

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held at Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street on Thursday 15th February 2018 at 7:00pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr B Proctor
 Councillors: Mrs C Richardson, Cllr A Frankish, Revd J Taylor, Mr M Whitmore, Mr M Dolman, Mr C Cooper, Mr D Butler, Mr R Garlick
 Minutes – Clare Withington Clerk
 There were 4 members of the public present for part of the meeting

Ref.	Item	Action
1.	To receive apologies – Mr Moody, Mrs Pearson Noted that Mr Sproston had not been to the meeting for over 6 months and was therefore disqualified. As it was so close to a parish election in May 2018 it was agreed that the process to advertise the casual vacancy did not need to be followed (as confirmed previously by SPCA). Clerk to write to Mr Sproston.	Clerk
2.	To consider approving and signing minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 18 th January 2018 RESOLVED the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record. These were signed by the Chair at the meeting.	
3.	Declaration of interest in any item Mr Cooper, Revd Taylor declared an interest in 10 (Allotments).	
4.	Public Participation: One member of public wished to query the way the accounts from the Parish allotments are presented. It was noted that this relates to Parish Council spend/income in relation to both allotments, which is historic and considered prudent in line with appropriately spending public money. It is not a debt that is pursued from either allotment. Clerk to ensure it is clearly heading up Parish allotments. It was also confirmed that there was provision in the budget for the allotments due to it being a parish asset. Other members of public raised the ongoing issue of the flooding at Bignall End Road and noted that investigations had been carried out recently by Severn Trent and Burntwood Environmental. It was agreed that the Clerk was request feedback in response to this. Clerk to report the speeding vehicles to PC Moore to see if the safety camera can attend.	Clerk Clerk
5.	Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application for the approval of the access, layout, scale, appearance, landscaping, materials and noise assessment as required by planning ref 17/00429/OUT for an agricultural workers dwelling Domvilles Farm Barthomley Road Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8HT Ref. No: 18/00085/REM (Green Belt/Delegated) - Noted The addition of two velux roof windows to the lounge/dining room Parkfields Farm Park Lane Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8HR Ref. No: 13/00469/NMA (Green Belt/Delegated) - Noted VARIOUS CONDITIONS Application for approval of detailed remediation scheme as required by condition 16 of planning permission 16/00273/FUL - Erection of 6 dwellings Land West Of Ravens Close Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 16/00273/CN16 - Noted New dormer to roof New Woodhouse Farm Apedale Road Wood Lane Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8PH Ref. No: 18/00056/FUL (Green Belt/Committee) – RESOLVED to support this application. Proposed replacement detached dwelling with detached double garage 	

