

## AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** held at Audley Pensioners Hall, on  
Thursday 15th December 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Mr Cooper (Vice Chair)  
Councillors: Mrs V Pearson, Cllr B Proctor, Mr R Moody, Mr P Breuer, Mrs C Richardson,  
Mr D Butler, Mr R Garlick, Mr M Whitmore, Mr R Kinnersley, Cllr A Beech

Clerk – Mrs C. Withington

There was six members of public present.

Ref.	Item	Action
1.	<b>To receive apologies</b> – Revd Taylor, Mr M Dolman, Cllr Frankish, Mr T Sproston	
2.	<b>To consider approving and signing minutes</b> of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 <b>RESOLVED</b> that this be signed as a true and accurate record.	
3.	<b>Declaration of interest in any item</b> None declared.	
4.	<b>Public Participation:</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to bring forward the item with regards to the red phone box and Audley library on the agenda, to allow the members of the public to speak against the items.	
5.	<b>To respond to the consultation regarding the proposed removal of BT phone boxes and adoption of the red phone box at Leycett Road, Scott Hay (deadline 16<sup>th</sup> December)</b> The Parish Council discussed the item with regards to the retention of the phone box in Scot Hay. A representation had been received to retain the phone box with a phone, due to poor mobile phone signal in a remote area and the change in mechanism to cards and reverse charges has impacted on the usage statistics. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that in view of the high risk of losing the last red phone box in the Parish, that it was best to adopt it through the Parish Council. The Red Phone box is a valuable community enhancement and the Scot Hay RA will seek funding to install a defibrillator.	Clerk
6.	<b>To consider a letter and request from the new Audley Community Library Group – if available</b> A brief presentation was made to the Parish Council from Mr and Mrs Hough, who were leading the community group responsible for the library from mid-January. A request for financial support was made and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that a Community Chest application would be supported for £250 towards public liability insurance. Clerk to receive the bank details and completed application as soon as possible. Mr and Mrs Hough were thanked for their hard work.	Clerk (Mr Hough)
7.	<b>Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:-</b> Cllr Proctor declared an interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">16/01017/PLD   Application for a lawful development certificate for proposed access   The Lodge Red Hall Lane Halmerend Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8AX</a> – This was noted</li> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of a detached dwelling_108 Hougher Wall Road Audley Staffordshire ST7 8JA Ref. No: 16/01006/FUL Delegated/Green Belt/Village Env</a> – <b>RESOLVED</b> to object to this development due to the</li> </ul>	

	<p>highway concerns of a large business opposite the site (being a major employer within the parish), the site being on a pinch point on the main road into the village, it is also wholly within green belt and will have an impact on the area within the green belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Proposed single storey side extension and first floor extension</a> 20 Brindleys Way Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8NN Ref. No: 16/00999/FUL – Village Env Delegated – <b>RESOLVED</b> to support this subject to it being proportionate in size.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Retention of boundary wall adjacent to Cherry Tree Road and detached garage</a> 16 Cherry Tree Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LD Ref. No: 16/01010/FUL Vill Env/Delegated – <b>RESOLVED</b> to object if the size of the wall was greater than 2 m on Highway grounds, planning policy and the impact on neighbouring properties. If however it is less than 2m then it would be supported.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension and front porch</a> 11 Hill Crescent Alsagers Bank Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8BG Ref. No: 16/00984/FUL Village Env/Delegated – It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to object on the grounds the proposed extension was a great deal larger than the original building footprint, therefore being disproportionate in size.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Proposed replacement detached dwelling with detached double garage (Resubmission of planning application 15/01146/FUL)</a> Alwyn Nantwich Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DW Ref. No: 16/00983/FUL Green Belt/Delegated – <b>RESOLVED</b> to support this amendment.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ground floor side and rear extension</a> 1 Country Park View Wood Lane Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8NZ Ref. No: 16/00978/FUL Delegated/Green Belt and Village Env – <b>RESOLVED</b> to support.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of one two storey dwelling</a> Land Adjacent 190 Old Road Bignall End Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8QH Ref. No: 16/00954/REM Green Belt/Delegated – This was noted.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Erection of detached garage and workshop</a> Bougheys Mill Nantwich Road Audley Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DY Ref. No: 16/00952/FUL Green Belt/Listed/Delegated – <b>RESOLVED</b> to object on the grounds that the new building would visually impact and hinder the setting of an important listed building on the gateway to the Parish. It was also requested that planning enforcement powers are utilised for any caravans/residential homes which do not have permission to be sited.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Draft budget for 2017/18- to note the outcome of the loss of S136 funding (£10k) from the Borough Council and to further consider the impact on precept setting</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported the current situation regarding the Borough Council Cabinet approving a reduction of 100% for the S136 funding, subject to full council approval. Parish Councils are being advised to set their budgets based on a total reduction. A brief discussion took place and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to await the information regarding the outcome of the Section 136 Grant from the Borough Council before considering the draft budget any further. The Clerk noted that this would not leave much time for public consultation due to the notification of the indicative precept being required to be submitted to the Borough Council at the end of January.</p>	<b>Next agenda</b>
9.	<p><b>To note any further progression with regards to Halmer End Working Men’s Club and to consider if it is necessary to temporarily close the footpath</b></p>	

