

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** held Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street on Thursday 20th August 2015 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr B Proctor
Councillors: Revd J Taylor, Mr M Dolman, Mr R Kinnersley, Mr R Moody, Mr C Cooper, Cllr A Beech, Mr P Breuer, Mr M Whitmore, Mrs C Richardson, Mrs V Pearson and Mr T Sproston

Clerk – Mrs C. Withington

There was 5 members of public in attendance

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>To receive apologies Apologies were received from Mr D Butler. It was noted that Mr M Joynson has resigned from the Parish Council due to ill health. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to formally thank Mr Joynson for his efforts since his initial co-option last year, for Halmer End and the rest of the Parish. The Parish Council are committed to continuing his good work to see that the resurfacing of the High Street in Halmer End is addressed by Highways. Clerk was authorised to advertise the Casual Vacancy following due process.</p>	Clerk
2.	<p>To consider approving and signing minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting on 16th July 2015 Discussion took place regarding the accuracy of the minutes relating to the Community Chest item. RESOLVED that these be signed as a true and accurate record. However it was also RESOLVED that the Clerk confirm the technical issue relating to a requirement or not for a lease to be in place for the application to progress.</p>	Clerk
3.	<p>Declaration of interest in any item Mr Moody declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda relating to the Audley Parish Bowman. Mr Kinnersley declared an interest in item 6 and 13 on the agenda relating to the Audley Bowls Club.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Participation: A member of public raised concerns regarding the amount of fly posting there is in the village following an event. Clerk to report this to Street Scene.</p>	Clerk
5.	<p>To consider varying the draft Audley Parish Bowman agreement for Leddys Field to renew every 2 years, and to consider information regarding the management of health and safety risks Mr Moody left the room for this item. RESOLVED that this item be brought forward onto the agenda to allow the members of public to speak if necessary. Discussion took place regarding the need for a 2 year agreement – to allow planning of future annual events. RESOLVED that this be agreed. The paperwork regarding the safety procedures, risk assessment and insurance had been circulated to all with no comments or concerns raised. A member of the Bowman Society further confirmed that additional precautions are now in place such as whistles, hi vis for all participants, cordoning off the area. The Clerk stated that following legal advice, it was advisable to protect both parties by having a licence agreement drawn up to ensure that sufficient issues were addressed in view of the activity. RESOLVED that the Clerk appoints Staffordshire County Council at a fee of £300 to draft the licence. Mrs Moody to be the contact point from the Bowman. Mr Moody returned to the room.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:- Cllr Proctor left the Chair and Revd Taylor took the item. Erection of agricultural building for storing corn Firs Farm Moat Lane</p>	

	<p>Audley Staffordshire ST7 8HS Ref. No: 15/00625/AGR Delegated/Green Belt - RESOLVED that this be supported unanimously.</p> <p><u>Agricultural building</u> Waste Farm High Street Alsagers Bank Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8BP Ref. No: 15/00663/FUL Delegated/Green Belt - RESOLVED that this be supported.</p> <p><u>Erection of side/front oak framed orangery</u> Monkey Tree Cottage Heighley Lane Knowle Bank Newcastle Staffordshire CW3 9AZ Ref. No: 15/00659/FUL Delegated/Green Belt -Discussion took place regarding the proportion of the orangery in relation to the original building footprint. RESOLVED that this be supported provided that it is in proportion with the original building footprint and meets planning policy.</p> <p><u>Change of use from business premises to dwelling</u> Former Post Office Unit Automatic Exchange Wilbrahams Walk Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8HL Ref. No: 15/00569/FUL Delegated/Village Env Discussion took place and Mr Cooper suggested that cedar cladding is not appropriate in this part of the Conservation area. There were also concerns regarding the inadequate off road parking for 2 vehicles on a busy over parked road. A vote was taken and the majority were in favour. Mr Cooper voted against this. RESOLVED that this be supported.</p> <p><u>Erection of 3 no. dwellings - Land Adjacent 118 Apedale Road Wood Lane Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8PH 15/00640/FUL</u> - This planning application had been receive following the issue of the agenda. It was therefore approved to use Delegated Authority to the Clerk to provide comments due to the deadline falling before the next meeting. Comments provided to the clerk included that the Parish Council would not support the case for the following reasons:</p> <p>It was an increase on the previously improved application from 2 properties to 3 properties, which now was considered to be overdevelopment of a small site. There are Highways issues with limited or no parking for the rear property. It was considered to be an unsustainable form of development. Cllr Beech was requested to call the decision in and to request a site visit. Clerk to submit these comments to Planning.