	<p>Alwyn Nantwich Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DW Ref. No: 18/00032/FUL (Delegated/Green Belt) RESOLVED to object to the application for new boundary treatment which is not in accordance with the planning permission and to request that the now removed historic hedgerow is replaced with an equivalent hedgerow. The site is at the gateway to the Parish and being within Green Belt, it is considered that a hedgerow boundary is more appropriate than a brick wall.</p> <p>6. Two Detached Dormer Bungalows (resubmission of 17/00829/FUL) Land Rear South Of Co Operative Lane Halmerend Staffordshire Ref. No: 18/00014/FUL (Village Env/Delegated) RESOLVED that this be supported (note that there is the nearby Halmer End play area provision if there are any Section 106 funds).</p> <p>7. To consider a response to the Joint Local Plan Preferred Option consultation 1st February to 1st March 2018 https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/planning/planning-policy/joint-local-plan</p> <p>The Preferred Option is now available for comment. All are encouraged to ask residents to put their comments in (there was a lack of response on the first round). Additionally the Parish Council should submit a response and all are requested to submit their comments in line with the feedback form to the Parish Clerk, before the deadline (26th February at the latest). Currently there are 3 sites included in the parish, which already have planning permission. The other sites have been considered through a call for sites exercise and it needs to be ascertained if these are discounted now for the future as undeliverable or not. Clerk to query this with planning policy/Helen Beech.</p>	<p>ALL Clerk</p>
6.	<p>Bus Service – Audley Parish <i>To note the final arrangements following the Contract now entered into to provide bus subsidy for the Monday to Friday evening service (last bus 19.00 from Newcastle), Saturday service and Sunday/Bank Holiday</i> RESOLVED that this be noted and agreed. Cllr Proctor reported that a local visually impaired family had received appalling treatment from a D&G bus driver. The incident involved the driver missing the requested stop at a familiar route in the village centre, and not stopping until Halmer End (High School). The matter is being investigated by senior management at D&G.</p>	
7.	<p>General Data Protection Regulations- appointment of DPO at an annual cost to be notified The Clerk had received the 3 tier service level agreement from the County Council earlier in the day. It was agreed that this should be circulated for proper consideration and discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk Next agenda</p>
8.	<p>Leddys Field Litter, Village Litter – Cllr Proctor Cllr Proctor reported that several bags of litter had been collected containing alcohol related rubbish which was disposed off by Street Scene. It is clear that this is not wind blown rubbish and we have a problem in the parish, the same was collected at the car park by Tesco's. It was agreed that a bi monthly litter pick will take place. Also that Cllr Proctor will attend the primary schools to promote the importance of properly disposing of rubbish and also the impact on wildlife/pets/children. Cllr Proctor wished to thank those who turned out in the bad weather and the next ones will be in April and June. Clerk to contact Street Scene to see if there is a spare metal bin which could be trialled in Leddys Field, this will need to be emptied by Steve Hough at extra cost which was agreed.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
9.	<p>Dog fouling – Cllr Proctor It was reported that Marion's Way is particularly bad even though there are dog waste bins at both ends and in the middle (by Station Road). Noted</p>	

	that we cannot locate any further dog waste bins as Streetscene will only collect near a main road. Clerk to contact David Beardmore to ask for more signage along the footpath.	Clerk
10.	<p>To request the Allotment Rent for 2018/19 (£12 per plot as resolved 16th March 2017) from the Halmer End allotments and Audley Allotments, and to set the date for the Allotment Committee as 17th March at Wood Lane Community Centre. To consider the rent for 2019/20</p> <p>Rev Taylor and Mr Cooper left the room during this item. Brief discussion took place regarding the proposal suggested by the Audley Allotment Association to follow the same policy as Stoke on Trent City Council (SOTCC) with regards to self managed plots. The Clerk noted that this involves the rent collected at £50 per acre from the associations (3 acres in the case of Audley) to cover officer time, with SOTCC setting the market rent (currently 0.43p per sq m) for the tenants. There is also a detailed management agreement put in place, with the full remit of maintenance falling to the association. SOTCC state that they have a duty to ensure that the self managed plots are sustainable and therefore charge market rents; this also avoids subsidising a leisure pursuit. The other alternative being the current situation in that we collect the rents per plot x 56 and the Association then set their rent accordingly. It was noted that in Silverdale a site charges £80 per plot – although both SOTCC and Silverdale provide water. RESOLVED to set the Allotment Committee meeting date as 17th March 2018 and to request the rents for next year from both sites (as previously agreed). The rent for Halmer End will remain at £12 per plot for 2019/20. The Audley rent (2019/20) will be considered at the next meeting. Rev Taylor and Mr Cooper returned.</p>	Clerk Next agenda
11.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for February and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority • To consider the ongoing defects with the skateboard ramps at Queen Street <p>To agree a draft scheme ready for tender for the play area improvements at Halmer End Harrison Close Noted that this was a duplication on the agenda.</p>	
12.	<p>Request to use the Alsager Road/allotments car park for the Medieval Fair Alsager Road on Audley on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April RESOLVED to approve this subject to the usual requirements – risk assessment, safety marshals/car park attendants, public liability insurance.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>To consider a request from Audley Fights Cancer to use Margaret Garden on Saturday September 15th for a bouncy castle and to also consider a donation RESOLVED to approve this subject to the usual requirements – risk assessment, safety marshals/car park attendants, public liability insurance. It was also RESOLVED to provide £50 donation towards the programme.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>To consider the issues relating to the gated pathway at Audley Methodist Church – Cllr Proctor Cllr Proctor reported that a site meeting had taken place with the Borough Council's Chief Officer. It was reiterated that without this gating order the cemetery would close. The number of incidents reported were being looked at and Mr Tradeswell is progressing the gating order.</p>	
15.	<p>Local Elections Thursday 3rd May 2018 It was reported that there are likely to be a few councillors standing down and not pursuing further nomination. Clerk to recirculate the information regarding the local elections information which is also available on the parish council website.</p>	Clerk

