

**AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** held Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr B Proctor  
Councillors: Mr T Sproston, Mrs C D Cornes, Mr D Cornes, Mrs V Pearson, Mr P Breuer, Mr C Cooper, Mrs B Kinnersley, Revd J Taylor, Cllr A Beech, Mr M Joynson and Lewis Moore

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

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>To receive apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Wemyss and Mr Dolman</p>	
2.	<p><b>To consider approving and signing minutes of Parish Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b> These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declaration of interest in any item</b> None received.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Public Participation</b> An update was received regarding the Audley goes Pink week which raised a total of £8395.35 for Breast Cancer Research. There are a few things which will be improved upon next time, but overall it was considered to be a great success. Arrangements will be discussed nearer to the time, but Mr Joynson said he would be happy to assist again.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-</b></p> <p>Councillor Proctor left the chair and handed over to Mr Sproston for this item only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Woodland thinning</a> Land South Of New Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire Ref. No: 14/00911/TWA (PARISH COUNCIL APPLICATION) - Noted</li> <li>• <a href="#">Side/ rear conservatory and associated alterations</a> 171 Old Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8QH Ref. No: 14/00869/FUL Green Belt/Delegated – RESOLVED to support the application.</li> <li>• <a href="#">First floor extension to care home</a> Wilbraham House Residential Home Church Street Audley Stoke-On-Trent ST7 8DE Ref. No: 14/00821/FUL Village Env/Delegated/Conservation Area – The majority <b>RESOLVED to support</b> the application although there were 3 abstentions of which Mr Cooper wished his name to be noted.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of stable block and manege</a> Greenways Boon Hill Bignall End Staffordshire ST7 8LF Ref. No: 14/00851/ELD GREEN BELT/Delegated – <b>FOR INFO ONLY</b> – Noted that a perfectly good barn has been demolished a number of years ago effectively making this a retrospective planning application. However of more concern was the inability to follow the footpath through the railway bridge as has always been the case. Clerk to forward concerns and also to Staffordshire County Council.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Retention of paved parking area and vehicular access crossing</a> 77 Church Street Audley Newcastle Staffordshire ST7 8EE Ref. No: 14/01037/FUL Delegated/Village Env – <b>RESOLVED</b> to support this application although there were concerns regarding the tight turning circle.</li> </ul>	Clerk

	<p><b>FOR INFO ONLY</b> <a href="#">Application for approval of details of the arrangements for storage and disposal of recyclable materials and refuse, as required by condition 05 of planning permission ref. 14/00374FUL (Conversion of 111 High Street into two, two bed town house with associated extensions and alterations).</a> 111 High Street Halmerend Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8AD Ref. No: 14/00374/CN05 – Noted.</p> <p>Councillor Proctor returned to the Chair.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Update on Audley Library review by Staffordshire County Council (Standing item)</b></p> <p>Cllr Proctor regretted to say that he had attended a very disappointing SCC council meeting following the end of the consultation period. Cllr Lawrence provided a presentation and proposed that the 24 Library Locals would be handed over to a voluntary group with no qualified staff to support them. A counter proposal was put forward that one qualified member is retained; following a named vote this motion was not carried, therefore the proposal to retain no qualified staff was retained.</p> <p>Cllr Lawrence had also confirmed that regardless of the consultation process, the savings from the draft proposals had already been offered up for next year's budget.</p> <p>A very articulated lady from Penkridge spoke on the proposals on behalf of those objecting. Noted that the legal challenge in Lincolnshire found that the consultation was flawed. In view of the potential legal challenge that Loggerheads are willing to follow up, it was agreed that Cllr Proctor would forward the information from Lincoln.</p>	BP
7.	<p><b>To consider the draft budget for 15/16 and precept request – see Appendix A</b></p> <p>Cllr Proctor stated that the Parish Council would be foolhardy not to expect to suffer some cuts in relation to the concurrent functions Section 136 funding that the Borough Council make available to the Parishes.</p> <p>In response to the recommendation from the Borough Council regarding a reduction in Section 136 funding regarding large reserves, Mrs Cornes stated that we should consider earmarking reserves in advance. This was agreed in principle and it was stated that we should ringfence £7k per play area (7 in total). It was noted that the play areas needed to be considered carefully, in order to respond to the consultation carried out with the High School and in particular the resounding request for a skate park. It was therefore <b>RESOLVED</b> that an extraordinary meeting should be convened in the new year to look at approving a strategy for improvements to the play areas in the Parish and where the focus should be for a skate park if there is one.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the principle of raising the individual Band D property precept amount by 2% for next year be agreed. Clerk to circulate the impact of this increase to all after the meeting.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk
8.	<p><b>Grants – Community Chest (uncommitted balance £177.72)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None received to date</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Assets - Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas/Allotments/Bowling greens inc:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for December</i></li> </ul> <p>Mr Hough's quote for the required work to the play areas (as per the inspection report for December) was approved, with the exception of the moss removal, and the report was noted. Mr Hough to be asked to carry out alternative method</p>	Clerk