</p> <p>22 Boon Hill Road – Planning Appeal – this was noted and the previous views are to be reaffirmed.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor returned to the Chair.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>Grants – Community Chest (uncommitted balance £1150)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audley Bowling Club – new door <p>This was considered that it would not meet the criteria as it would be considered building maintenance. Therefore it would be considered under the next item.</p>	
8.	<p>To consider a request for a new door at Audley Bowling Club</p> <p>This was brought forward on the agenda in light of Community Chest application. It was approved to pay £550 for a new UPVC door for the Bowling Club. Clerk to notify the Audley Parish Bowling Club.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p>Audley Static Library update and to provide a response to the mobile library consultation deadline is 2nd September 2015 <u>www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries</u></p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported that clarification needed to be sought with regards to the current position of the library from Cllr Lawrence. In particular staff were understood to be redeployed. It was also understood that arrangements will be made for one paid member of staff to open up the library service one day a week, with volunteers sought for the other days. At this stage it was understood that no further volunteer groups had been forthcoming. In the event of the information being received it was considered that the Parish</p>	

	<p>council might be able to publicise the need in Audley Community News in greater detail to recruit some volunteers. Clerk to write to Cllr Lawrence.</p> <p>There were no further comments on the mobile library provision other than it was noted that there may not be sufficient demand.</p>	Clerk
10.	<p>To consider and agree the nominations for the Parish Awards in September</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>R.W Edwards Community Award</i> 2. <i>Capewell Naylor Trophy for Services to the Environment</i> 3. <i>Elsie Kelsall Young Persons Award</i> <p>Discussion took place regarding the nominations and it was acknowledged that the previous award winners would need to return their trophies.</p> <p>Mr Sproston to approach Mr Tooth for the Environment Award. Clerk to write to Mr and Mrs Johnson for the Community Award.</p> <p>Nominations were considered for the above Awards and votes were taken. It was RESOLVED to invite the recipients to the next available Parish Council meeting. Cllr Proctor to provide the contact details for the Youth recipient to the Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk to write to Mr Lewis Moore to formally thank him from the Chair. Clerk to enquire if the High School will be willing to send a new representative in September.</p>	<p>TS Clerk</p> <p>Clerk BP</p> <p>Clerk Clerk</p>
11.	<p>To consider the potential closure of the Public Toilets at Audley Community Centre</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported on the current position of the public toilets and the background to their closure. The space is now intended to be used for a washer dryer for the Centre. It was noted that the Borough Council could not afford to continue to pay £5,000 lump sum to provide these toilets, and that they were not proving to be value for money. A letter from a resident had also been noted with regards to retaining the facility for the Parish, and had been previously circulated.</p> <p>An email sent from Mr Bourne was read out by the Clerk in the meeting. His concerns were noted and taken on board. It was however noted that the Community Centre would be faced with the insurance costs and the utility cost which may also be cost prohibitive. Cllr Proctor did however suggest that contrary to what has been said, there were occasions when members of the public had been turned away from using the centre toilets. The Clerk was asked to find out the following information from the Borough Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) The true cost to reinstate the facility B) The realistic ongoing running costs C) The cost for the public liability insurance for the toilet, and who would be responsible <p>Once this information has been obtained, further discussions will be held.</p> <p>Clerk to also ask how much it would be to insure a public toilet from Came and Co.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
