

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING of the Parish Council held at Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street on Thursday 20th February 2020 at 7pm

Present: Chair: Mr N Hayes
 Councillors: Mr D Butler, Mr C Cooper, Mr D Jervis, Mr R Garlick, Mrs V Pearson, Mr R Moody, Mrs C Richardson, Mr N Crisp, Mrs N Myatt, Ms A Borowski
 Clerk – Mrs C Withington
 BCllr Proctor for part of meeting
 There were 2 members of the public present for part of the meeting.

1. **To receive apologies – M Joynson, M Whitmore, Mr R Kinnersley**
2. **To consider approving and signing minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20th January 2020**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed at the meeting by the Chair.
3. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda**
 Mr Garlick and Mr Jervis for Item 16.
4. **Co option of Halmer End Parish Councillor (closing date 14th Feb) to consider applications**
RESOLVED to extend the deadline for the applications to 16th March, as the period was only 2 weeks the first time round.
5. **Public Participation:**
 A member of the public reported an issue with a grass verge by Barthomley Road, which had been churned up by a big vehicle. Additionally the state of the pavements and round about by Alsager Road. There was also an issue relating to ongoing flooding around that area which was being pursued through his solicitor with the County Council.

**Clerk
Clerk**

Cllr Proctor provided an update to say thank you to the Parish Council for the grant to provide the works to the car park by Tesco/Co op. Unfortunately there were additional works identified as a result of the waterlogged bottom end. This was on the agenda and will be considered. Cllr Proctor stated that he hoped that this would now stop people from parking on double yellow lines and zig zags when visiting the shops.

Cllr Proctor also thanked the Chair and Clerk for attending the meeting with Mr Hamilton (Borough Council Chief Executive) to resolve the issue of the litter bin charges for bins on the parish owned land – which will continue to be emptied at no charge to the Parish Council, but new bins would not.

Thanks were passed to the Chair for his attendance at the Diglake Memorial walk, to the 2 new mining figures installed. Noted that there had been 200 children at the Methodist Church in attendance for a talk by Apedale Centre, which was very well received and educational.

CAGOO have thanked the volunteers who have cut back the bushes around the memorial on Bignall Hill and litter picked.

Cllr Proctor requested the support of the Parish Council with regards to the County Council cutting back overgrown trees around the Apedale memorial pit wheel. Clerk to send a letter of support.

Clerk

Cllr Proctor updated the meeting to say that LAP was now struggling to continue, following Mrs Lancaster's decision to retire from the Chair. Unfortunately the meeting requires attendance during the daytime due to the agencies i.e. schools, Aspire, Police and Fire. The Borough Council will be informed that it will fold. It was noted that the bi monthly litter pick will continue and will be

advertised on Facebook. An award of £500 has been made to the 3 primary schools for an eco project consisting of litter picks and other items. The Chair thanked Cllr Proctor for organising the memorial walk and also for attending the Borough Council meeting. He also noted that Cllr Proctor is an asset to the Parish.

6. To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee

Nothing further to report. There was no police presence.

7. To a request for additional grant funding for temporary repairs to the Church car park (by Tesco/Coop)

Mr Garlick and Mr Jervis left the room for this item.

RESOLVED to award an additional £592 to the Church, which included the VAT chargeable for the works. Cllr Proctor confirmed that the Church had taken the decision to remove the barrier, and will monitor the situation. If necessary a height restriction barrier will be put on to stop large vehicles, although the entrance will remain wider. Bollards will also be put on the footpath to prevent vehicles parking.

Mr Garlick and Mr Jervis returned.

8. Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-

Application for approval of the detailed Arboricultural Method Statement for all works within the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of retained trees as required by condition 9 of planning permission 19/00231/DEEM3 -

Rebuilding and repairing existing graveyard wall St James Church Church Street Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8DE Ref. No: 19/00231/2CN09 (Village Env/Delegated) – Supported

Single storey rear extension with external and internal alterations

Highfield House Chester Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8JD Ref. No: 20/00037/FUL (Village Env/Delegated) - Supported.

