

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** held Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street, Audley on Thursday 18th June 2015 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr B Proctor
Councillors: Mr Dolman, Mr R Kinnersley, Mr T Sproston, Mr C Cooper, Cllr A Beech, Mr P Breuer, Mr D Butler, Mrs C Richardson and Revd J Taylor

Clerk – Mrs C. Withington

There were 6 members of public in attendance

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>To receive apologies Lewis Moore Mr M Joynson Mrs V Pearson Mr R Moody <i>(Mr M Whitmore sent apologies just after the meeting)</i> There were no apologies from Mr A Clarke and the declaration of acceptance of office had not been signed before or at this meeting. Clerk to confirm the position regarding disqualification.</p>	Clerk
2.	<p>To consider resolving that the Parish Council is eligible to use General Power of Competence - Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Parish Council meets the prescribed conditions in the above order and is able to use the General Power of Competence.</p>	
3.	<p>To consider approving and signing minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and Full Parish Council meeting on 21st May 2015 These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chair.</p>	
4.	<p>Declaration of interest in any item Cllr Beech declared an interest in item 15 regarding the donation for CARA.</p>	
5.	<p>To discuss concerns relating to the bus service provided by D & G with Mr M Dunn and update regarding request for bus service to Alsager/Crewe Mr Chris Almond and Mr Kevin Crawford were in attendance to discuss issues raised with them as follows in relation to Bus no 74:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality service, resulting in one young man needed to use a taxi 3 times a week, late buses and also a day where there was no service • Timing issues relating to residents from the Halmer End side of the parish being able to reach Newcastle for work before 8am • The use of the Community Centre car park by D&G drivers <p>Mr Crawford stated that as a result of the concerns, and the inability to recruit drivers from the Crewe depot, the route had been moved to Longton with effect from 8th June. To date there had been little or no complaints in service. D&G were very apologetic for the poor service that had been provided. All further issues are to be forwarded to the Clerk (rather than to D&G directly) from the Parish Councillors – so that a co-ordinated approach can be taken to ensure there is no duplication.</p> <p>Mr Almond provided detail as to the history of the service provided back in 2012, which at one point saw Silverdale serviced by 10 buses an hour due to the number of operators. However due to funding cuts from Staffordshire County Council, the inability to make the journeys financially viable due to lack of demand, early morning buses and evening/Sunday the service was rationalised.</p> <p>There are also issues with the 3.25pm bus on weekdays being late due to the congestion around the High School at that time. This unfortunately is outside</p>	ALL

	<p>of their control, which was acknowledged. Changes are being made to the route which will become effective in September.</p> <p>However Mr Almond agreed that it may be possible to consider bring the 7.50am service forward to 7.30am to allow people to reach Newcastle by 8am – which would also avoid the congestion of the schools.</p> <p>Both confirmed that under no circumstances should any D&G drivers be using the Community Centre car park in Audley.</p> <p>With regards to a bus service to Crewe train Station via Alsager, this would be considered however in reality it would require a bus (at a cost of £100,000) therefore unless there was a strong case for a bus route (eg work or schools) which could be made to both Staffordshire County Council and Cheshire East Council to subsidise the cost – it may not be possible. It was also noted that the route to Alsager was a limit of 7.5 tonnes so would need to be via the A500. It was agreed that in the meantime the Parish Council would consider an article in the Audley Community news to gauge demand.</p> <p>New timetable to be put up in Scot Hay bus shelter.</p> <p>Mr Almond and Mr Crawford left the meeting at this point,</p>	<p>Chris Almond</p> <p>Chris Almond</p> <p>CW</p> <p>Chris Almond</p>
6.	<p>To consider resolving to enter into a Deed of surrender for Halmer End Bowling Club in order to allow the new Halmer End CIC to take the facility over and discussion with Mrs Ruth Edwards Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>A short discussion took place regarding this with Mrs Edwards from Staffordshire County Council. Noted that the lease to Halmer End CIC would be initially a 3 year lease, however in the event it folded then it would be returned back to Staffordshire County Council along with the bowling club. Mrs Edwards confirmed that the only other likely option available for this site is to demolish the building/s, as it is not likely to be financially viable for anything else.</p> <p>It was therefore resolved to approve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To enter in a Deed of Surrender for Halmer End Bowling Club, to allow Halmer End CIC to formally take over the running of the Club 2 To delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to sign the Deed in the presence of the Clerk 3 To resolve that the rent paid to the Halmer End CIC for the Bowling Club will be at a rate of £300 for Year 1, £400 for Year 2 and £500 for Year 3. <p>Noted that Mr Sproston voted against the proposal and wished this to be recorded.</p> <p>Mrs Edwards left the meeting at this point.</p>	
7.	<p>Public Participation: There were three members of public remaining. No issues were raised.</p>	
8.	<p>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including: It was agreed to take the agenda out of order to allow a member of public to hear the comments on item 8.1.</p>	