12.	<p>To provide a response in relation to Bignall End Post Office, regarding an alternative location</p> <p>It was noted that provision of the Post Office in the Londis shop is not a realistic or viable option. Although it was not yet confirmed, it is understood that the ongoing provision has been renegotiated with the current postmistress.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the Post Office to say that “a Post Office facility in Bignall End is vital for the elderly and disabled people in Bignall End. The next nearest post office is too far away requiring people to walk up a steep hill into the village centre and back again. Although it is noted that there are no plans to close the facility, if it were ever considered then this should be retained at all costs and the Parish Council would be strongly opposed to any consideration of this kind”.</p> <p>To consider correspondence in relation to Halmer End Post office changes A letter was read out from the Post Office and it was noted that the opening times were being extended to cover lunch and also the building was being refurbished. It was noted that there may be changes for Audley Post Office.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>Request for funding for a family learning event (Birds of Prey) at Audley Library Friday 21st August (2 to 3pm) for £50 This was approved as a great idea. Clerk to organise the payment.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>To consider requesting action to stop parking around junction of Heathcote Road/High Street Halmer End – Mr M Joynson Although Mr Joynson was no longer a member of the Parish Council, as a resident, consideration was given to his requests. Discussion took place as to the ability to enforce parking around this area due to the lack of double yellow lines. Clerk to request that the parking enforcement officers pay attention around this area. Cllr Beech to consider if double yellow lines could be included in the list of Divisional Highways Programme.</p>	Clerk AB
15.	<p>To consider installing a bus shelter by the Greasley Arms, Alsagers Bank – Mr M Joynson Again as above, consideration was given to Mr Joynson’s request. It was agreed that unfortunately there were many areas which were in need of a shelter and this area did have a shelter which was removed due to vandalism. Overall it was not considered to be a priority in terms of use and need.</p>	
16.	<p>To consider requesting signs for the Minnie Pit memorial – Mr M Joynson Again as above, consideration was given to Mr Joynson’s request. It was not clear which memorial Mr Joynson was referring to. Clerk to ask if it is off Red Hall Lane for a discussion at the next meeting. Noted that the other memorial by the chip shop would be included on the sign to be erected regarding the Parish Council land registration.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p>To consider the arrangements for the Remembrance Parade, producing order of services and nominate lead representatives to co-ordinate – Proposed route: AUDLEY Meet at Maddock Street, Audley at 10 a.m. to proceed along Wereton Road to Queen Street – Meadowside Avenue, - Vernon Avenue – Chester Road - Nantwich Road - (BAND TO JOIN AT PEAK PURSUITS) - Church Street to the cenotaph adjacent Wilbrahams House (10.45 a.m.) -</p> <p>ALSAGERS BANK Service in St.John’s at 10 a.m. with procession to the cenotaph on Church bend, Alsagers Bank at 10.45 a.m.</p> <p>The above route was confirmed for Sunday 8th November 2015. Clerk to notify the community groups, Church, and the police. Cllr Proctor to speak to Brian Dodd around the clergy arrangements for both sites. If Revd Taylor is in attendance, then he will produce an order of service for Halmer End.</p>	Clerk BP

	<p>To consider action at Halmer End War Memorial regarding weeds and also to pursue a WMT bid for repairs to the base Clerk to pursue a bid for the repairs to the grouting and post.</p>	Clerk
18.	<p>To consider nominating Community Assets under the Localism Act 2011- Mr Breuer Mr Breuer provided some further information for the list of assets suggested at the last meeting. Discussion took place regarding the implications. It was agreed that the Bignall End Recreation ground by the play area should also be included.</p> <p>It was agreed that the following would be submitted as test cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halmer End Institute including the bowling green and football ground • Bignall End Recreation ground • Halmer End Chapel 	Clerk
19.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for August and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bunting repair on 09.08.15 ○ Bridge repair at Leddys Field ○ Grass matting damage at Bignall End Road play area <p>The play inspection for August was noted. It was also noted that there had been 3 litter picks in Bignall End Road, therefore it was agreed to install a bin by play area. Additionally following damage to the grass mats, it was agreed to replace them as soon as possible. Clerk to instruct Mr Hough to fix them down with more robust fixings.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Hough should reseed the goal area at Halmer End. At Leddys Field, it had been necessary to remove a seat by the bridge due to fires.</p> <p>Agreed to suspend Standing Orders at this point due to the time.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor reported that in conjunction with the Police, Fire and some of the youths an area has been installed for picnics on Leddys Field. This will be funded by £1000 of Staffs Police funding.