire - 14/00247/FUL</p> <p>The Parish Council considered the revised application and received representations from residents opposing the application. RESOLVED to object to the application for the following reasons as previously submitted in relation to earlier applications for the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage will be a problem • 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. <p><u>Ground floor side and rear extension and erection of front porch and bay window to front elevation</u> Lane Cottage Park Lane Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8HP - 14/00179/FUL RESOLVED to be supported.</p> <p><u>Detached dwelling with detached double garage and entrance wall & pillar.</u> Land Adjacent 10 And 8A Boon Hill Bignall End Staffordshire ST7 8LA - 14/00142/FUL RESOLVED to be supported</p> <p><u>Erection of first floor rear extension with juliet balcony</u> Stepping Stone Alsager Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8JG - 14/00143/FUL RESOLVED to be supported</p> <p>To provide comments to NBC regarding alternative use of <u>Land at Rileys Way Bignall End</u> – proposed residential use</p> <p>Mr Proctor stated that he had already written to the Chief Executive of the Borough Council raising concerns forwarded by residents. RESOLVED that the Council considers it unsuitable for development (housing or other) for the following reasons:</p>	
-----	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The loss of the green space may require the road to be closed, which would create an alleyway/pinchpoint exacerbating ASB problems experienced in the area. This is not considered to be good practice with regards to crime prevention. 2. The green space was originally included as part of the original housing estate design, for the purposes of creating a 'village green' to break up the buildings and to create a sustainable community. 3. There is concern that the other reason for the green space being left undeveloped was due to poor ground conditions or other reasons. 4. There is a supply of existing brownfield land both in the Parish and in the Urban Core, which should be developed out before any green field or green belt sites are considered for any type of development. 5. There is a supply of empty homes available in the Parish, and in the Borough. The Parish Council would request that the Borough Council implements its Empty Homes Strategy to provide low cost homes by deploying powers available to it such as Compulsory Purchase Order, before considering creating new properties. This would also help to create a sustainable community. 6. If there is any concerns with regards to cost of future maintenance of the site, the Parish Council would be more than happy to take over the ownership of the site and maintain it for the future. 	
12.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for March and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority <p>The inspection report for April was received. The following actions were approved:</p> <p>Albert Street mole issue (Aardwolf) and grass issue under goal posts (Mr Hough)</p> <p>Painting of Alsager Road play area (Mr Hough)</p> <p>Miles Green goal posts painting (Mr Hough)</p> <p>Alsagers Bank rotten sign (Mr Hough)</p> <p>Halmer End replacement swing seat (Mr Hough)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leddy's Field <p>Tree Survey to be carried out in May by NBC. Weir work is now complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action required for Queens Street (Cara) playing field – new gate following damage (B Proctor) <p>Noted the amount of damage caused by the cattle has resulted in the play area being closed. A quote was received by Mr Hough to reinstate a new fence/gate. RESOLVED that this be approved. Cllr Beech to request Helers to cut the grass, roll it and fill the holes. Boundary to be included in the insurance once the issues are resolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alsagers Bank play area – A Wemyss <p>A request was received for access across a nearby field. Noted that this is not owned by the Parish Council. RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain prices for 2 swings to be installed for the next agenda. Other play areas (one per ward) to be considered for new equipment over the year.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>CW AB</p> <p>CW Next agenda</p>
13.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Mr Proctor</p> <p>Mr Proctor reported that a community day will be held on 6th June with children in attendance from the schools to carry out a litter pick along Marion's Way. An older people's event will also be held at Apedale for the War centenary. The Police meetings continue to be successful, with good reports as a result of the new fishing club.</p>	