	<p>of moss removal from the play area surfaces which would be less invasive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To note the annual inspection reports and DDA assessment – and approve any necessary work</i></li> </ul> <p>The Annual Inspection had been completed by the Play Inspection Company. It was agreed that this would be considered at the next meeting along with the quote provided by Mr Hough to rectify the low risk items. Noted that the risks were either low or very low and not any higher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – Removal of leaves at Rileys Field and new posts at New Road entrance gate Leddys Field.</i></li> </ul> <p>The delegated authority used for Leddys Field (repair of bridge and rails) and Rileys Field (leaf removal) was approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To consider ringfencing capital reserves for new play equipment</i></li> </ul> <p>This was discussed earlier on the agenda.</p>	<p><b>Next agenda</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Halmer End Allotment – management of plots, Committee, and issues regarding trees along left hand side</b></p> <p>A site visit had been carried out by the Chair and Vice Chair to inspect the plots. It was agreed that a plot which had not been cultivated should be sent a letter giving one months' notice.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quote for sheep netting and posts at the rear of the allotment gardens, to provide a boundary fence and deter dogs. Richard Heler and Mr Hough to be asked to provide a quote for the next meeting.</p> <p>It was also agreed to leave the trees alongside the left hand side untouched, as they were planted to provide a screen for the open cast and do not cause any issues for the allotments.</p> <p>Agreed that Mr Hough be asked to remove the dilapidated fence at plot 19 and rubbish which is a health and safety hazard. Plot 7 to be offered to the next person on the waiting list.</p> <p>Clerk to write to Mr Hattersley inviting the newly formed Allotment Committee the Chair and Secretary along to the March Allotments Committee meeting.</p> <p>Noted that the other management issues have now been resolved.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b> <b>Next agenda</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
11.	<p><b>To consider the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Condition of carriageway, High Street, Halmer End/Alsagers Bank - Cllr Wemyss</i></li> </ul> <p>To be discussed on the next agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Condition of Footway, Heathcote Road, Miles Green - Cllr Wemyss</i></li> </ul> <p>To be discussed on the next agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Progress with the repair of the White Rails at Bignall Hill – Cllr Wemyss</i></li> </ul> <p>The Clerk updated to state that the Police did not have the information regarding the perpetrator for an insurance claim; therefore the repair would need to be progressed by Staffordshire County Council without this information. Cllr Beech to report back at the next meeting with regards to the progress made. Noted that the Neighbourhood Highways Team would paint this on their next visit.</p>	<p><b>Next agenda</b></p> <p><b>Next agenda</b></p> <p><b>Next agenda</b> <b>AB</b></p>