</p> <p>The other actions taken using Delegated authority were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve of an information sign by the skateboarding park and post installation inspection at a cost of £295 net (Play Inspections) before formal handover to Cara for the ongoing responsibility, to note the opening event details and to resolve the issues with the gate onto the field <p>RESOLVED that two information signs be purchased and installed. RESOLVED that a post installation inspection also be carried out. It was noted that an opening event with Mathew Ellis the Police and Crime Commissioner and others would be carried out at 11am on Tuesday 27th October 2015. RESOLVED that Mr Hough install some mesh at the bottom of the gate to stop access at the rear of the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appoint the Play Inspections to carry out the Annual Inspections in October at a cost of £50 net per site <p>RESOLVED that Play Inspections be appointed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spraying of Leddys Field – question from the public and to approve the response provided <p>There had been concerns raised by 2 members of the public regarding the spraying of Leddys Field for hogweed and other invasive weeds in terms of the wildlife and the correct procedures. One person wished his concerns to be formally noted at a meeting as follows:</p> <p><i>There has been extensive use of a herbicide around Leddy's Field in June to kill the</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p><i>large volume of nettles.</i></p> <p><i>As this has been 'designated' a wild life are by the Parish Council, please could the council clarify</i></p> <p><i>A: The nature of the Herbicide use</i></p> <p><i>B: The frequency and concentration of the application(s)</i></p> <p><i>C: Whether wild life and public risk assessment was done prior to application</i></p> <p><i>D: Who authorised the application of a toxin (I see no minuted entry)</i></p> <p><i>E: Whether further chemical treatments like this planned.</i></p> <p><i>A wild life survey planning in 2014 has not yet taken place and I would be concerned about adverse environmental effects on yet unidentified fauna in the area</i></p> <p>A response had been compiled with the licensed contractor which answered their concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge cutting at Alsagers Road – at request of allotments association RESOLVED that is be approved to appoint Richard Heler. • Hedge cutting at Miles Green Road Play area RESOLVED that is be approved to appoint Mr Hough, due to the amount of trees and detailed manual cutting required. <p>It was agreed that Margarets Garden can be used for Audley in Pink week on Saturday 19th September for a tin can alley to be provided by CARA.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
20.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>No update available for the LAP.</p> <p>Revd Taylor met with PC Blythe, no issues were raised. Noted that 2 people have been charged with criminal damage at the Community Centre.</p>	
21.	<p>To discuss anti social behaviour issues in the Parish – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>Cllr Proctor stated that there is still ASB issues present in the Parish. Unfortunately there is a lack of policing through the Borough. PC Mace is now back on duty along with PCSO Blythe and another PCSO. The Parish is now considered a serious hotspot due to the number of 101 calls. Unfortunately there is a large wait when ringing through, which is not satisfactory. There have also been 2 complaints of ASB at Bignall End Road play area around the basket swing. A suggestion to close it off and restrict it to certain ages was made by a resident, this was considered impossible to enforce. However we will endeavour to get more police presence in the area. Clerk to reply to the individuals to inform them of our request for more policing.</p>	Clerk
22.	<p>To report back on the Parish Council Forum meeting held on 17th August</p> <p>Cllr Proctor and the Clerk reported back from the meeting. The main points to note were that planning applications will only be made available electronically in the future to save costs; recycling changes to a weekly collection and 3 boxes; Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has now been adopted for the development of a Joint Local Plan; Planning Officers will be visiting the parish councils over the next few months to explain any changes.</p>	