14.	<p>To consider a request from a resident to tidy up and replant the flower beds in Halmer End This was approved, subject to confirmation of the exact sites and volunteers to weed and plant them. Plants to be purchased by Horsleys up to a maximum of £100.</p>	CW
15.	<p>To consider new bus service request from Audley to Alsager/Crewe (HS2 station) – Mr Cooper Clerk to request Cheshire East Council to provide a bus route from Audley to Alsager and Crewe, to access the new employment opportunities.</p>	CW
16.	<p>To discuss and agree the format for the Community awards, agreeing the website, article and process – N Blackwood Mr Blackwood circulated a draft nomination form and procedure; age will be 18 years for the youth award. This was approved for insertion in Audley Community News and the website. Mr Blackwood to source a trophy in keeping with the existing two (maximum of £100).</p>	NB CW
17.	<p>Correspondence and circulars - To review other items as listed for information and consider for next agenda None received.</p>	
18.	<p>Clerks Update A verbal update was given. Clerk to instruct Mr Hough to address the entrance at Leddys Field by Bignall End Road. Letter has been sent to Mr Williams re parking issues. Response letter has been given to the Post office. Clerk to chase up Highways regarding High Street resurfacing work (Halmer End). Letter to be sent regarding request for Nantwich Road speeding reduction.</p>	CW CW CW
19.	<p>Councillor Reports Mr Breuer reported off road motorbikes around Red Hall/Bateswood. Mr Proctor to speak to parents. The Medieval event was a success, the Parish Council congratulated the group on their efforts and that there were no issues with parking on Alsager Road play area. Mr Cooper stated that the public highway on Alsagers Bank is blocked (the old road). Clerk to report to Staffordshire County Council. Letter to be sent to Audley Builders Merchants to ask for considerate parking of their tenants to allow pushchairs to walk along the pavement. Mrs Pearson reported that work is ongoing in Margaret's Garden with regards to the seat and bollard. Cllr Wemyss requested that Mr Hough look at the trees planted along Nantwich Road (Jubilee). Mr Proctor has attended an SPCA meeting. Noted that the Chief Executive and President of SPCA has met with the District Councils (Newcastle and Moorlands) regarding greater dialogue with the Chair and Clerks of the Parish. Cllr Beech stated that the PCSOs are to be given greater powers for ticketing illegal parking. Mr Sproston reported that a resident wished to design, build and install a seat at Bateswood in memory of Minnie Pit. It was approved subject to the design being</p>	BP CW CW Next agenda TS

	agreed by the Parish Council. Noted that the Parish Council only own Cloggers Pool, not Bateswood which is the Borough Councils. Mr Sproston to inform the resident.	
20.	<p>To report any delegated authority action taken through the Clerk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repair to fencing Queens Street playing fields and clean-up of playing equipment/surface – noted above. - Repair to Alsagers Bank sign post – noted above. - Halmer end Noticeboard repair – this was approved. - Reinstatement of lifebelt at Leddys Field – this was approved. Clerk to obtain a new lifebelt, and instruct Mr Hough to install rope on both so that both can overlap and cannot be tampered with. 	CW
21.	<p>Accounts To approve the Accounts</p> <p>The accounts were approved as at Appendix 1 and bank reconciliation noted.</p>	

Appendix 2 - Planning Application: N.14/03/2013 M - Great Oak

Audley Rural Parish Council at its meeting on 17th April 2014 resolved that they **object** to the above Planning Application for the following reasons:

Regardless of the awaited Health Impact Assessment, the Parish Council is most concerned about the extremely close proximity of the site to the much needed and much used children's Play Area serving that end of Bignall End, Boon Hill and surrounding areas. This is specifically for children aged under 7 years, however it also does attract a large number of older children due to its location and the amount of green space. This often results in children and youths setting up camps in the woods and riding bikes over the holiday periods and weekends due to its undulated and wooded nature. Children will be at risk due to the dangers surrounding construction sites plus the long term impact on the health of these children (and residents) from the various grades of dust, noise and other pollution is unknown and unquantifiable.