16.	<p>Bus Shelter Church Street – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>It was noted that some party political information had been distributed which was factually incorrect and therefore misleading. It stated that the Parish Council owned the removed bus shelter at Church Street and also failed to replace it. As previously noted the Borough Council owned the shelter and the Parish Council have requested that they replace it with a cantilever shelter – due to the original one blocking the access. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would bring it to the attention of the printer of the leaflet and ask that they record the error in future publications. Additionally that the Clerk seek advice from the elections officer with regards to the incorrect information and act accordingly.</p>	Clerk Clerk
17.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for February and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority <p>This was noted. It was also noted that the swing seat at Bignall End Road had been removed to see if it can be repaired. It will cost in the region of £1400 to replace if it cannot as result of criminal damage. Steve Hough has also had to remove several lots of broken glass at the play area. Discussion took place regarding a policy of removing parts of the equipment if it is not respected. It was agreed that a bid for CCTV will be put in for Bignall End Road and in the meantime a temporary solution will be considered along with signage. Clerk to also look at new playground sign (at a cost of around £300) with a warning regarding misuse. Clerk to ask Karl Harrison to look at the weir/stream diversion at Leddys Field following the banks eroding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve a draft scheme for the new play facilities at Harrison Close, Halmer End following the consultation with the schools <p>The Clerk reported that nearly 400 children had been consulted on the equipment – including the whole of the High School at Halmer End. A number of pieces had been selected and were now to be put into a draft scheme. RESOLVED that delegated authority be given to the Play Area sub group to agree a scheme within budget in order to start the tender process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wooded area at rear of Albert Street Play area – request for thinning <p>A site visit had been held by the Chair and also by the Clerk. It was felt that this area needed to be monitored and Mr Whitmore would take a look to make any recommendations.</p> <p>- Bow top fencing Albert Street</p> <p>Noted that due to the contractor being misquoted on the materials, the cost had been amended to £630 plus VAT. This was accepted.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk MW
18.	<p>To receive an update from the Audley Millennium Green Trust if available – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>Nothing further to report at this stage. It was noted that an article has been placed in the Audley Community News to encourage more volunteers.</p>	
19.	<p>To discuss the continuing flooding at Bignall End Road – Mr R Garlick</p> <p>This had been discussed earlier on the agenda.</p>	
20.	<p>Request to appoint a Staffs County Council to pursue legal action to recover parish land at Scot Hay</p> <p>It was noted that a minutes silence to remember former Parish Councillor Ike Williams would be held at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that a proposal be submitted to the prospective purchaser to ask them to fund the valuation of the land to obtain the best consideration and legal costs, which will be considered at a future meeting for disposal. In the event of it being agreed, a public meeting is likely to be required.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to identify the other items of land purchased for the next agenda.</p>	Next agenda Clerk Next agenda

