

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held at Audley Pensioners Hall, Church Street on Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7:00pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr B Proctor
 Councillors: Mrs C Richardson, Cllr A Frankish, Revd J Taylor, Mr M Whitmore, Mr P Breuer, Mr M Dolman, Mrs V Pearson, Mr C Cooper, Mr D Butler, Mr R Garlick, Mr R Kinnersley
 Minutes – Clare Withington Clerk
 There were 4 members of the public present

Ref.	Item	Action
1.	To receive apologies – Mr R Moody, Mr T Sproston	
2.	To consider approving and signing minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 21 December 2017 RESOLVED the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record. These were signed by the Chair at the meeting.	
3.	Declaration of interest in any item - None	
4.	Public Participation: The members present attended to report the ongoing issues with the flooding on Bignall End Road. This had been reported previously to the Highways Dept over the last few years but there had been little done to resolve the issue. As there is no grit bin, the standing water freezes and is a hazard to all road users. Flood signs were erected the other week, but this is rare. Issues concerning the ambulances which regularly access a nearby property and postman wading through the water were discussed. There is also damage to the windows of properties due to the grit hitting them. It was noted that the drain had collapsed and needed to be replaced. The Parish Council endorsed the concerns and it was considered a disgraceful failing. It was RESOLVED to write a further letter to the County Council to report that residents' daily lives are affected in such a way that often sees them unable to leave their homes to go shopping etc. The Parish Council are concerned that the standing water is unsafe for pedestrians and all road users but it is considered to be a threat to life and limb when it freezes. Car drivers cannot drive through unless they have a 4x4 due to the depth of water. It was noted that the manhole blows off on a regular basis and due to the low lying position the water collects here, but does not drain. It was suggested that there may be a blockage further up by the old colliery site. A site visit with the Highways officers is to be requested, with Mr Garlick and Cllr Proctor attending. The Clerk was asked to send a copy to Paul Farrelly MP acknowledging that we are already aware of residents contacting him regarding the same situation. Noted that the local press will be contacted the next time there is a flood. Three members of the public left the meeting.	Clerk
5.	Planning - To consider any planning applications received, including:- Erection of a dwelling Land To The Rear Of 80 Apedale Road Wood Lane Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST7 8PH Ref. No: 17/01041/FUL (S106 contribution) Village Env/Delegated Cllr Proctor declared that he would not be chairing the meeting if this comes to the Planning Committee and that he would be looking to call this in. RESOLVED to object on the following grounds: There is no adequate vehicular access, as the current access to the site is impassable for 2 vehicles (and one car will struggle without excessive manoeuvres). The terraced properties abut the pavement with a hedge the	