There is a residential institution (Class C2) at Woodlands Hall Bignall End Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LY in close proximity to the working void, which is a home for residents with special care needs whose condition may worsen as a result of this scheme. Additionally the scheme is on the doorstep of many residential properties plus encases Diglake Farm. This scheme is considered **inappropriate development of Green Belt with no special circumstances present** due to the inability to guarantee that, even with a legal bond secured the land, trees, fauna, flora or wildlife can be restored to its current condition - especially due to the poor state of financial affairs currently facing the applicant. Certainly the applicant has not been able to reassure the Parish Council or residents of its ability to restore the site, based on previous examples including site visits and financial situations it is faced with elsewhere of incomplete schemes. The Parish Council can find no evidence that the financial appraisal or cost/benefit analysis has been robustly carried out by the applicant. It considers the scheme to not be financially viable or sustainable given that the price of coal is plummeting and there are other sustainable cleaner sources of energy which can be explored and extracted without the need for this scheme. Climate change and sustainable clean energy is a major factor which must be considered.

Other reasons include:

- Destruction of the countryside (greenbelt land in this case)
- Loss of wildlife habitat-birds, bats and so on.
- Loss of rights of way and bridal paths
- Loss of visual amenity-the effect on light air and enjoyment of property and businesses, and a deterring of investing in the area.
- Vibration, noise, blasting and dust/air pollution
- Increased traffic (120 lorries per day).
- The cumulative impact:
of all of the above, along with potential health impacts, economic and financial stress on the area through (and this is without a health impact assessment being completed as yet), the mere fact that people cannot sell their houses without loss of most or all of their equity, the extra stress that nobody would want to set up new business or invest in an area of open-cast mining, the socio-economic factor being massive. The upset of individuals in the community, relatives or residents grown up with the education or knock-on effects of the Diglake Disaster/Audley Colliery Disaster victims, boys and men who never got out of the site in question and whose remains were eventually and painstakingly, reluctantly left, to remain in the site in question with many reports and documents showing this was to be their last resting place to aid the finality and grieving process of all those affected in the area. The families, many still living in the area or moved on are completely against these proposals.

Despite claims of restoration by the applicant the original character of any affected area can never be recovered after an opencast operation. It has taken many decades if not centuries for the local countryside to evolve into its current state and all of that would be lost if this application is accepted. For these reasons alone this application conflicts with the following planning policies: SP3 (items 2,5 and 8), ASP6 (item 7), CSP1 (item3), CSP4 (item 1), CSP5 (item4), CSP10, N8, N12, N14, N17, N20, N21, and NPPF (paragraph 17, principle 12).

Claims that such developments generate local jobs can equally be discounted. Opencast operations always employ the vast majority of their workforce from outside a local area given the specialist nature of the work.

Site-specific issues

One, very emotive issue that makes this site unique is the presence of buried human remains from the 1895 Diglake Disaster/Audley Colliery Disaster. This is a well-known mass burial site. Within the planned excavation area 72 bodies remain of the 77 men and boys who perished when water broke through from the adjacent Rookery pit. Two were brought back to the surface at the time and a further three sets of remains were recovered in 1932, well away from where the bodies were expected to be found. Because of this, the campaign against this application is supported by the National Union of Mineworkers and all families still remaining of the victims themselves with the support of the local residents who have grown up with the education or after effects of the disaster.

The applicant assumes that these remains are at least as deep as the base of the main Diglake shaft. They have no way of knowing this. By placing ourselves in the miner's position for a moment, those who knew the tunnels well facing rapidly rising floodwaters. In desperation they would have searched out the nearest route to the surface including ventilation shafts. As far as we know there are no surviving records of ventilation shaft locations. This is one way for human remains to be close to the surface.

Also the bodies of those who were drowned immediately could have been carried to the level of the current water table by rising floodwaters and the subsequent movement of the earth up to the present day. The point being that human remains could be closer to the surface than the applicants claim. This is a very emotive issue, especially for the descendants of those who perished, many of whom still live in the area today.