- 1) [Retention of conversion of part of existing pub and living accommodation into 3 bed dwelling](#) Gresley Arms High Street Alsagers Bank Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8BQ Ref. No: 15/00430/FUL Village Env/Delegated

Discussion took place regarding the application which would see the formalisation of living accommodation. It was **RESOLVED** to support the application.

- 2) [Proposed Re-development at Audley Workingmens Club for the erection of 14 houses](#) Audley 15/00279/FUL - Audley Working Mens Club New Road Bignall End Village Env/Committee

A discussion around the layout and density took place. It was **RESOLVED** to provide the following comments:

The design of the site layout is considered to be of poor quality with no soft landscaping and a uniform appearance which is not in keeping with the adjacent modern development. In particular it would result in an overcrowded and overdeveloped site. A reduction in property numbers to 10, providing a mix of housing offers and designs with larger gardens and more off road parking would be considered a better quality and more sustainable development. Consideration should be given to the lack of ability for the visitors and resident's additional cars being able to park in the nearby area if there is no room to park on the road of the development.

- 3) [Conversion of integral garage to provide additional living accommodation and associated alterations](#) 1 Crackley Toll Leycett Newcastle Staffordshire ST5 6AF Ref. No: 15/00413/FUL Green Belt/Delegated

RESOLVED that this be supported, although it was felt that there was a planning enforcement issue relating to the creation of a driveway access and removal of hedge which may require retrospective planning permission also.

- 4) [Various illuminated and non-illuminated signs](#) The Butchers Arms Church Street Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8DE Ref. No: 15/00414/ADV Delegated/Village Env/Conservation area

RESOLVED that this be supported as it is considered in keeping with the building and the surroundings.

- 5) [Proposed agricultural machine/feed store building](#) The Barn Barthomley Road Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8HU Ref. No: 15/00407/FUL Green Belt/Delegated

RESOLVED that this be supported.

- 6) [Prior notification of a proposed change of use of existing office building \(Use Class B1\) to dwellinghouse \(Use Class C3\)](#) Safex House 46 Church Street Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8DE Ref 15/00402/COUNOT Delegated/Village Env/Conservation Area

RESOLVED that this be supported, as it was considered to be a better use for the building than an empty shop, plus it had sufficient off road parking at the rear which is essential for the residents of the flats.

- 7) [First floor rear extension and juliet balcony](#) Sandhurst Rye Hills Newcastle Staffordshire ST7 8LP Ref. No: 15/00396/FUL Delegated/Green Belt

RESOLVED that this be supported.

- 8) [Dropped kerb](#) Rose Lea 63 Chester Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8JD Ref. No: 15/00365/FUL Delegated/Village Env

