

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING of the Parish Council held at Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7pm

Present: Chair: Mr N Hayes
 Councillors: Mr D Butler, Mr C Cooper, Mr D Jervis, Mr R Garlick, Mr M Whitmore, Mrs V Pearson, Mr R Kinnersley, Mr R Moody, Mr M Joynson, Mrs C Richardson, Mr N Crisp
 Clerk – Mrs C Withington
 There was 2 members of the public present for part of the meeting.

1. **To receive apologies** – Ms A Borowski
2. **To nominate and elect a Vice Chair**
RESOLVED to appoint Mr D Jervis as the Vice Chair.
3. **To consider approving and signing minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 19th December 2019**
RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes as a true and accurate record.
4. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda**
 None
5. **Public Participation:**
 Two members of the public attended to raise concerns regarding the speed of traffic and hazards it causes along Nantwich Road by the Wagon and Horses. It was suggested that the speed limit is reduced from 60mph to 40mph from Quarry Cottages through to beyond the Waggon and Horses. A petition was presented containing 63 signatures along with evidence of previous accidents, near misses and the ongoing issues faced by residents who live on that stretch when trying to turn in and out of drives. It was noted that there are double white lines for almost all of that stretch.
6. **Request from a resident to reduce speed limit from 60 to 40mph along Nantwich Road (Quarry Cottages to Wagon and Horses) due to issues turning in and out of drive in heavy fast traffic**
RESOLVED to bring this item forward. A brief discussion took place regarding other accidents known to the Parish Council and it was **RESOLVED** to send the request to Cllr Ann Beech, Staffordshire County Council to investigate the matter and see if it is possible to reduce the speed limit. **Clerk**
 The Clerk was also asked to report the issue of the barrier blocking the footpath over the M6 motorway bridge. **Clerk**
7. **To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee**
 No update available although the Clerk noted that Cllr Proctor was still pursuing matters for the Parish. There had been no police presence at the last surgery.
8. **Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-**
19/01016/FUL | Proposed demolition of indoor model car racing building and erection of detached dwelling Building North Of The Old Stable And Tawney Cottage Barthomley Road Audley Newcastle Under

Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8HU Delegated/Green Belt (Previous application 17/00159/OUT Refused and Appeal dismissed – *previous comments - support this as it was an enhancement on the current building, providing that the new development is within the current building footprint.*)

RESOLVED to support a development within the current building footprint only, however as the proposal far exceeds this the Parish Council did not support the current proposal

Proposed dwelling Land Adjacent To White Oaks Bignall Hill Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8LS Ref. No: 19/01014/FUL Delegated Village Env – **RESOLVED** to object on grounds of highways issues due to the access issues from the busy main road and concerns about mining subsidence.

Application for approval of the Site investigation as required by condition 15 of planning permission 19/00308/FUL - Erection of detached bungalow and demolition of existing B8 commercial building Crackley Gates Farm Leycett Lane Silverdale Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 6AW Ref. No: 19/00308/CN15 – Noted.

Update on the Joint Local Plan (if available) – No update as yet.

9. To receive any public comments on the draft Budget 2020/21 and then approve the precept for next year (2020/21) – Appendix A

To consider allocating £5k funding for CARA towards improvements to pump track – This had been agreed previously and it was noted that a funding application was due to be submitted, once CARA had provided the information requested.

Discussion took place regarding the priorities for next year, and it was considered that creation of off road parking was a priority. With this in mind it was agreed to provide a grant of up to £2k to the Audley Methodist Church for purposes of carrying out a temporary repair to the car by Tesco. Mr Jervis and Mr Garlick would assist them with regards to the specification. Furthermore it was agreed that once this had been carried out to provide more parking, an SLA with the Civil enforcement team will be entered into to provide additional parking enforcement in the Village. It was confirmed that Mr Garlick and Mr Jervis would be acting in an advisory capacity only. The Clerk will contact the Church to make the offer and set up a meeting with Mr Garlick and Mr Jervis.

Clerk

RESOLVED to retain the precept for 20/21 as it is currently per Band D property – i.e. £60.83, which will raise an income of £156,698.08 approximately.

Clerk

10. GDPR (standing item) Data breaches/Subject Access requests/Information Security – reminder of responsibilities – This was noted. The Clerk reminded everyone that of the need to provide photos (head and shoulders) for the cards.