Another issue that deserves consideration is the effect on local utilities. There is a gas pipeline, which cuts across the whole excavation area between Bignall End and Dunkirk retort stations. A claim of UK Coal is that they could easily re-route this gas pipe away from the working area. This would imply further excavations outside of the planned working area in order to lay the pipe on its new route. How much extra land would this consume? How long would residents gas supplies be disrupted? It is also likely that blasting will have a detrimental effect on the underground reservoir adjacent to Wedgwood's Monument, due to sub-surface vibrations.

A point that cannot be ignored is that the M6 runs to the North and West of the area. From the motorway there is a clear view of Wedgwood's Monument, a grade two listed building, and the hill on which it stands. Any prospective business leader travelling that route would have a clear view of the hole gouged out of the hillside by this operation. Such a view would adversely affect any thoughts of investing in the area. This opencast would not be a good advertisement for this part of North Staffordshire. Existing businesses, particularly those on Jamage Road would also feel the impact by potential degradation of the local environment. Passing trade would likely be lost as a result.

It is also noted that a number of rights of way will be closed or diverted. Cinder Lane runs right through the proposed site, a path from Butters Green just to the East of Diglake Farm joins this. Another runs from Bignall End Road a few hundred yards South of Woodlands Farm and runs East to join Cinder Lane just to the North of a children's play area. A path also exists from Bignall End Road, past Woodlands Farm up to Wedgwood's Monument. All of these will be closed if this proposal gets the go ahead.

UK Coal's newsletter dated 02/02/2014 states that their planned route for lorries to and from the site is still to join the Talke Road below Red Street and to cross the bridge over the A500. Each lorry will weigh up to 44 tonnes when fully loaded. There is a sign on the roundabout beyond indicating a 7.5 tonne limit for this route.

It is also noted that the owners of the land, HW Martin Ltd have a division devoted to waste landfill. Given the tenuous economic arguments favouring this application, of which UK Coal are well aware, it is very likely that the owners would profit greatly from the landfill opportunity that this development presents.

For reasons of the issues covered in this section, this application conflicts with planning policies: SP3 (items 5 and 8), CSP1 (item 3), CSP10, and MLP 30.

Planning policies conflicting with the proposed development

The following is a list of planning policies that are in conflict with this application generally. Reasons are provided briefly in each case.

This application conflicts with:

1. Policy SP3, item 2: because it reduces "accessibility to green open spaces".

2. Policy SP3, item 5: because of increased traffic it is highly detrimental to increasing "safety of travel".
3. Policy SP3, item 8: for the same reasons as point 2.
4. Policy ASP6, item 7: because it conflicts with the "Rights of Way Improvement Plan" for Staffordshire.
5. Policy CSP1, item 3: because it "destroys long distance views" of "historical landmarks" (e.g. Wedgwood's Monument) and "rural vistas".
6. Policy CSP1, item 7: because it does not encourage "sustainable living" in the use of "energy" and "re-use of materials".
7. Policy CSP3, all 7 items: because it does not "positively address the impacts of climate change". It does the opposite because coal is the most destructive and polluting energy source that the human race exploits, see above.
8. Policy CSP4, item 1: because it destroys rather than "enhances the plan area's natural habitats".
9. Policy CSP5, item 4: because it erodes the "open spaces" as "leisure assets" to which all residents currently have access.
10. Policy CSP10: because it does not "avoid placing an additional burden on the existing community and area".
11. Policy S3: because there is "a presumption against any form of development". There is no mention of exemptions to temporary developments in the green belt. Items 1 to 6 only permit small developments if they are essential for agricultural or forestry operations. Opencast mining is not covered by either of these classifications.
12. Policy N8: because "the Council will resist development that may harm, directly or indirectly, an ancient woodland site". This relates to a strip of ancient woodland about 200 meters NE Wedgwood's Monument, which is adjacent to the proposed site. Although this woodland is not within the proposed boundary it is inconceivable that it will remain unaffected by this development.
13. Policy N12: because "The Council will resist development that would involve the removal of any visually significant tree". This development will result in the wholesale destruction of trees, shrubs and hedgerows within the excavation area.
14. Policy N13: because the developer cannot demonstrate that the trees under threat from this development are an "unacceptable risk to the safety of the public", and the proposed development does not promote the improved "growth of other trees".
15. Policy N14: because this development will "harm, directly or indirectly, the landscape features listed" under N14. All of the features listed, with the exception of canals, exist in the excavation area and it cannot be demonstrated that there is a need for the 400000 tonnes of coal that outweighs the need to protect the features listed.
16. Policy N17: because no surface mine can possibly promote the "regeneration, restoration, enhancement, maintenance or active conservation" of any natural landscape.
17. Policy N20: because the developer cannot demonstrate that the proposal will "enhance the character and quality of the landscape". In particular the fertility of the topsoil cannot be preserved. Thus this or any surface mine will always alter the character and quality of the landscape by sterilization of the topsoil among other reasons.
18. Policy N21: because the developer cannot "demonstrate that development will not further erode the character or quality of the landscape". A case in point being the Steadsburn opencast in Northumberland, which is now more than 12 months behind in its restoration, see above.