Proposed demolition of existing building and construction of new building as the layout approved in planning permission 19/00050/FUL to provide ancillary accommodation to existing dwelling.

Green Butts House Nantwich Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DW Ref. No: 20/00046/FUL (GBelt) – Supported.

Removal of existing wall and foundations and replacement with new Land Between Car Park And The Butchers Arms Church Street Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8DE Ref. No: 20/00029/DEEM3 (village env/conserv) – Supported.

Application for approval of (i) external roofing materials, (ii) means of boundary treatment and (iii) Soft and hard surfacing materials as required by planning permission 19/00472/FUL - Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling

16 Fair View Boon Hill Road Bignall End Staffordshire ST7 8LA Ref. No: 19/00472/CN04 (Green Belt) – The Parish Council are aware that there is an ongoing dispute over the adjacent Footpath 101, following an alleged encroachment into this by the property with the construction of a boundary wall – which requires reinstatement back to the original footpath and posts. The Parish Council believe that this should be resolved, before any further boundary treatment is approved as per the application – therefore the Parish Council resolved to Object for the above reasons. It was noted that there is further correspondence relating to the property and the footpath 101, which will be forwarded to the Rights of Way officer for consideration.

Electricity Act 1989: The Overhead Lines (Exemption)(England and Wales) Regulations 2009 - Install new pole under existing overhead line

Podmore Hall Cottages Scot Hay Road Scot Hay Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8BW Ref. No: 20/00014/OHL = Application permitted – Noted.

Clerk

Proposed single storey extension to rear 109 Ravens Lane Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8PY Ref. No: 20/00005/PLD- Village Env/Delegated – Supported.

Proposed residential development consisting of 2 No. detached dormer bungalows Cross Winds Tomfields Woodlane Staffordshire ST7 8PJ

Ref. No: 20/00002/FUL Village env/delegated – Supported.

Update on the Joint Local Plan (if available) – The Clerk reported that the plan had been split into two parts – policies and sites. The policies will be consulted on in the spring and sites in the autumn. Noted that the Borough Council are seeking a larger number of properties than required in accordance with the government's methodology. It will be important to ensure the Parish Council inputs into this fully and in particular around the policy concerning the green belt.

9. Allotments

To request the Allotment Rent for 2020/21 (£12 per plot as resolved March 2019) from Audley Allotments – **RESOLVED** to request the rent.

To set the date for the Allotment Committee as 19th March 2020 at Wood Lane Community Centre, to start to consider the proposed rent for 2021/22 to be agreed at the Allotment Committee **RESOLVED** to set the date. It was proposed to leave the rent as it is currently with no further increase. This will be considered.

Clerk

10. Hedge laying

To consider hedge laying along the allotment/play area boundary hedge

Alsager Road – It was note that a quote of £792 (with no brash removal) had been received. **RESOLVED** to discuss this with the Allotments Committee.

and to note the outcome regarding New Road hedge/Leddys following site visit – **RESOLVED** to allow the hedge to grow in height over the next 3 years in order to lay the hedge. At the time of laying the fence will need to be removed and replaced. The approx. cost is £1122 plus fence and removal of brash.

To note the additional hedge laying at Miles Green play area, following removal of brambles to complete the job and approve – **RESOLVED** to approve the extra 25 meters at around £10 per meter plus brash to be carried out before the end of March.

Members of the public left.

Clerk

11. Leddys Field

- To agree the membership and terms of reference of a sub group – It was noted that without a lease in place, the group could only make decisions to carry out work outside of the Parish Council if delegated authority was given to them. The meetings would need to be held in public and called by summons, and minutes approved by the Parish Council. It was agreed to meet with the Bowman to understand their intentions with regards to taking on additional management responsibilities. Mr Butler suggested that one way would be to create a Friends of Leddys Field group who could have formal responsibility for seeking funding and carrying out work. A licence, or some kind of formal agreement would need to be agreed to ensure all legal issues were addressed and clear parameters.

