

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held at Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street on Thursday 17th November 2017 at 7:00pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr B Proctor
 Councillors: Mrs C Richardson, Revd J Taylor, Mr M Whitmore, Mr P Breuer, Mr M Dolman, Mrs V Pearson, Cllr A Frankish, Mr C Cooper, Mr D Butler
 Minutes – Clare Withington Clerk
 There was 1 member of the public present

Ref.	Item	Action
1.	Parish awards: Elsie Kelsall Young Persons Award – This item was postponed to the end of the agenda.	
2.	To receive apologies – Mr R Garlick Mr R Moody Mr R Kinnersley, Mr T Sproston.	
3.	To consider approving and signing minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16 October 2017 - RESOLVED to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.	
4.	Declaration of interest in any item - No items declared.	
5.	Public Participation: Noted that the member of public wished to be comment upon Planning Application Ref 17/00673/FUL.	
6.	<p>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Application for 418 sqm (GIA) A1 Retail Unit with 18no. car parking spaces (inc 2no. accessible spaces) and associated landscaping and boundary treatments. Audley Working Mens Club New Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8QF Ref. No: 17/00673/FUL Village Env/Committee</u> Potential Amended plans following Planning Committee 7th November 2017 <p>It was noted that Cllr Proctor will be speaking at the Planning Committee as a Ward Councillor not as the Chair of Planning. The amended plans were considered. Comments were also considered from a Highways expert commissioned in support of an objector, in relation to the access for delivery vehicles. The current plans indicate that these vehicles will be required to drive up to the rear properties, and reverse round into the service yard. In order to do so, they will need to cross over onto the other side of the road to sweep round into access. It was RESOLVED to continue to strongly oppose the development, for the reasons previously submitted which would constitute it being inappropriate development. It was also RESOLVED to submit further comments as follows:</p> <p>There will be a severe impact in terms of highway safety and internal design issues for manoeuvring large vehicles that cannot be controlled, and will block off the residential end. The developer has not responded to the issues raised in this regard and it is unclear why the highways authority has not passed the highway report in support of the objector on or acknowledged its contents. The Parish Council would like to know why an independent safety audit has not been carried out for all associated vehicular movements? Furthermore pedestrians will need to walk across the path of the manoeuvring vehicles, due to the pavement design. The original drawings and the design and access statement demonstrated a clearly defined retail area from the residential area with planting – the new plans now remove this distinction, although the design and access statement has not been amended to reflect this change. Currently it is intended to be a private</p>	

	<p>access road, however consideration must be given to the potential for this to become adopted due to the residential units.</p> <p>It is also noted that there is a Grade II listed building opposite the entrance, which may be placed in danger, should vehicles bump up the kerb to avoid the delivery vehicles which are entering/exiting the premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17/00895/FUL Proposed carport extension Acres View Bignall End Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LU (Green Belt/Village env/Delegated) <p>The Parish Council declared a personal interest in the application being as the applicant was a current Parish Councillor, although not present. It was however noted that under normal circumstances the Parish Council would not have any objection to an application of this type.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached garage 120 Wereton Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8HE – RESOLVED that this be supported. Ref. No: 17/00865/FUL (Delegated/Village Env) 2 Detached Dormer Bungalows Land Rear South Of Co Operative Lane Halmerend Stoke-on-Trent Ref. No: 17/00829/FUL Delegated/Village env) – RESOLVED that this be supported (note that there is the nearby Halmer End play area provision if there are any Section 106 funds). Formation of an enclosed area to the rear for a beer garden, a separate bin store and an enclosed area at the rear for the existing garage. New flagging, 2m high closed board fencing, kerb edge landscaping beds and new loose furniture. The Butchers Arms Church Street Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8DE Ref. No: 17/00827/FUL(Delegated/Village Env) – RESOLVED to support the principle subject to the height of the fencing, bearing in mind the large drop by the car park, and that it is sympathetic to the Conservation Area. Equestrian farm ride 4.5 - 5 km in length, 5m in width, training area and associated hardstanding parking area Old Peel Farm Nantwich Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DY Ref. No: 17/00842/FUL – (Delegated Green Belt) – RESOLVED to support this. Proposed alterations to existing verge to form 2 no. parking bays Verges To Front Of 3 And 16 Harrison Close Halmerend Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8AE Ref. No: 17/00819/FUL (Delegated/Village Env) – RESOLVED to support this subject to the surface consisting of sustainable drainage. Outline application with some matters reserved for erection of a two storey dwelling Land Adjacent 49 Vernon Avenue Audley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8EG Ref. No: 17/00805/OUT (Delegated/Village Env) – RESOLVED to support this application. <p>To note the arrangements for the JLP preferred Option (11 December 2017 Planning Committee) – This was noted.</p> <p>To respond to the letter regarding the Joint Local Plan (Barthomley Road/Nantwich Road) - RESOLVED to note the contents and to reply on this basis.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for November and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – RESOLVED to note the play inspection report. It was also noted that urgent 	