.....SignedDated

19. Policy 12: because it would cause significant and "unacceptable adverse impact" particularly for the residents of Bignall Hill, Bignall End Road and Great Oak Road whose properties back onto the proposed excavation area.
20. Policy 13: because there are residential properties on Bignall Hill, Bignall End Road and Great Oak Road that fall within the 150 meter buffer zone. The Council will resist any development that falls "within 150 meters of any sensitive developments".
21. Policy 19: because it will adversely affect "prime semi-natural habitats" (item 5) within the excavation area. The extraction of 400000 tonnes of coal, which can be consumed by the national grid in 28 hours, is not justified under this policy.
22. Policy 21: because it would cause, loss of local "semi-natural vegetation", destruction of "the visual condition" of the landscape, and the "tranquility" of the area. As has already been demonstrated there is almost no benefit to the UK energy infrastructure.
23. Policy 30, item 1: because the "structural integrity" of the bridge on the Talke Road over the A500 will be prejudiced due to the crossing of an extra 120 lorries per day.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - March 2012.

24. Paragraph 7, item 3: because this development is totally at odds with the policy to "adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy".
25. Paragraph 14: because there is nothing "sustainable" about this development.
26. Paragraph 17, principle 3: again because it is not "sustainable".
27. Paragraph 17, principle 6: because it does not support a "transition to a low carbon future".
28. Paragraph 17, principle 7: because it does not contribute to "conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution".
29. Paragraph 17, principle 12: because it does not "support local strategies to improve health".

Conclusion

This application fails every conceivable environmental and economic test and is only of benefit in terms of monetary profits to UK Coal's private owners, shareholders and the landed interests of HW Martin (Farms) Ltd. LANDFILL is almost inevitable with such a combination of businesses too, as the next thing to fill the green belt area with if coal were to be extracted. But of course this would come in a separate application afterwards and within this one. But the thing to remember here, is that if this one goes ahead it bridges the gap to the landfill. If it doesn't, then it cannot even get to a landfill or building site. So give them the bridge or draw it up now!? The health and well-being of the local community including businesses and clubs and the residents of Audley, Bignall End, Red Street, Dunkirk, Talke and Kidsgrove, Chesterton, Halmer End, would be at extreme risk from this development.

It is unsustainable at every level, locally and nationally. Who wants to see the start of mining again in Staffordshire and it take over the rest of the green belt land nationally that is left because if this application went ahead, it would set a precedent that would mean all others could not possibly be rejected.

Finally the Parish Council have consulted with residents of the Parish at two separate Public Meetings – most recently in April 2014. On both occasions the room was full, with estimated 200 or more people in attendance. Of the 121 who signed the register (with the exception of two who abstained from declaring their views) was that they **do not support the application**.