	<p>RESOLVED that this be supported, as cars being taken off the road are essential.</p> <p>9) 1 x Non Illuminated Fascia, 1 x Non Illuminated Entrance Sign Audley Health Centre Church Street Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8EW Ref. No: 15/00432/ADV Delegated/Conservation area (Village env)</p> <p>RESOLVED that this be supported.</p> <p>10) Proposed agricultural building for keeping of goats and storage of goat feed Land Opposite Wynbrook Wereton Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8HE Ref. No: 15/00454/FUL Green Belt/Delegated</p> <p>RESOLVED that this be supported.</p> <p>11) Retention of illuminated sign and non illuminated fascia and window vinyl signs 76-78 Church Street Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8DA 15/00433/ADV Delegated/Village Env</p> <p>No comments were made in relation to this application.</p> <p>12) Erection of Detached Bungalow 43 Heathcote Road Bignall End Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LH Ref. No: 15/00467/FUL</p> <p>This application was considered at the meeting for comments to be submitted using the delegated authority to the Clerk. It was agreed that the comments passed on the earlier application would apply to this one as follows:</p> <p>RESOLVED that this be unsupported as it was considered to be undesirable infilling which is harmful on the character of the neighbouring green belt. The infill would also close the gap between two distinct villages and change the visual appearance of the area, being a building that does not fit in with the existing streetscene on that side of the road or building line. It will also add to the increasing problems of parking in the area.</p> <p>FOR INFO ONLY: tree works - felling of beech tree in rear yard 247 High Street Alsagers Bank Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8BP ref. No: 15/00474/TWA - Noted</p>	
9.	<p>Station Road Car Park, Miles Green – to consider applying for a Bye Law restricting the car park for the residents at no 5 to 31 (odd) Station Road and instructing a solicitor</p> <p>It was noted that legal advice had confirmed that as the land was not highway land, the collapsible bollards (which recessed into the ground) would be acceptable to prevent parking on the access area in front of the gates due to health and safety.</p> <p>The clerk was instructed to seek formal legal advice with respects to the implications of restricting the use of the car park to certain residents plus to draft a byelaw as appropriate.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.	<p>Grants – Community Chest (uncommitted balance £2250)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audley Football Club – redecoration/upgrading of changing rooms and toilets - £800 <p>RESOLVED that this be supported to the value of £350, due to the limited amount of funding available for the Parish for this year. Bank statement and quote awaited before sending to NBC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halmer End Institute CIC application for kitchen & floor (£850) – Noted that this application had been withdrawn as there was no lease in place. • Halmer End Badminton Club – sports kit for badminton club (£325) <p>This was not supported as it was felt that sponsorship from local businesses should be sought for this type of request and that there are more deserving</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	community groups in the Parish who require financial assistance from the community chest.	
11.	Audley Library and mobile library consultation update (if any) Noted that the mobile library consultation is ongoing, and the procurement exercise for community groups.	
12.	To consider making the annual Millennium Green Trust maintenance donation RESOLVED to make the annual donation of £700 towards the upkeep and insurance costs for the green.	Clerk
13.	To consider making a donation of £400 to cover the printing costs (and other related costs) for the Breast Cancer Research Pink Week in Audley RESOLVED that the Parish Council will support this Charity for a further year and make a donation of £400. However it was noted that it would be considered fair to consider supporting other charitable causes for the future years.	Clerk
14.	To acknowledge the outcome of the Bid submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner, and if successful to consider placing an order for the surface and skateboard equipment using an amount from the reserves as agreed Cllr Proctor reported that we had receive verbal communication from the Police and Crime Commissioner to say that the grant of £15,000 had been successful. RESOLVED that the outcome of the grant be noted, and that the equipment be ordered as soon as possible (suspending financial regulations) for the ramps and tarmac surface (at the additional cost agreed for 218m ²). Noted that the equipment would need to be in place by the summer holidays.	Clerk
15.	Cara donation for fun day weekend in July 2015 and erection of bunting It was RESOLVED to provide a donation of £300 to support the event this year. RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to appoint PME to erect the bunting and also to purchase up to 5 additional 10 metre strands with the Audley Coat of Arms printed to replace the worn out bunting.	Clerk Clerk
16.	To consider a project to supply Christmas lights in the Village and seeking funding as necessary The Parish Council supported the idea of a Christmas light project and in particular agreed that we should arrange to purchase led lights for the trees that are in the footpath of Church Street. Clerk to obtain a quote for this. Additionally it was agreed that a letter would be written to each business in Church Street, in the centre of the Village, inviting them to put up a Christmas tree outside their property on a bracket fixed to the wall.	Clerk Clerk
17.	To consider a request for a donation from the Audley WI for a members event to celebrate their 60th Anniversary and national 100th Anniversary, and memorial tree RESOLVED that a donation of £250 would be donated towards the community event and the planting of a memorial tree. Clerk to suggest that they consider planting a memorial tree along the Nantwich Road Diamond Jubilee Beech trees.	Clerk
18.	To consider formally adopting the 3 unregistered plots and including on the Annual Maintenance programme on the advice of Staffordshire County Council and installing appropriate signage/fencing where applicable Discussion took place regarding the ability to register the 3 plots. It was agreed that we would no longer seek to register the plots at Hougherwall Road and Church Street (by entrance to the Doctors Surgery) as these were not considered cost effective. However we would seek to register and formally adopt the Minnie Pit Memorial garden by Podmore Lane. Clerk to pursue this	Clerk