21.	<p>Highways Issues in relation to Halmer End (Correspondence from Resident) This was noted and for the record that resident believed that any future injuries or claims which occurred on that road could be see the Highways dept liable due to their failure to maintain the road in a safe condition. There were around 1000 letters sent from residents to the Highways Dept regarding this issue.</p>	
22.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to attend the Mayors Spring Ball University of Keele on Saturday 14 April 2018 tickets £50.00 each (deadline 31st March) - Noted • To note the Barthomley Road Bridge closure 21 weeks approx from 5th February and Nantwich Road (by Peel Hollow) 19th February (5 days max) – Noted although the section by Peel Hollow had now been extended to October to include traffic management. • To consider a bid to the Safer Roads Round (Opens 1st March) This was noted, schemes to consider included Peggys Bank one way, Boon Hill Road (bridge) traffic lights/calming, roundabout by the Railway Pub in Halmer End. All other suggestions to be sent to the Clerk, but it was noted that Highways have to be in agreement with any schemes. • Invitation to attend the Annual Civic Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, London Road, Newcastle on Sunday 11 March, 2018 not later than 10.15 - This was noted. Parish Council Forum (Joint Local Plan update 15th February) – This was noted. 	
23.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Proctor With regards to the LAP, more volunteers are required to sustain this. Cllr Frankish reported that the cinema club is being taken over for both the older persons and younger persons by ACE. Clerk to ask the High School if they can send a representative to the Parish Council meetings.</p> <p>CCTV update (Alsager Road) – monthly charge for SIM and monthly/quarterly inspection of each CCTV camera at a rate of £25ph It was agreed that we will see how the new cameras go and then look at trialling a SIM card. It was agreed that the CCTV cameras will be checked quarterly and more frequently if necessary.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
24.	<p>Consideration of the next Parish elections for May 2018 – This had been discussed earlier.</p>	
25.	<p>Clerks Update – Appendix B This was noted. It was also noted that the flooding issue by the Cobbles on Church Street was being resolved. Mr Cooper to send over the details regarding Boon Hill Road blocked/removed grids to the Clerk to report along with the quality of the second repair.</p> <p>To resolve that the change in hours to 30 per week takes effect from 1st February 2018 and for the Chair to sign a new Contract of Employment to that effect RESOLVED that the Chair sign the new contract of employment for the Clerk to increase the hours to 30 per week.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
26.	<p>To approve the schedule of payments– See Appendix C To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers RESOLVED that this be approved as per attached schedule for payment. The bank reconciliation statement had been confirmed as true by the Chair, and the budget position statement noted.</p>	

27.	<p>Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda) Mrs Richardson reported the issue with the gap in the double yellow lines at Hougher Wall Road, although they had made a big difference in safety. Clerk to report the overflowing drain at Bignall Hill.</p>	Clerk Clerk
28.	<p>TO RESOLVE UNDER THE 1960 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT) TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE MEETING TO BE DISCUSSED: To further consider issues in relation to the Borough Council car parks (Church Street) and consider the arrangements for entering a lease for both car parks – Cllr Proctor It was noted that a meeting of the Church leadership was taking place on 19th February to consider the licence to lease the land with the Parish Council. RESOLVED to instruct the County Council to draw up a licence once they have confirmed we can go ahead. Nothing further has been submitted from the Borough Council regarding the other car park.</p>	Clerk

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Approved Payments schedule – February 2018

Chq/Bacs	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	TOTAL INVOICE INC VAT
bacs 130	PME Maintenance	Removal of xmas decs	1380.00
bacs 133	Fresh Air Fitness	Spares for Queen Street and Miles Green PAID	387.30
bacs 135	Mrs C Withington	Salary Feb total	1421.44
bacs 136	Mrs C Withington	Expenses Feb	125.65
bacs 137	Staffordshire Pension scheme	Pension Feb	518.27
bacs 138	H M Revenues and Customs	Tax and NI Feb	494.37
bacs 139	Mr S Hough	AM Inspection reports	112.00
bacs 140	Mr S Hough	ON 60 Play area sign Alsager road install	245.00
bacs 141	Mr S Hough	ON 61 Leddys field top up of path	192.00
bacs 142	Evansigns	CCTV signs x 2	78.00
bacs 143	Parish Online	Mapping system subs	159.60
		Monthly Total	5113.63