	<p>action was taken by the Chair in order to clean up glass that had broken onto a pavement by the Bignall End Post Office. The work also involved the removal of dangerous shards of glass from a UPVC unit. The invoice will be forwarded to the Borough Council by the Chair to allow them to recharged the property owner, who was ill in hospital and unable to resolve the issue. Clerk to ask Mr Hough to address the issues with the new section of car park at Alsager Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the outcome of the Annual Play Inspection (Wicksteed) if received – This has not yet been received. • To approve the quote for a new play area sign at Alsager Road – cost £360 – RESOLVED to approve this. • To note the planned work to Leddys Field from Sunday 3rd to 12th December and the planned closure to the Public during this time <p>This was noted. Consideration was also given to a request by Western Power to complete work to remove trees under power cables and prune alongside. RESOLVED that this be approved due to the urgency subject to no wood being left on site, risk assessments, the bark not being spread near the stream/pond, 4 x 4s are not taken onto the bottom of the site due to mud/ruts (Mr Hough to show if necessary) and appropriate insurances are in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the completion of the work alongside 1 Country Park View (by Rileys Field). <p>It was noted that some extensive work has been undertaken by the property owner. Although there was an agreement, this seems to be more extensive than anticipated. Clerk to clarify with the Chair what the agreement was.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of the play area sub group meeting <p>Following the meeting, it was suggested that a further play area be upgraded which would be in the Bignall End ward. This would then provide an updated scheme per ward. It was RESOLVED to include Albert Street as the next scheme being near to the centre of a residential area and with sufficient land to allow this to be set far enough back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the consultation on Sat 18th November 2017 (Halmer End Institute) regarding new play facilities at Harrison Close, Halmer End <p>This was noted. This will be held at the Institute as previously agreed.</p>	<p>BP</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8.	<p>To approve the installation of the Christmas Lights – Audley Village RESOLVED to approve this and to request the lights are turned on from 1st December, although it is cost prohibitive to amend the timings.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
9.	<p>Bus Service – Audley Parish</p> <p>To consider the outcome of Cllr Proctor’s meeting with First Bus regarding bus service issues and also D&G Bus Services Ltd regarding potential withdrawal of the evening and Sunday/Bank Holiday daytime services from March 2018</p> <p>RESOLVED to bring this item forward on the agenda as it impacts on the budget discussion.</p> <p>It was noted that the village retail outlets have felt a decrease in sales since the removal of the Saturday service. Additionally there is potential for the loss of the evening, Sunday and bank holiday service to be lost due to the subsidy removal by the County Council. The impact of which will be huge on the parish both socially if there is no ability to access the villages or other parts. Cllr Proctor has met with both operators who serve the parish currently. The precept could be increased to cover the shortfall of the subsidy approximately £43k – this would ensure the service is retained as it is currently. The Clerk provided the advice from the SPCA who suggested that as a minimum a public meeting is held, that consideration is given to the costs being commensurate with the use, and if one contractor is appointed through a negotiated route rather than tender then it would be necessary to suspend financial regulations. It was noted that this contract would be</p>	