	<p>other side which reduces the ability to have a safe visibility splay, opposite a busy junction on a bus route. The new property is not in keeping with the surrounding area and will have a harmful impact on adjacent Green Belt. It is considered to be overdevelopment of a back garden.</p> <p>Construction of driveway and dropped kerb 10 Station Road Halmerend Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8AR Ref. No: 16/00587/FUL Village Env/Delegated – The decision had been passed and this was noted.</p> <p>Application for approval of details of the achievable visibility splays at the access as required by condition 5 of planning permission 17/00429/OUT - Outline application for an agricultural workers dwelling Domvilles Farm Barthomley Road Audley Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8HT Ref. No: 17/00429/CN05 FOR INFORMATION ONLY – This was noted.</p> <p>To consider a response to the Joint Local Plan Preferred Option and the consultation arrangements It was noted that the consultation is expected to start 1st Feb until 1st March. There was a very low response to the earlier consultation so all are to encourage residents to respond. The Preferred Option will be discussed on the next agenda.</p>	Next Agenda
6.	<p>Bus Service – Audley Parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the outcome of the public meeting held on 11th January 2018 It was noted that over 45 people attended the meeting, and were in support of a 26p (Band D property) increase to the current Precept for next year to fund the Saturday, Monday to Friday service (last bus 19.45 from Newcastle) and the Sunday/Bank Hol service. To consider increasing the Precept for 18/19 to cover the subsidy gap required for evening and Sunday/Bank Holiday daytime services from April 2018 <p>RESOLVED to increase the Precept for 18/19 by £31753 to fund the above services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To resolve to suspend Financial Regulations and to enter into a contract with D&G Services Limited to provide the bus services from 1st April 2018 until 31st March 2018. Monthly <p>RESOLVED to suspend the Financial Regulations and to enter into a contract with D&G Services Limited to provide the above services, using the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2012) as confirmed by SPCA. Cllr Proctor stated that the price will only increase in line with the Consumer Price Index and that we also can give 8 weeks' notice to terminate. To appoint Staffs County Council Legal to provide advice and guidance in respect of the Contract. <p>RESOLVED to appoint Staffs County Council Legal. The Chair was thanked for taking the lead on this matter.</p> </p>	
7.	<p>To consider a response to the Rights of Way Letter from Mr Adair (Newcastle and Stoke Group of the Ramblers' Association) regarding the Parish Council footpath budget for 2018/19 following the SCC budget cuts and recategorization of footpaths – as circulated by email 09.01.18</p> <p>The information was noted and it was agreed that we must support this group who have carried out work to maintain our parish footpaths, and work with them on a case by case basis when considering materials and funds. It was also agreed that we should consult with them for future CPI bids. Mr Cooper to forward footpath issues to the Clerk, so that these can be reported to the ROW officer.</p>	CC Clerk
8.	Budget 18/19 – to finalise the precept to be requested following the bus	

	<p>subsidy outcome – Appendix A Following the agreement on the bus subsidy it was RESOLVED to increase the Precept to £141,436.00 (which equates to £55.73 per year for the Band D properties) and to set the budget in accordance with Appendix A.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p>To consider the issues relating to the gated pathway at Audley Methodist Church – Cllr Proctor It was noted that Cllr Proctor has a meeting with the Borough Council next week to progress a gating order under The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It was RESOLVED to support this application for a gating order unanimously, which will see 1.6m left unobstructed.</p>	Next agenda
10.	<p>To agree any articles for the next edition of the Community News (deadline 25th Jan)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Elections May 2018 2. Update on the new play equipment (Alsager Road and Halmer End) 3. Budget news 2018/19 inc bus subsidy outcome 4. Millennium Green Trust 5. Joint Local Plan update 6. Parish Award (Miss Jones) <p>RESOLVED to submit the following articles, Cllr Frankish to also provide an article regarding the cinema. It was noted that Cllr Proctor has had 5 people express an interest in standing for the next Parish Council election.</p>	Clerk/AF
	<p>Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note Play Area Monthly Inspection for January and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – Glass (Bignall End Road), carpets flytipped and removal of signs (Leddys) <p>RESOLVED that the play inspection report be noted. It was also RESOLVED to carry out the work required to reinstate Leddys Field footpath and to also seek an insurance claim if the damaged basket swing is not repairable at Bignall End Road. The Supernova at Alsager Road also required some attention due to the bearings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the next steps regarding new play facilities at Harrison Close, Halmer End regarding the consultation with the schools x 4 <p>Ravensmead Primary, Sir Richard Heathcote and Sir Thomas Boughey High School have all been consulted. Unfortunately Wood Lane have not taken up the offer. It is likely that a draft scheme will be brought to the next meeting for approval before tender.</p>	
	<p>To receive an update from the Audley Millennium Green Trust if available – Cllr Proctor Cllr Proctor has now met with Tony Lancaster, who is supportive of the Parish Council's efforts to attract more volunteers. It is likely that the Trustees will continue for a further year and the situation will then be reviewed. The Parish Council reinforced their support to this Parish asset which is considered to be of great importance. In the event that the Trust disbands, then the Parish will look to continue to maintain it to its current standard.</p>	
13.	<p>Blue Bell Woods – to consider the proposed work by Western Power regarding felling a number of trees A meeting had been held with the Contractor, Clerk and Mr Whitmore. Unfortunately a number of trees including a beech tree, will need to be felled due to the falling distance onto the power line. It was also proposed that the felled trees are left in situ as a wildlife habitat, with bark spread under the power cable corridor only. Other trees such as smaller oaks and another Beech would be pruned. The boundary hedge would also be cut to a height of around 6ft. A coppiced sycamore will be pollarded at the base. The Clerk was asked to enquire how they will access the site and if there could be a formal access created onto the site, which will join the Permissive Path.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>To discuss the continuing flooding at Bignall End Road – Mr R Garlick This had been discussed earlier on the agenda.</p>	