12.	<p><b>To consider funding artwork for a “Miner and his Lad” to be sited at the Minnie Pit memorial gardens Halmer End - Mr M Joynson</b>  This was agreed in principle however Mr Joynson to bring a quote along to the next meeting for approval.</p>	<b>Next agenda</b>
13.	<p><b>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Proctor</b>  <b>To note the arrangements for the Police vehicle/traffic operation day on 12<sup>th</sup> December in the morning</b></p> <p>A concert and lunch is to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December for 29 older people at Sir Thomas Boughey High School.</p> <p>In response to the concerns raised at the public meeting regarding traffic issues, the parking advice notice will be launched on 12<sup>th</sup> December by the Police during an operation to look at speeding, vehicles with no insurance etc and parking across the parish. The Clerk reported an issue regarding a young girl nearly being run over due to a red van being constantly parked outside the chip shop in Bignall End opposite the junction. The Chair will raise with PC Henshall.</p>	<b>BP</b>
14.	<p><b>Correspondence and circulars</b>  A thank you letter from the British Royal Legion was read out and noted. Julia Cleary to be invited to the February meeting regarding the process for elections next year.</p> <p><b>To provide responses on the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Newcastle Borough Council – Draft Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation purposes for the NBC/SOTCC Joint Local Plan (deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> December)</i>  Comments for the Draft Statement of Community Involvement for the Joint Local Plan to be sent to the Clerk before the deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>2. <i>Request from Staffordshire County Council to divert footpath No 5 (part)</i>  Currently the footpath benefits from a hard surface, due to it running through a yard. It was agreed that we should request a like for like surface if the diversion is to go ahead. Noted that there is concern that this may allow for a change of use for the buildings to residential in the future, if the holiday lets are unsuccessful.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Feb Agenda</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
15.	<p><b>Clerks Update – (Appendix A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To approve the amended national NALC Pay scales from January 2015 and the non-consolidated payment in Dec and April</i>  <b>RESOLVED</b> that the revised NALC payscales be adopted for the Clerk.</li> <li>• <i>To dispose of the printers to a community group following advert</i>  In response to the advertisement placed, Wood Lane Community Association will receive the 2 old office printers which have been disposed of.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>
16.	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b>  Mr Sproston reported the issues regarding Bateswood and notices which had been removed regarding dogs on leads by the pool.</p> <p>Dogs on leads signs - Clerk to follow up with David Beardmore, regarding bespoke artwork for the signs with the fines included.</p> <p>Mrs Kinnersley reported that the double yellow lines installed at the top of Vernon Avenue had improved the parking situation.</p> <p>Mrs Cornes stated that she was concerned about damage that may be caused to the mile post at Chapel street/New Road – Clerk to ensure that the Conservation Officer makes the developer aware that this is a listed building.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>

	<p>Cllr Beech reported that buses were missing stops in Wood Lane, if they were running late. Clerk to report the issues to First bus. Passengers to keep their ticket and make specific complaints to the bus companies.</p> <p>Noted that Mr Joynson was to meet Roger Tait of the Borough Council regarding Podmore on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
17.	<p><b>Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To approve the Accounts (<b>Appendix A</b>) and note current budget position</i></li> </ul> <p>These were approved for payment in accordance with Appendix A. The budget position statement was noted.</p>	
	<p><i>To consider the following items on the agenda to 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).</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the following item be discussed in accordance with Standing Orders. The two members of public left the meeting at this stage.</p>	
18.	<p><b>Contractual/Staffing issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Audley Bowling Club – To consider reducing the tree on the site</i></li> </ul> <p>Quote to be discussed on next agenda, when it is clear what work is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To consider Leddys Field quotes (Suspend Financial Regulations)</i></li> </ul> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that due to the specialist nature of the work Financial Regulations would be suspended to consider quotes rather than a tendering process. Following the consideration of the quotes, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to appoint Newcastle Borough Council as the contractor. Noted that this would bring a number of environmental benefits to the area, along with a realistic timescale and programme. In view of the health and safety risk to the public, it was agreed to close the site and the footpath. Clerk to inform the Bowman and also Staffs County Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To consider the arrangements for the Annual Maintenance Contract for 15/16 –</i></li> </ul> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to suspend Financial Regulations to request that Mr Hough be asked to supply a quote for a further year's maintenance and also a price for a further 3 years contract. Subject to the price, this work to be approved.</p>	
	<b>Meeting was closed at 20.30hrs</b>	