	<p>renewed annually with 30-day notice. RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the County Council to say that we regret the decision taken to reduce the funding needed to support a rural bus service as part of the SCC review. If however following this review, the service in the parish is likely to be reduced, then the Parish Council feel obliged to take care of their own people and to seek to find a way to resolve the problem. It was further RESOLVED that the Parish Council would reluctantly approve in principle the funding required (up to £44k) to retain the bus service through the increase of the precept. Cllr Proctor to ask D & G to forward a contract for consideration. D & G are to be asked to put forward a proposal for a clear explanation of figures. It was suggested that for the Parish Council could be mentioned on the bus livery. It was also noted that the County Council decision is subject to call in, although it is not likely to change the outcome.</p> <p>Following the meeting with First, the service will also be stopped after 9pm between Hanley and Audley. This service is not a subsidised route and the cost is similar to retain this. It was RESOLVED that this service is not well supported by users, and therefore could not be justified.</p>	BP Next agenda
10.	<p>Draft Budget 18/19 – to consider priorities – see attached Appendix A The Clerk noted that the Council Tax support grant is not a given. This could reduce the income by £4.4k. It was also noted that there is a potential for election costs to be charged to the Parish Councils, although this has not yet been discussed directly. It was RESOLVED that in the event that this is put forward by the Borough Council, then this Parish Council will respond to say it would not be fair or equitable to fund an election that was brought forward as a result of the Borough Council's decision.</p> <p>Discussion took place and it was RESOLVED to approve the draft budget (as attached) to include provision for the bus subsidy, £3.5k for the 2 village car parks in Church Street, Leddys Field to be reduced to £2k (work to be put on hold for a year). The reserves were expected to be around £34k, which should now be built up over future years due to the large amount of assets.</p>	
11.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider a letter regarding land adjoining Podmore Hall Cottage, Scot Hay Road, Alsagers Bank and further action in relation to the encroachment of the garden – plus a request for a site visit <p>RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the owner of the land and asks them to reinstate it to the original boundary within 21 days of the letter. Discussion to be held on the next agenda with regards to legal action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRO – Road closure on Barthomley Road (M6 bridge) from January 2018 to August 2018 – Bridge repairs – This was noted. • SPCA AGM 4th December – This was noted. All to consider attending and to let the Clerk now by 26th November. 	Clerk Next agenda ALL
	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Proctor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audley LAP <p>Cllr Frankish noted that the Cinema Club was now up and running and working well. Younger people are to be engaged through the schools, following a disappointing turn out. Clerk to assist with the LAP lunch on 7th December. Cllr Proctor sends his apologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police Parish – The Police were present at this meeting. No members of public were. PCSO to attend the film club. - CCTV update if required <p>£4.5k funding has been received from the PCC to fund a CCTV camera at Alsager Road and the associated electrics. Clerk was instructed to place the order as soon as possible.</p>	Clerk Clerk

	<p>To note the implications and resources required for the General Data Protection Regulation – Briefing on 21st November (SPCA)</p> <p>The Clerk stated that the implications of these changes are vast and will require resources to implement and monitor. Attendees are encouraged to attend the briefing on 21st November.</p>	
14.	<p>To consider the letter regarding the “Highways - Your choices” and to respond to the Rights of Way Consultation - categorisation (Deadline is 25 Dec 17)</p> <p>The resource was noted for minor highways works. Consideration was given to the footpaths which will be categorised into A, B and C. RESOLVED that the Parish Council responds to say they will not support a decision that sees the majority of footpaths (category C) in the Parish receive no attention or resources whatsoever.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p>Clerks Update – Appendix B</p> <p>This was noted.</p>	
16.	<p>To approve the schedule of payments– See Appendix C</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers - RESOLVED to pay the schedule as attached. 2. To note the 25% cut in Section 136 Concurrent funding to the parish from the Borough Council – this was noted. 3. To consider a donation to the Royal British Legion for £34 for Remembrance Sunday - This was RESOLVED. 	
17.	<p>Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda)</p> <p>Cllr Proctor suggested that a letter should be sent to C I Owen regarding the police attendance at the Remembrance Parade next year which is a valued and important parish event. This was agreed. Mr Breuer reported that the new housing development at Halmer End has caused damage to the pavement. Clerk to write to the Planning Department, Neale Clifton and Highways to ensure that the developer reinstates it. Clerk to write to the owner of the large bush along Wereton Road by the bridge to ask they cut it back as it is overhanging the pavement.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
18.	<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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quote to repair to the fence as per play inspection report at Rileys – RESOLVED to approve the quote for up to £30. • To further consider issues in relation to the Borough Council car parks (Church Street) – Cllr Proctor – Noted that the Borough Council are putting together a lease for both car parks. This will be a 99 year lease which is renewed every 10 years. It is not possible to purchase the lower car park from the Borough as it would need to be put on the open market. The Borough Council will cover the legal costs. • To consider the tendering arrangements for the Annual maintenance contract (April 2018 onwards) A quote had been received and it was RESOLVED to consider this at the next meeting. • To approve a quote for the clean up at Minnie Pit memorial sites (Bateswood) – RESOLVED to approve the quote for £200. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>
19.	<p>Parish awards:</p> <p>Elsie Kelsall Young Persons Award – The Chair presented Megan Jones with the award. Megan was considered to be an outstanding young person who was a treasure and a credit to the Parish not only in relation to Audley cricket clubs second team but also as a musician, playing recently with the Audley Ladies Choir.</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Appendix A– Approved Payments schedule