	and to erect a sign on the site. Clerk to ask if the previous Clerk would consider making a Statement of Declaration.	Clerk
19.	<p>To consider nominating Community Assets under the Localism Act 2011- Mr Breuer</p> <p>Agreed that this would be considered on the next agenda. All to send details to the Clerk before the next meeting in terms of history, address and owner details.</p>	All Next agenda
20.	<p>To consider the refurbishment of Milestone 2 by New Road/Chapel Street by the Milestone Society at a cost of £75 and whereabouts of missing Milestone 3 on Nantwich Road towards Balterley by the Severn Trent Water station</p> <p>RESOLVED that is be approved. It was suggested that Milestone 3 may be hidden on the old road, before it was diverted along that stretch. Mr Cooper to look into this.</p>	
21.	<p>Update on the footpath issue FP202 which crosses the A500 and consider joint action with Kidsgrove Town Council regarding warning signage</p> <p>It was agreed that signs would be purchased to warn pedestrians of the danger approaching the A500 from the Parish side. Clerk to order signs and instruct Mr Hough to erect.</p>	Clerk
22.	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for May and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority <p>This was noted along with the actions taken to rectify the issues. The inspection sheet for Queen Street was passed to Cllr Beech.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotment gate Halmer End, bridge at Leddys Field following fire & damaged bench – This was noted. Cllr Proctor suggested however that in order to avoid further damage to parish equipment, an informal community bbq area could be created as has been done elsewhere. Both the Police and the Fire Brigade have been consulted on this. Cllr Kearon has pledged £1000 towards this from the Police and Crime Commissioner fund. It was agreed that Cllr Proctor would place the order in time for the school holidays, and discuss it with the school. <p>Noted that further damage had been caused to Rileys Field. It was suggested that if any further damage is caused we may need to reconsider the play area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of a press article regarding the amount of damage caused to Play equipment - To be discussed on the next agenda. To consider approving the replacement beech tree at Nantwich Road (Wagon and Horses) – This was approved. 	<p>BP</p> <p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>
23.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Mr Proctor</p> <p>There have been regular meetings with the Police over the last month. PC Mace would be returning over the next few weeks and PCSO Forrest would be back from maternity leave in September. In the meantime an additional PCSO would be made available. The consideration of a Police Post in the library had been discussed, and an outcome was awaited from CI Riley following a meeting.</p> <p>With regards to the LAP, they are organising a lunch for the elderly people next Friday.</p>	
24.	<p>Correspondence and circulars</p> <p>SCC Consultation support for the community & voluntary sector – ends 19th June available at http://www.vast.org.uk/vcse-consultation-vcse-sector-survey/ - Noted – all to complete if possible.</p> <p>Invite to attend Mayor's Annual Civic Church Service at St Giles' Parish Church</p>	ALL

	<p>on Sunday 21 June 2015 at 10.30am - Noted.</p> <p>Draft Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015 – 2030) consultation ends 31st July – available here https://consultation.staffordshire.gov.uk - This is to be considered for the next meeting, however it was suggested that Great Oaks was no longer included.</p> <p>It was noted that the Bonnie Brae farm enforcement action had been concluded with a High Court judgement to remove the excess landfill and reinstate the land. The remedial work to the verges was in progress.</p>	Next agenda
25.	<p>Clerks Update This was noted. - SPCA Training Madeley Centre 1st July – New Councillors All to notify the Clerk if they can attend asap, as there is a cost attached to this.</p>	ALL
26.	<p>Councillor Reports Mr Kinnersley reported that he and Mr Whitmore had attempted to attend the Staffordshire County Council meeting on 2nd June, but had got caught in traffic. Noted that they would be providing a presentation at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Beech reported that she was receiving complaints about the Dogs on Leads signs at Bignall End Road play area.</p> <p>Clerk and Cllr Beech to chase up the repair to the White Rails at Megacre.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Pit Wheel by Wood Lane would be strimmed round and cleaned – to improve the gateway appearance for the Parish. Clerk to instruct a contractor.</p>	AB/Clerk Clerk
27.	<p>Accounts - To approve the Accounts These were approved for payment as per the attached schedule.</p>	
28.	<p>Contractual issues/Staffing Matters – to approve Discretionary Payments Policy for Pensions A draft policy would be circulated for consideration before the next meeting.</p>	Clerk

Meeting closed at 9.30pm