

**AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE **COUNCIL MEETING** held in Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street, Audley on 15<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm – Meeting commenced at 7.30pm as the clerk was stuck in traffic due to an accident on the motorway.

Present: Chairman: Mr T Sproston  
 Councillors: Mrs C D Cornes, Mr D Cornes, Mr P Breuer, Mr N Blackwood,  
 Mr A Wemyss, Mrs A Beech, Mr C Cooper, Mrs V Pearson, Mr B Proctor  
 Acting: Clerk Mrs C Dillow  
 Mr Steve Middlehurst of Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>To receive apologies:</b>            Apologies were received from: Mrs K Davison Mrs B Kinnersley and Mr M Dolman</p>	
2.	<p><b>To consider approving and signing minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013</b>            The minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.            It was noted that the clerk had incorrectly spelt Cllr Mr Wemyss name incorrectly on the minutes.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda</b>  <i>(Note member should notify Monitoring officer within 28 days if not already)</i></p> <p>Mr Proctor declared an interest in item 5 planning, Mrs Pearson declared an interested in item 11 Margarets garden and Mrs Beech declared an interest in item 18 request for funding from CARA.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Public Participation: Resolved</b> to move item 6 Bateswood Lake to open committee after planning, 5 members of the public were in attendance, including Mr Steve Middlehurst of Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council to discuss the matter</p>	
5.	<p><b>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Proposed barn conversion to residential with new access and driveway</a> Rye Hills Farm Rye Hills Newcastle Staffordshire ST7 8LP Ref. No: 13/00540/FUL / Green Belt / Del</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b> to raise no objection to the application following a majority vote, there being 9 in favour and 1 abstention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Change of use from residential dwelling to public house (to form an extension to the existing Swan public house) including the formation of a beer garden</a> 60 Chapel Street Bignall End Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8QD Ref. No: 13/00121/FUL / Vill Env / Del</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b> to raise no objection to the application following a majority vote, there being 8 for, 2 abstentions and 1 against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of four 2 bedroom semi-detached dwellings</a> Garages On Land Adjacent 59 Vernon Avenue Audley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire Ref. No: 13/00542/FUL / Vill Env / Del</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b> to raise no objections to the application in principal but to raise concerns that the current proposal is too dominant and 2 x 2 beds and 2 x bungalows would be more suffice for the proposed site</p>	
6.	<p><b>Bateswood Lake – Mr Sproston –</b> Mr Sproston tabled a printed report from the meeting that took place between interested parties; Mr Cooper noted there is no mention of wildlife. Mr Wemyss added that it was excellently reported and accurate. Mr Proctor noted that it was not reported that a member of the wildlife agency was excluded from the meeting. Mr Sproston commented that at the time he was not aware who the lady was and will apologise. Mr Steve Middlehurst of Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council gave a report on the Borough Councils</p>	