	Discussion took place and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to leave the matter in the hands of the Dangerous Building officers, who have inspected it and have considered it to be sufficiently safe. Cllr Proctor has an email from the Building Inspector who confirms this is the case, and it was agreed that he circulate this to all Parish Councillors. No further action is to be taken.	<b>BP</b>
10.	<b>Borough Council Consultation on the proposed Order under Section 53 of the Act (1st March 2017) for elections of all Town and Parish Councillors for any town/parish within the Borough area to be held simultaneously on 3rd May 2018 and every fourth year thereafter (Deadline for comments 9th January 2017)</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to support this proposal.	<b>Clerk</b>
11.	<b>To consider taking action to work with Highways to install planters to deter against the obstructed Highway along Church Street (private land/dedicated Highway) in front of the shops following legal advice</b> Cllr Proctor wished it to be noted that the previous Parish Council members, Borough Councillors and County Councillor had suggested that the land in front of a premise which was faced with court action was privately owned. Because of the legal case the individual shop owner had to raise funds to fund the court case through disposing of a family home, due to there being no insurance in place. Cllr Proctor therefore felt that he morally disagreed with the position and advice now given from the County Council that the land is dedicated Highway (between number 27 to 35 Church Street).  The Clerk reiterated the legal advice which stated that regardless of who owns the sub soil (whether it be land registered or not), the land was dedicated as public highway back in the 1950's which means the public have a right of unobstructed passage. In relation to the question of why the establishment was pursued for injuries suffered is a matter between private individuals involved. It does not alter the fact that the land is designated as, and was dedicated as highway. It is however not clear if the land is publicly maintainable highway or not, without extensive research in the deed vault at a high cost. The legal advice went on to say that essentially a public highway does not have to be publicly maintainable, the only qualification is whether the public have a right to pass and repass and what that right is. The area of land is a public highway and so the powers that the Highway Authority has in respect of the land apply. Additionally, any work carried out on the land must require the usual Highway licences.  A proposal had been put forward by Highway officers to work jointly with the Parish Council to place concrete planters (like in town centres) to deter against further parking, whilst still allowing pedestrians to walk safely down. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to progress with the removal of the white boulders which were causing an obstruction, but to leave the area uninterrupted and for the police to act and ticket the offenders who are committing a criminal offence by parking on the dedicated highway.	<b>Clerk</b>