Chq/Bacs	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	TOTAL INVOICE INC VAT
bacs 92	Evansigns	CCTV signs	156.00
bacs 93	Rich Heler	Hedge Old road and Queen Street (cut)	168.00
bacs 94	PME Maintenance	CCTV on Lampposts	60.00
bacs 95	Audley Wood Lane Comm Association	Meetings x 5 (2017)	100.00
bacs 96	Mrs C Withington	Salary Nov total	1030.68
bacs 97	Mrs C Withington	Expenses Nov	121.75
bacs 98	Staffordshire Pension scheme	Pension Nov	345.51
bacs 99	H M Revenues and Customs	Tax and NI Nov	218.78
bacs 100	Mr S Hough	AM Grass (15), Strimming at Alsager bank, Minnie pit. M garden, litter pick leddys field	720.00
bacs 101	Mr S Hough	ON 47 Minnie pit mem site (chip shop) chop overhanging trees	80.00
bacs 102	Mr S Hough	ON 51 CCTV signs installation	50.00
bacs 103	Mr S Hough	ON 36 Miles green footpath by play area (hedge)	240.00
bacs 104	Wicksteeds	Play equipment repairs	372.37
bacs 106	Halmer End CIC	Room Hire for Play area consultation	20.00
bacs 107	Eon	Electrics for CCTV Hall Street and Old Road	960.00
bacs 108	Audley Brass	Donation for the Remembrance parade	100.00
chq 972	The Royal British Legion	Wreaths and donation	68.00
bacs 109	Trent Trophies	Awards (inscription)	10.00
bacs 110	Evansigns	Alsager Road Sign play area 180 paid	360.00
		Monthly Total	5181.09

Total transfer required to current account: £6000

Appendix A – Draft Budget 18/19

HEADING	Draft Budget 18/19	Notes
ADMIN		
Staff Costs / Chair	£ 20,000.00	
ADMIN		
Office/other/Adverts	£ 8,500.00	
Playing		
Fields - maintenance	£ 17,000.00	
Bus Subsidy	£ 43,500.00	TO BE CONFIRMED
Playing fields - Capital (net of VAT)	£ 60,000.00	Albert Street Play area
Car parks x 2	£ 3,500.00	3.5 legal fees via NBC
Bus shelters and Seats	£ 1,000.00	
Footpaths	£ 100.00	
Bowling		
Greens	£ 2,000.00	
Wildlife		
Area (Leddys/Marg Garden)	£ 2,000.00	Tree Thinning work postponed to 19/20
Misc.	£ 2,100.00	
Allotments	£ 1,500.00	
Donations	£ 1,000.00	
Comm activities	£ 1,000.00	
Capital	£ -	
VAT TO BE RECLAIMED	£ -	
TOTAL	£ 163,200.00	

Required Income for Draft budget 18/19

Precept reqd	£ 153,183.00
Section 136 Funding (incs 25% reduction)	£ 5,020.00
Council tax support grant	£ 4,397.00
Misc income	£
Bank interest	£
Allotment rent	£ 600.00
VAT reclaim	£
Total Income	£ 163,200.00

Precept requirement to meet 18/19 draft budget

	17/18 (Current Year)	18/19 Opt A - no CSTG reduction	18/19 Opt B - 100% CTSG reduction
Budget requirement (Form A)	£ 106,313.00	£ 153,183.00	£ 157,580.00
Council Tax Base numbers	2,523	2523	2523
Band D Council Tax per year	£42.14	£60.71	£62.46
Precept analysis			
18/19 precept (Opt A)	£60.71	£1.17 per week	
An increase of		£0.36 per week	
18/19 precept (Opt B)	£62.46	£1.20 per week	
An increase of		£0.39 per week	
17/18 precept	£42.14	£0.81 per week	