ALL

11. Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:

- To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for Jan and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – removal of brash

- (extra pile) Miles Green Play area at a cost of £40. **RESOLVED** to note the play inspection report and to order the bearings to be changed on the roundabout at Miles Green. It was also noted that the Perspex had been damaged at the bus shelter on Ravens Lane, and had been repaired to save further expense. **Clerk**
- To consider a draft scheme for Albert Street play area (if available) –** The consultation results had been analysed and a draft scheme was due to drawn up. This will be shared with Mrs Pearson and Mr Cooper, along with the residents, before coming back to the Parish Council for final approval. **VP CC**
- 12. To consider the findings and recommendations for the 2 oak trees Albert Street play area –** A meeting had taken place with Mr Tim James, Borough Council tree officer, the tree surgeon, Mrs Myatt, Mrs Pearson, Mr Whitmore and the Clerk. Mr Whitmore noted that in order to obtain an accurate view of the trees, it may require an annual survey. It was **RESOLVED** to carry out the survey to provide an independent view of the trees up to a cost of £375 net per tree, and then to remove the deadwood/dieback at a cost of £600 net. **Clerk**
- 13. To replace the noticeboard at Bignall End at a cost of £885.00 plus installation £134 – RESOLVED** to replace the noticeboard at a cost of £885 net plus the installation cost. **Clerk**
- 14. Traffic Sub Group/Community Speedwatch – feedback from last meeting held** **NH**
- A meeting had been held on Tuesday. Mr Crisp was appointed the chair. A full set of minutes will be circulated, but it was agreed to pursue the following:
- To investigate the ownership of land in relation to additional car parks.
 - To look at Coalfields Regeneration funds for the capital works to create the car parks.
 - To request road signage at Boonhill Road – blind summit and narrowing road (cars on other side).
 - To review a warning sign at Old Road/New Road
 - To request a weight limit of vehicles from the Boughey Arms to The Plough roundabout.
- It was noted that the majority of hedges had now been cut. The list will be retained for future reference.
- The Community Speedwatch will be relaunched in the summer, and an additional group will be considered to assist.
- 15. Standing item - CCTV**
- To note the latest regarding the Village CCTV – This was awaiting Eon approval regarding the weight limit on the lamp posts. Once this was known an application will be submitted for formal approval from Eon.
- To note the latest regarding Halmer End CCTV – The post is still awaited from Eon which is on order. Mr Jervis has seen the specification and agreed it was adequate.
- 16. To consider action with regards to the white rails at Bignall Bank following Highways response regarding replacement/painting**
- It was noted that Mr Greatbach had responded to say they would not replace like for like, but with Armco. Additionally they would allow a group of volunteers to paint but a contractor would need to have the relevant Highway's licences, of which the local contractors do not. This may push

- up the cost. Cllr Beech is willing to part fund the replacement poles. The Clerk is to ask Cllr Beech and CAGOO to clean up around the coal truck and trim back the bushes. Mr Moody will assist with the paint selection for the white rails, Mr Butler and Mrs Pearson will paint them. **Clerk DB VP**
- 17. To consider providing a grant to the Church for temporary repairs to the Church car park (by Tesco/Coop) - RESOLVED** to provide up to £2000 towards the repairs, subject to input from Mr Garlick and Mr Jervis in the specification. **Clerk**
- 18. Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received and consider for next agenda**
 Noted that a road closure will be in place from 2nd to 6th March 2020 due to drainage works.
 Some changes were required to the timings of the bus service 1 and 1A including the Parish Council funded Saturday service by D&G to fit in with the County. This were noted.
- 19. Clerks Update – (Appendix B)**
 Appendix B was noted. Mr Kinnersley raised some concerns about CARA. The Clerk did not feel this was a concern, but would confirm. **Clerk Next agenda**
 The Clerk had received a request to cut back trees at Scot Hay play area which will be included on the next agenda.
- The Clerk had stated that a booklet/list of community organisations would be helpful for people to refer to. It was agreed to work with Audley Community news to pull this together. **Clerk**
- 20. Councillor Reports** (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda)
- Mr Joynson reported that there had been some ASB incidents involving drugs around Halmer End. The police were aware. The Clerk will include an article in the Audley Community news to encourage people to report crime to 101 or via Facebook. **Clerk**
- Mr Joynson will speak to the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. Mr Kinnersley reported a large pothole on the turn into Church Street, Audley from Nantwich Road. **MJ Clerk**
- Mrs Pearson stated that substantial pruning was required in Margaret's Garden. Quotes to be obtained for the next meeting. **Next agenda**
- Mr Crisp will be attending the next Audley Millennium Green Trust on 4th February, and will report back to the next meeting. **Next agenda**
- Clerk to report flooding in the dip at Hougherwall Road. **Clerk**
- Mr Moody reported some concerns regarding the fish trap and bridge/dam at Leddys Field. The sub group will look at this with Aardwolf, due to the Environment Agency approval required. Mr Moody to convene a group and invite Aardwolf to attend. **RM**
- It was noted that there is ongoing flooding at Bignall End Road on the corner by Great Oaks Road – Clerk to report to Highway. **Clerk**
- Clerk to report the loose manhole cover at Peggys Bank. **Clerk**
- Mr Whitmore stated that there was no disabled kerb dropping by Stephens Way (nearer to Bignall Bank). Clerk to report to Highways. **Clerk**

21. To approve the schedule of payments (Appendix C)

1. To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending March 2020 – **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs Heelis at a rate of £25 per hour. **Clerk**
2. To approve the NALC salary scales from 1st April 2020 for the Clerk – Next agenda.

To renew the National Allotment Society subs at a cost of £66 (annual) – **RESOLVED** to approve the subs.