12.	<p><b>1- Bus Shelter Church Street – request for replacement – Mrs V Pearson</b>  <b>2- Borough Council funding request towards the purchase of a new one</b>  <b>RESOLVED</b> to request that the Borough install a cantilever bus shelter at their cost.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p><b>Borough Council Church Street Car Park (by Co-op) scraping and filling the potholes – Mrs V Pearson</b>  Cllr Proctor reported in response to Mrs Pearson’s request that there was discussion by the Borough Officers that the car park may be levelled and pot holes filled in as a short-term measure. The matter was noted.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Reports of dumping of offensive waste at Cinder Lane, Bignall End and to encourage residents to report any information to Environment Agency’s Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60, or Crime stoppers on: 0800 555 111</b>  It was noted that a criminal investigation was being conducted, therefore there was no further discussion.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Request for double yellow lines on corners of Hall Street due to congestion causing a problem for waste collection/emergency vehicles – Mrs V Pearson</b>  Mrs Pearson has put in a request and it was agreed that Cllr Beech will consider this alongside the other requests such as Hougher Wall Road on the Divisional Highways Programme for the next year.</p>	AB
16.	<p><b>Leddys Field – consideration of locking one side of the gates (Hall Street) to deter ASB issues with wheelie bins – Mrs V Pearson</b>  <b>RESOLVED</b> that due to access issues, it would not be possible to lock one half of the gates.</p>	
17.	<p><b>Grants – Community Chest (uncommitted balance £250 – max £400)</b>  <b>RESOLVED</b> to support the library application for £250, as discussed earlier.</p>	
18.	<p><b>To agree a response for the NBC Open Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy - <a href="https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/your-council/have-your-say-public-consultation">https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/your-council/have-your-say-public-consultation</a> (Deadline 16th December 2016)</b>  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the following comments be submitted:  The Parish Council have reflected on the strategies and feel that there are serious shortcomings within the documents. Mainly the Parish Council feels that they do not afford adequate protection of the valuable community assets which are green open space areas within the parish, and within the wider Borough. The Parish Council are disappointed with the lack of foresight within the documents with regards to contribution that these green open spaces should make towards the sustainability of the borough’s communities not just today but also in the future. The Parish Council would wish to observe the need within the strategies to protect these sites from unacceptable development by unscrupulous developers encroaching on these open spaces. Additionally, there should be more consideration given to the maintenance and access arrangements to several existing sites listed within the document. This will encourage better use from the public and will utilise these open spaces, as currently there some which are totally inaccessible to the public and are therefore not able to be used to their full potential.</p>	Clerk

19.	<p><b>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for December and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – Rats on car park at High Street Halmer End, Repair of Wet pour (as identified on Annual Inspection) – <b>RESOLVED</b> that the action taken by noted.</li> <li>To note the outcome with regards to the 8 Annual Play Inspections and to appoint a contractor to resolve the low risk items identified – This was agreed to be discussed at the next meeting.</li> <li>To consider the ongoing defects with the skateboard ramps at Queen Street</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk has been in contact with the Administrators, as there was still a retention figure outstanding, and they had requested that VICA attend the site (and notify us when they do). Pending the outcome of this, further legal action may be necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the ongoing works at Rileys Field with regards to No.1 Country Park View</li> </ul> <p>This was noted, and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to contact the owner to inform them that access for the pending construction works for the new extension would not be allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the final scheme for Alsager Road Play area and to allow the tender process to start (to be circulated)</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the final scheme be approved as circulated following the procurement exercise carried out by the Borough Council to identify the best value equipment fit for purpose. A tender will now be issued via the Borough Council to the installation contractors to invite them to purchase and install the equipment. An email had been received from a parishioner querying the inclusivity of the equipment. Most of the selected equipment is confirmed as being high on the ratings of inclusivity, being used for special schools. Clerk to respond with the findings.</p>	<p><b>Next agenda</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
20.	<p><b>Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received and consider for next agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minnie Pit Centenary - Public Meeting at Halmer End Methodist Church - 10th December – this was noted.</li> <li>Invite to attend the Mayors Civic Carol Service at St. Giles' Parish Church, Church Street, Newcastle on Sunday 18 December 2016 at 6.30pm – this was noted.</li> </ul>	
21.	<p><b>Accounts</b></p> <p>1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers – Appendix B</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the payments be approved as per the attached list. The Bank reconciliation statement was also noted.</p>	
22.	<p><b>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Beech/Frankish/Proctor</b></p> <p>Cllr Proctor stated that the LAP had now received £3000 towards cinema equipment to be run at the Community Centre. A party was held for the older people in the Parish and STBH which was a great success. The Police parish meeting will be relooked at by Cllr Proctor to ensure it is most effective for the Parish. Cllr Proctor to liaise with the Police and the Community Centre, and to then inform the Clerk/Parish Council of the final arrangements.</p>	<p><b>BP</b></p>