Clerk

- To consider work to Leddys Field in the interim – clearing out ditch by hand which feeds Leddys Field pond, reinstating the grid at weir/bridge and removal of stumps along path by step and to seek quotes plus topping twice a year – **RESOLVED** to obtain a quote to carry out the work and in the meantime to remove the stumps at a cost of £30. There was some discussion about the blockage further along the stream by Hougherwall Road. Mr Cooper to provide the clerk with the details, so that this can be reported to the Environment Agency as it is affecting the nature reserve.

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- To approve a quote for phase 4 of the Management Plan – **RESOLVED** to approve the quote for £4935 net which will include the recently fallen trees. Noted that the work will be carried out towards the end of 2020.

Clerk

- 12. GDPR (standing item)** Data breaches/Subject Access requests/Information Security – reminder of responsibilities – This was noted.
- 13. Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:**
- To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for Feb and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – removal of the fallen tree at Leddys Field, replacement train part Halmer End, tree branches by Leddy's Field/Doctors surgery, grit bin clean by Butchers Arms car park
- The play inspection report was noted. The mole issue at Albert Street was noted and it was agreed to look at alternatives. The Clerk will also ask what liabilities and responsibility we have with regards to such issues.
Clerk to look into the zipwire issue at Halmer End.
- To consider quotes for tidying and opening up Margaret's Garden to create a clear view from the road- **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr Hough at a cost of up to £240 to carry out the work.
 - To note the outcome of the meeting with the Chief Executive regarding the litter bin collection on parish owned land – It was noted that the existing 12 bins inc dog waste will continue at no cost. However it was not clear what the arrangements were with regards to Bignall End Road (1) and Scot Hay (1) and Rileys Field (1). It was noted that we already pay for Miles Green (1). **RESOLVED** to include the additional bins for the Borough Council to empty at a cost of £520 per bin plus also to include the CARA bin at £520 – a total of £2600 per year.
 - To consider a quote for cutting back trees at Scot Hay play area – **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask to see if Richard Heler to carry out the work if not Mr Hough's quote of up to £380 was approved.
- 14. Request for dangerous bend sign Shralebrook – Mr Joynson**
It was noted that there had been a 3 car accident. Cllr Beech has asked for it to be priority and the Clerk has also reported it to Highways.
- 15. To approve the costs to install electric socket by the Church for the Christmas lights on trees – Church Street –** No quote was available so this will be considered on the next agenda.
- 16. Standing item - CCTV**
To note the latest regarding the Village CCTV – The Clerk was awaiting approval from Eon regarding the structure tests for the proposed cameras. However a contractor will need to be sourced as there have been problems. still awaiting EON
To note the latest regarding Halmer End CCTV – The post is now in place however for the reasons given at the meeting a new contractor is required. It was resolved to negotiate the costs for the contractor who had been asked to change the passwords and give the existing system a health check. It was further **RESOLVED** to appoint a new contractor to overhaul the cameras and to seek a regular maintenance contract on a monthly basis. Consideration will be given to leasing a system in future.
- 17. Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received and consider for next agenda**
- Annual Civic Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Newcastle, Staffs., on Sunday 1st March 2020 at 11.00am – Noted.
 - To consider a request to use the Alsager Road play area for Wakes Fun Fair – It was **RESOLVED** that this would not be approved for permission.
 - Letter regarding footpath 101 – This had been discussed earlier on the agenda, and was an ongoing matter for the Rights of Way officer at the County Council, as it is outside of the Parish Council's remit. The resident had already been informed of this previously.
 - Request to provide evidence of voluntary work to litter pick for the Duke of Edinburgh Award – **RESOLVED** to support the request.

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18. Clerks Update – (Appendix A)

The Clerk was asked to recirculate the badger cull information.

Clerk to report the floating manhole cover at Tibb Street.

The Clerk is to request a meeting with Rob Steele and Ron Garlick regarding the armco at Wood Lane.

**Clerk
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19. Councillor Reports

Mr Crisp reported on the last Audley Millennium Green meeting. It was noted that some equipment had been stolen and they were struggling to raise funds. A meeting will be held with the local County Ranger for advice on maintenance. Ms Borowski queried whether there would be lights put on the car park by Tesco's/Co op. Noted that Mr Jervis had asked Tesco's to include floodlights as part of their roof upgrade, which had been agreed, and later refused. Mr Jervis was disappointed with both Tesco's lack of support. Co Op would also be approached. The crown reduction of the trees by the car park and lighting will be considered on the next agenda.