22. 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:

There were no members of public present.

- **To consider a quote to reduce the height of the trees at Miles Green Play area (if available) – RESOLVED** to appoint the Tree Brothers at a cost of £300 net to crown reduce 4 trees. **Clerk**

- **To consider a quote to remove a dangerous branch over the bus shelter on Bignall Hill (if available) –** The Clerk had carried out a land registry check and confirmed it belongs to HW Martin Farms. A request for action had been made from HW Martins and also Highways. **RESOLVED** that if the work is not carried out, then the quote obtained by the Tree Brothers was approved at a cost of £120 net. **Clerk**

- **To approve a quote for Leddys Field tree work phase 4 to be carried out March 2020 –** It was noted that the work would not take place until after the autumn 2020, due to permissions being obtained in time. It was **RESOLVED** to seek alternative quotes and to appoint Mr James as the Project Manager. In the meantime a quote will be obtained to remove a large mature poplar in the proposed working area that has uprooted in high winds and is now hung-up on another tree. This is a potential hazard and at the very least the tree needs to be brought safely to the ground, and preferably cut up and stacked neatly on site. **Clerk**

- **Car Park leases – Butchers Arms – to approve the lease and to resolve to allow the Chair and Vice Chair to enter into the lease with the Borough Council**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the materials for the wall repair may not be new, and recycled existing materials, to tie it in. Additionally it was **RESOLVED** to accept that a third party arbitrator to overrule any disputes in the event that the Parish Council and Borough Council cannot reach agreement on the acceptance of works. **Clerk**

- **To consider quotes to tarmac and provide a soakaway at the bottom of the site, with aqua cells for the Butchers Arms site – Three quotes had been received and were presented to the Parish Council.** **Clerk**

RESOLVED to appoint the preferred contractor as notified at the meeting subject to Borough Council approval, up to a cost of £20,500 net. **Clerk**

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

**Appendix A – Approved Budget 2020/21 (with final council tax base numbers)
and Council Tax Precept amount**

HEADING	Approved Budget 2020/21
ADMIN	
Staff Costs / Chair	£ 33,000.00
ADMIN Office/other/Adverts/Website	
Accessibility reg upgrade	£ 8,500.00
Playing	
Fields - maintenance	£ 21,000.00
Bus Subsidy	£ 25,000.00
Highways Projects (inc hedges/SIDS)	£ 7,000.00
Playing fields - Capital (net of VAT) CCTV, CARA £5k	£ 3,000.00
Car parks - maintenance ongoing	£ 3,500.00
Bus shelters and Seats	£ 1,000.00
Footpaths	£ 1,000.00
Bowling	
Greens	£ 2,000.00
Wildlife	
Area (Leddys/Marg Garden)	£ 8,000.00
Misc. inc xmas lights/bunting, Village CCTV	£ 7,000.00
Allotments	£ 1,500.00
Donations inc Rem Day parade	£ 3,000.00
Comm activities/Grants Programme	£ 4,000.00
Capital	£ -
Other projects - car parks etc	£ 33,195.00
VAT TO BE RECLAIMED	£ -
TOTAL	£ 161,695.00

Required Income for Budget 20/21		Parish Precept Band D property annual charge
Precept reqd (council tax base 2576)	£ 156,698.00	£ 60.83
Section 136 Funding NIL	£ -	
Council tax support grant (at RISK)	£ 4,397.00	
Other income (Allot rent)	£ 600.00	0% increase annually
Total Income	£ 161,695.00	Last year £60.83 (19/20) 2558 band D per annum (£155593)

Approved Payments schedule – January 2020

Chq/Bacs	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	TOTAL INVOICE INC VAT
bacs 175	Mrs C Withington	Salary Jan	1473.96
bacs 176	Mrs C Withington	Expenses Jan	95.00
bacs 177	Staffordshire Pension scheme	Pension Jan	604.87
bacs 178	H M Revenues and Customs	Tax and NI Jan	524.35
bacs 179	D&G Bus Services	Dec bus charges	2005.61
bacs 180	Mr S Hough	ON 56 repairs to scot hay springer hole	50.00
bacs 181	Mr S Hough	AM leaves from Leddys field path and inspection reports	232.00
bacs 182	Mr S Hough	ON 61 Repair to Alsager Road climber net	35.00
bacs 183	Mr S Hough	ON 26 batteries changed speed signs 16 Dec	25.00
bacs 184	Mr S Hough	ON 70 bins ledly 9/12, 17/12, 23/12, 6/1	80.00
bacs 185	EE	November charges PAID	19.20
bacs 186	EE	Dec charges PAID	19.20
bacs 188	TW Heler	Hedge cut Queen Street	102.00
bacs 189	Mrs C Withington	Land reg	3.00
bacs 190	Staffordshire County Council	Legal fees Nov Butchers Arms	34.20
bacs 191	Audley Pensioners Hall	Meetings 2020 room hire	230.00
bacs 192	National Allotment Association	Subs 20/21	66.00
		Monthly total	5599.39

Approved transfer £5500