15.	<p>Parish Traffic Plan – Cllr Proctor Cllr Proctor reported that at some point in the future this issue will need to be addressed, working with local residents to find solutions to the increasing problem. Cllr Proctor to raise this after the elections in May.</p>	
16.	<p>Correspondence To note the Library Consultation SCC Managed libraries (Eccleshall, Penkridge, Clayton, Cheadle) and reduced mobile library service (less than 5 people visit) - Deadline 1 April 2018 www.staffordshire.gov.uk/connectedlibraries - This was noted.</p> <p>To consider a response to the Staffordshire Police Crime and Commissioner consultation regarding the Precept increase the cap beyond 2% - https://www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/have-your-say/ (end date unknown) – The Clerk was asked to respond on the basis that we are loathe to agree to an increase without knowing what benefit there is for the rural communities in terms of policing levels. The Parish Council would like more information as they already have concerns regarding rural police levels.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p>Waste recycling issues (and to note a letter of complaint) – Cllr Proctor Cllr Proctor reported that he had received 52 calls over the Christmas period. It seems they are were unprepared for the snow and additional waste in the Christmas period. The letter was read out and noted.</p>	
18.	<p>To receive an update from Audley LAP and Police / Parish Liaison Committee – Cllr Proctor</p> <p>Cllr Frankish updated the meeting to say the Christmas dinner at Sir Thomas Boughy High School was a success again. The Cinema project has attracted 20-25 older people. At the end of April they are looking for a group to take this over. They also need more volunteers to join the LAP.</p> <p>4 members of public attended the last police surgery, with PC Moore in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCTV update (Alsager Road) and to review the existing cameras Hall Street and New/Old Road <p>It was noted that the infrastructure is now in place, and the 2 cameras are on order, as agreed. Remote access can be obtained for a monthly charge, the Clerk was asked to bring this to the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural Policing team response - Cllr Proctor <p>It was noted that we are one PCSO down due to maternity cover and one is being put back on after being relocated, following the request of the Parish Council.</p>	Next Meeting
19.	<p>Consideration of the next Parish elections for May 2018 It was agreed that interested parties should be encouraged to attend a meeting of the Parish Council. Clerk to update the Parish website with the information.</p>	Clerk
20.	<p>Clerks Update – Appendix B A site meeting would be needed to look at the issue at Scot Hay Road (access by Podmore Hall Cottages).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consider a review of hours (currently 20 per week) <p>In light of the increase in Precept over the last few years and the number of projects now being delivered, it was RESOLVED to increase the Clerks hours to 30 per week from 1st February 2018. The Clerk to draw up a new Contract for signing by the Chair,</p>	Clerk Clerk
21.	<p>To approve the schedule of payments– See Appendix C 1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers RESOLVED to approve the payments in accordance with the attached</p>	