23.	<p><b>Clerks Update – (Appendix C)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To renew the SLCC annual membership at a cost of £100</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Appendix C be noted and the annual membership of the SLCC be renewed.</p>	Clerk
24.	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b> (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda)</p> <p>Cllr Beech reported that the tendering for the BMX track was now in progress at the CARA site. They are hoping to have it in place before the school holidays next year.</p> <p>Mr Breuer reported that the seats have been removed at the new development site at Halmer End and the Audley Working Men’s club. Clerk to write to both to ask them to reinstate them, if they are not on their land. If they do not then it is to be reported to the police. If they are on their land, then they are to return them.</p> <p>Mr Whitmore reported that there is a broken stile and tree blocking the footpath along Cinder Lane. This has been reported to the County Council by Mr Whitmore.</p> <p>Mr Butler reported an abandoned green Ford Fiesta on the Borough Council car park by Tesco. Clerk to report it.</p> <p>Mr Butler reported the drains on Megacre were full of silt with grass growing over them. Clerk to report to Highways and Cllr Beech to also report this.</p> <p>Clerk to ask the Community Warden to repaint the crash barriers white at Megacre.</p> <p>Mr Garlick reported that Bignall End Road is still flooding.</p> <p>Mr Cooper read out an update on behalf of Cllr Frankish who said that the Halmer End Institute was still doing well with a Christmas events held.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor suggested that if there was food being served, to protect the Institute the relevant safety considerations need to be in place.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk AB</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk AF</p>
25.	<p><b>To further consider quotes for the tree pruning at Margaret’s Garden and advice from SPCA (Public excluded under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 Act – financial affairs of an organisation/individual)</b></p> <p>The Public were excluded from this item and Mr Whitmore left the meeting due to a pecuniary interest. Legal advice has been obtained from the SPCA to confirm that in view of the prior knowledge of one of the quotes being discussed at an earlier meeting, the quote received from Mr Whitmore had to be discounted. Cllr Proctor had also received advice from the Local Government Association to warn against allowing sitting councillors to quote for work. It was agreed that this item should be discussed at the next meeting. With regards to the remaining quotes, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the advice from the Tree Officer be followed with regards to a qualified contractor. Consideration was given and it was approved to appoint PME Maintenance to carry out the work, who were qualified under the LANTRA scheme for this work.</p>	<p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

**Approved Payments schedule – December 2016**

Chq/Bacs	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	TOTAL INVOICE INC VAT
bacs 93	Mrs C Withington	Decorations reimbursement	56.85
bacs 94	Mrs C Withington	Land reg reimbursement	6.00
bacs 95	Mrs C Withington	Xmas tree reimbursement	35.99
bacs 96	Mrs C Withington	Salary Dec total	771.43
bacs 97	Mrs C Withington	Expenses Dec inc mileage	123.80
bacs 98	Staffordshire Pension scheme	Pension Dec	75.23
bacs 99	H M Revenues and Customs	Tax and NI Dec	111.25
bacs 100	Computershare	Dec child care voucher (243 sacrifice)	282.07
bacs 101	Blachere Illuminations	Xmas Lights for Church trees x 2	2416.80
bacs 102	SLCC	Clerks Annual Membership (1/2 share)	100.00
bacs 103	The Play Inspection Company	Annual Play inspection x 9	540.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	AM Inspection report, leaves footpaths leddys, cenotaph cleaned audley, poppy wreaths tied down x 2	372.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	ON 97 New bushes to swing H/End	30.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	ON 8 Filled in hole Rileys Field	30.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	ON 10 - Moss spraying Miles Green and Scot Hay	68.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	ON 97 Noticeboard repair Albert Street and scot hay	122.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	ON?? replaced rotten signs	61.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	ON 7 Halmer End broken fence and made safe Bignall End Rd	70.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	ON 97 Leddys Field replaced stolen signs etc and 11 x nol alcc	150.00
bacs 104	Mr S Hough	Annual Inspect - Repair to Halmer End play area wetpour (ASE	30.00
bacs 105	Aardwolf	Moles at Albert Street	100.00
bacs 105a	Aardwolf	Rats at Halmer end car park (High Street)	90.00
bacs 106	Mrs C Withington	Xmas tree topper materials	4.00
		<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>5646.42</b>

**Total transfer required to current account: £5600**