23.	<p>Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received and consider for next agenda</p> <p>To consider a response for the following consultations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NBC draft list of local validation requirements for planning applications received –Click here <p>All to send their comments to the clerk by 4th September.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Draft Licensing policy for NBC – deadline is 25th September 2015 (circulated by email 10.08) <p>All to send their comments to the Clerk by the deadline.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Staffordshire County Council regarding the management of Apedale Country Park (see attached) <p>It was RESOLVED that Mr Cooper and Mr Whitmore would be the Parish</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>representatives in the event of a group being formed to manage Apedale Country Park.</p> <p>To note the following:</p> <p>1) Loggerheads PC Planning Matter in relation to the 5 year housing land supply</p> <p>This was noted. Cllr Proctor updated to say that legal advice had been sought regarding a 5 year housing land supply and it was considered that it could not be defended at an appeal. Clerk to respond to say the Parish Council have noted the contents of the letters.</p>	<p>CC MW</p> <p>Clerk</p>
24.	<p>Clerks Update</p> <p>This was noted. Clerk to request that the Community Warden paints the remaining white rails at Megacre, following the Highway repair.</p> <p>Mr Cooper reported that Footpath 35 issue was in relation to the Shralebrook Road end not the other end, as inspected by Staffordshire County Council. Clerk to inform them of this.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
25.	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Mr Sproston stated that he had been approached regarding the Miles Green Car park situation. Agreed to include it on the next agenda.</p> <p>Mr Breuer reported that the hedge along by Wereton Road/Station Road junction was overhanging and needed cutting. It is believed to be the Borough Councils. Clerk to report this.</p> <p>Cllr Beech thanked the Parish Council for the skate boarding funding which is a great success so far. Cllr Beech stated that a funding application has been submitted for a BMX track at the site, to the value of circa £60k. An announcement is hoped for in November.</p> <p>Mr Whitmore asked if we could request that Highways remove the cherry tree by the Co-op shop on Church Street as it is dying. Mrs Pearson would like to see a suitable small tree replacement which would be appropriate for a high street. Mr Whitmore asked if the County could remove 2 sycamore trees which are on the verge by the Millennium Green at Castle Hill – along Nantwich Road/New Road. Clerk to report these items.</p> <p>Mr Cooper asked if it is lawful to film members of the public who are filming the Council. Clerk to ask SPCA.</p> <p>Revd Taylor stated that the drainage works in New Road has failed as water is still gathering in the dip. Following the 7 previous repairs it was considered to be worse than ever and there was concern about the quality of the work carried out, and if there is any recourse available. Clerk to report this to Highways.</p>	<p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
26.	<p>Accounts –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the Accounts <p>RESOLVED that the Accounts be authorised for payment as per the attached schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the completion of the external audit for the Annual Return for the Accounts ending March 2015 <p>There were no issues raised by the External Auditor and the outcome was noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the transfer of £20,000 from Natwest to the Lloyds Current acct <p>RESOLVED that this be approved.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Approved payment Schedule 20th August 2015

Chq/Ba	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	TOTAL INVOICE INC VAT
bacs 44	Mrs C Withington	Salary Aug	794.95
bacs 44a	Mrs C Withington	Expenses Aug- home office allowance and Mileage	119.50
bacs 44b	Mrs C Withington	Reimbursement Norton Online security	49.99
bacs 45	Staffordshire Pension scheme	Pension Aug	303.68
bacs 46	H M Revenues and Customs	Tax and NI Aug	64.83
bacs 47	Computershare	Aug child care voucher (243 sacrifice)	282.07
bacs 48	Roy Beech Contractors Ltd	Skate park hardstanding	11979.19
bacs 49	Lightmain Company Ltd	Skate park ramps x 2	20400.00
bacs 50	Grant Thornton	Audit fee 14/15	360.00
953	Audley Wood Lane Comm Asso	Room hire - May and July	60.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	AM - Play inspection (Total work £2187)	112.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	AM - Grass cutting 8, 9	1160.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	AM - M garden, Alsagers Bank, Minnie Pit Memorial grass	120.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	AM - Alsager Rd Triangle	50.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	AM Strimming of seats 60	150.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	AM - cleaning of cenotaphs bases x 2	30.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	AM - Strimming of Leddys life belt and seats	40.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	ON 43 - Scot Hay playing field removal of trees	150.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	ON 29 - Metal seats x 2 ledlys	300.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	ON 43 - Swing repairs Alsager Rd	60.00
bacs 51	Steve Hough	ON 51 - Goal posts removal of paint Albert Street	15.00
bacs 52	Tony Evans Signs	Footpath signs by A500	50.00
bacs 53	Buzzy Bees	Bignall End Pit Wheel - initial clean up and August	155.00
		Total	36806.21