	<p>schedule.</p> <p>2. To appoint Mrs C Heelis as the Internal Auditor for the year ending March 2018</p> <p>RESOLVED to appoint Mrs Heelis.</p>	
22.	<p>Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda)</p> <p>Mr Breuer noted that the Minnie Pit Memorial centenary event received a good turnout. The event was a credit to the Parish and the organisers are to be thanked.</p> <p>Cllr Proctor is to look into the issue of the flooding near the Cobbles on Church Street.</p> <p>Mr Kinnersley reminded the Parish Council that Alsagers Bank is still in a very poor state in terms of Highways repairs. He also suggested that we may need to see expenditure in relation to Donations. Clerk to review the current donations.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Highway repairs on Boon Hill Road which had been carried out during the frost should be reported, due to the poor quality.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>BP</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
23.	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To further consider issues in relation to the Borough Council car parks (Church Street) and consider the arrangements for entering into a lease for both car parks – Cllr Proctor <p>Cllr Proctor is still awaiting the information and will chase this from the Borough Council, plus to confirm the commitment to fund the legal costs of the Parish Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider a quote to rectify issues with the fitness equipment at Miles Green and Queen Street, following the Annual Inspection <p>RESOLVED to approve the quotes of up to £500 to repair the items in Queen Street and Miles Green.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider quotes for additional length of bow top fencing at Bignall End Road <p>RESOLVED to appoint Mr Heler to complete the work, subject to confirmation of the price.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider quotes for a replacement springer at Scot Hay <p>RESOLVED to leave this item for the time being, and review in the future if necessary.</p>	<p>Next agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Approved Payments schedule – January 2018

Chq/Bacs	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	TOTAL INVOICE INC VAT
bacs 124	Ron Kinnersley	Mileage to SPCA and return 4th December	23.40
bacs 125	Mrs C Withington	Salary Jan total	1030.68
bacs 126	Mrs C Withington	Expenses Jan	95.00
bacs 127	Staffordshire Pension scheme	Pension Jan	345.51
bacs 128	H M Revenues and Customs	Tax and NI Jan	218.78
bacs 129	Mr S Hough	AM - Inspection reports and litter pick Leddys	132.00
bacs 129	Mr S Hough	ON 57 Broken glass Bignall End Rd ASB, Removed signs Led	70.00
bacs 129	Mr S Hough	ON 55 Halmer End Centenary clean up	200.00
bacs 129	Mr S Hough	ON 58 Springer removal Scot Hay	60.00
bacs 129	Mr S Hough	ON 59 Xmas Decs to Bowling Club	20.00
bacs 131	NBC	Leddys Field Tree work	6189.60
		Monthly Total	8384.97

Total transfer required to current account: £8500

Appendix A – APPROVED Budget 18/19

HEADING	Appd Budget 18/19
ADMIN	
Staff Costs / Chair	£ 20,000.00
ADMIN	
Office/other/Adverts	£ 8,500.00
Playing	
Fields - maintenance	£ 17,000.00
Bus Subsidy	£ 31,753.00
Playing fields - Capital (net of VAT)	£ 60,000.00
Car parks x 2	£ 3,500.00
Bus shelters and Seats	£ 1,000.00
Footpaths	£ 100.00
Bowling	
Greens	£ 2,000.00
Wildlife	
Area (Leddys/Marg Garden)	£ 2,000.00
Misc.	£ 2,100.00
Allotments	£ 1,500.00
Donations	£ 1,000.00
Comm activities	£ 1,000.00
Capital	£ -
VAT TO BE RECLAIMED	£ -
TOTAL	£ 151,453.00

Required Income for Draft budget 18/19	
Precept reqd	£ 141,436.00
Section 136 Funding (incs 25% reduction)	£ 5,020.00
Council tax support grant	£ 4,397.00
Misc income	£
Bank interest	£
Allotment rent	£ 600.00
VAT reclaim	£
Total Income	£ 151,453.00

Precept requirement to meet 18/19 draft budget		
	17/18 (Current Year)	18/19 (Budget APPROVED)
Budget requirement (Form A)	£ 106,313.00	£ 141,436.00
Council Tax Base numbers	2,523	2538
Band D Council Tax per year Annual	£42.14	£55.73
18/19 precept (weekly amount)	£0.81	£1.07
A weekly increase of		£0.26