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Mr Cooper reported that grids had been removed at Boon Hill and covered with tarmac. This has been reported previously to Highways.

The traffic sub group will consider additional carparks at the next meeting.

A resident had raised concerns regarding speeding vehicles along High Lane.

Mr Crisp will contact the resident regarding joining the Community Speedwatch. Six people are required.

Mr Jervis reported that his family had carried out a litter pick along Ryehills and had collected 20 bottles of whiskey and vodka plus numerous dog poo bags thrown into the hedge. A bin along this stretch will be considered on the next agenda.

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20. To approve the schedule of payments (Appendix B) and bank

reconciliation statement – RESOLVED to make the payments in accordance with the attached schedule. The bank reconciliation statement was confirmed by the Chair at the meeting.

1. To approve the NALC salary scales from 1st April 2020 for the Clerk – This was still awaited.
2. To renew the Parish Online subscription at a cost of £135 net – **RESOLVED** to approve this.

Clerk

21. 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:

- Butchers Arms car park– to approve the lease and to give delegated authority to allow the Chair and Vice Chair to sign the lease with the Borough Council – Noted that this was still outstanding at the Borough Council legal. Clerk to continue to chase.
- To consider quotes for the interim works to Butchers Arms car park (App C) – now pending lease – The work was noted and agreed, and the quotes had been obtained but were pending the lease. To be discussed nearer to the lease being agreed.
- To consider additional lighting at the Butchers Arms car park – NBC Eon – this was not available for this meeting.
- To consider appointing a drainage consultant/architect pending the pre-application planning enquiry for the resurfacing works - It was noted that following pre-application advice, planning permission was required and quotes were being sought for designs, drainage, structural engineer, tree survey if required.

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Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Approved Payments schedule – February 2020

Chq/Bacs	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	TOTAL INVOICE INC VAT
bacs 193	Mrs C Withington	Salary Feb	1402.16
bacs 194	Mrs C Withington	Expenses Feb	117.31
bacs 195	Staffordshire Pension scheme	Pension Feb	604.87
bacs 196	H M Revenues and Customs	Tax and NI Feb	524.35
bacs 197	D&G Bus Services	Jan bus charges	1932.88
bacs 198	Parish Noticeboards	50% deposit Nbrd Bignall End Road	507.90
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	ON 26 Batteries in signs and moving	80.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	ON 70 Leddys Field bin 13/1, 20/1, 27/1, 3/2	80.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	ON 67 Bus shelter repair Bignall End ASB	45.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	Xmas decs back to bowling club	15.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	ON 68 Leddys Field litter pick ASB	25.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	ON 64 Brush cut footpath Miles Green	100.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	ON 55 Miles Green waste by Hedge layer extra	40.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	ON 60 Soil under goal posts Miles Green and seed	103.00
bacs 199	Mr S Hough	Inspection reports AM	112.00
bacs 200	Buzzy Bees	ON 63 New Road Leddys Hedge, ON 66 Miles Green and Scot Hay moss killer	95.00
bacs 201	Parish Online	Renewed Subscription Mapping system	162.00
bacs 202	NBC	Pre app planning fee Car park	50.00
bacs 203	Eurooffice	Ink x 2 printer	127.25
bacs 204	SLCC	Conference costs pro rata 60%	278.40
		Monthly total	6402.12

Bank Reconciliation Statement

Audley Parish Council - Bank Reconciliation as at 09.02.20	
Cash Book	
Balance b/fwd	£ 117,164.29
plus receipts	£ 164,451.48
less payments	£ 135,633.18
balance at 09.02.20	£ 145,982.59
Natwest Investment	£ 29,351.35
Lloyds TSB Savings	£ 110,765.89
Lloyds TSB current	£ 5,793.56
	£ 145,910.80
less unrepresented chqs	
Plus receipts not banked	£ 71.80
balance at 09.02.20	£ 145,982.60
Difference	£ 0.01