	<p>behalf and it was noted that they intend to get the fishing group organised so they are working together, the Borough Council are prepared to assist with signage, determining the boundaries, the lease and so on. Junior Fishing will be encouraged and hopefully they can also learn about the wildlife if the groups work together. Opportunities will be available to apply for funding; the Parish Council will need to determine if they wish to be involved. Mr Cornes thanked Mr Middlehurst for his very detailed report.</p> <p>Open Committee 8.10pm</p> <p>4 members of the public were in attendance and commented it had been a good meeting and there is to be a further meeting the following week. Mr Cooper noted that he had contacted the landlord who had replied stating that the Borough Council cannot sublease the pool as it is not in the original lease, they have received no correspondence from the Borough Council other than a consultation that was carried out in April 2012 and they had never received a response to this.</p> <p>Committee closed 8.20pm</p> <p>Mr Middlehurst noted that an email has been sent to the legal department to look into to determine if there are any reasons why fishing cannot take place. Mr Sproston proposed that all parties go away and look into the matter further before the Parish Councils involvement can be determined. <b>Resolved</b> members all agreed the Parish Council will not be involved at this time.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Halmer End sports institute and sports facilities update</b> – Mr B Proctor reported when he initially met with residents it had been worked out the rates / water etc would come to £4500.00, after the group sat down with a professional advisor he couldn't see how the business plan could be successful as income would be restricted to £1000.00, reluctantly the group agreed not to go ahead. Mr proctor has since spoken to the legal department at Staffordshire County Council on their behalf, football, grass cutting and the paying of fees etc will continue, a lease with Paul Ball of Peak Pursuits has not yet been formalised. Mr Sproston added that he had received a report that the gates are falling apart. Mr Proctor proposed the Clerk writes to Staffordshire County Council to say the gates need to be replaced by them, members all agreed. Mr Breuer added it is very sad that we will loose all the current club's is there anyway the Parish Council could look into supporting the institute financially? <b>Resolved</b> clerk to put as agenda item on the next agenda for a preliminary discussion.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>NA</p>
8.	<p><b>P/F High Street Halmer End – Old Boars Head</b> – Mr A Wemyss reported that the footpath is badly overgrown causing access problems it needs strimming back. <b>Resolved</b> Under delegated authority clerk to instruct Mr Hough to trim and tidy the area</p>	Clerk
9.	<p><b>Footpath request Halmer End – Mr A Wemyss</b> <b>Resolved</b> to move the item to the next agenda</p>	NA
10.	<p><b>Signposts / Street Lights Bignall Hill</b> – Mr A Wemyss reported the sign posts and lights are obscured by foliage and it needs to be reported to the County Council for clearance.</p>	Clerk
11.	<p><b>Margarets Garden – Mrs V Pearson</b> <b>Resolved</b> to move the item until the October agenda</p>	Oct A
12.	<p><b>To report delegated authority action taken:</b> The clerk reported that she had instructed Mr Hough to trim around the seating area at the bottom of Barthomley Road &amp; Peel Hollow as it was inaccessible. This was noted.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for August 2013 and approval of any action required or taken</li> </ul> <p>The clerk has informed the Borough Council of the broken bins that need replacing and Mr Wells has reported the bin on Scot Hay play area has not been emptied for a while, it is now full. <b>Resolved</b> under delegated authority to instruct Mr Hough to empty the bin and add the item to the next agenda for discussion. Mrs Cornes noted that as of yesterday the lifebelt was in the pond again</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>NA</p>
14.	<p><b>To receive an update from Audley LAP – Mr Proctor</b> Nothing to report</p>	

15.	<p><b>Correspondence and circulars received for information only (see Appendix A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To review other items as listed for information and consider for next agenda</li> <li>- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Annual General Meeting</li> </ul> <p>This was noted</p>	
16.	<p><b>Clerks Update – See appendix B</b></p> <p>This was noted</p>	
17.	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b> (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda)</p> <p>It was noted that x 2 signs had gone up on Nantwich Road stating the road would be closed for 2days on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.</p> <p>Mr Cooper reported there was a 6inch pothole and slit across the road opposite the Boughy Arms and complaints had been received. Mr Weymss added that was down to the gas board and they should be contacted to come back to repair.</p> <p>Mr Wemyss reported that some of the planted beech trees have died; he will see how many have died and need replacing.</p> <p>Mr Proctor noted that there have been lots of reports of loud music from the Boughy Arms until midnight as they now have a licence.</p> <p>Mr Breuer noted that there has been sighting of lots of skip wagons from Hill side farm along Knowl Bank Road.</p>	
18.	<p><b>Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To receive a request for funding from CARA</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b> not support the request for funding as the request had been received after the event had taken place, the parish council have previously agreed not to grant funds retrospectively.</p>	
19.	<p><b>Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To approve the Accounts for payment - <b>Appendix C</b></li> </ul> <p>The accounts were noted as a true and accurate record and approved for payment</p>	
	<p>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).</p>	
20.	<p><b>Contractual issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood Lane Youth Funds / Re-surfacing work – Mr Proctor</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b> to move to the October agenda</p>	<b>NA</b>
21.	<p><b>Staffing Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To receive &amp; consider correspondence received from NALC / SLCC Employee Pay Scales</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b> to adjust the pay scales accordingly back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 in line with recommendations from NALC &amp; SLCC</p>	

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.15pm