

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at Astbury Village Hall.

Declaration of Interest

Mr N Sharman – Fat Arrow Ltd under payments

Public Forum

Nobody present

Part 1

Present Councillor J Carter (Chairman), Councillor P Stanway, Councillor S A Banks, Councillor J Critchlow (Vice Chairman) , Councillor N Sharman, Councillor P Critchlow, Councillor C Kennerley, Councillor R Sutton (*arrived at 9.40pm*) , Councillor N Barton, Councillor N Plant ,Councillor L Warlow *Cheshire East* and the Clerk.

90/17 Apologies Cllr R Lomas due to a theatre visit, Cllr P Cliff due to work commitments and Cllr A Banks due to work commitments.

91/17 Minutes

83/17 Common Land at Brownlow Heath – amend to ‘2 Moreton Cottages’

Resolved the minutes from 10th May 2017 were accepted and signed as a true and accurate record.

92/17 Head teacher from Astbury Primary School

Resolved to suspend the Standing Orders to accept a report from the head teacher from the local school.

The head teacher had been invited to improve communication links with the Parish Council after the recent Ofsted report.

The school had appointed four new governors, two of which have links with the church and the village (foundation links) and the other two have a firm educational background. It was unfair to attribute the poor report solely to the governors as they had identified issues with leadership and had reported to the local authority but received little support. The school had previously been through leadership issues and on her appointment in January 2016 she had identified a plan to address the short falls. The Ofsted visit had arrived and many new processes had not had chance to become embedded and therefore influential.

The report in her opinion had been harsh and perhaps not a true reflection of the actual picture. Unfortunately the status of ‘under achieving’, even after progress had been made would be with them for a long time as a revisit was not a requirement. The head went on to explain all the positive things the school were engaging in. The staffing structure had also changed, as there had been previously two senior teachers but now a deputy head teacher had been appointed and would commence in September. There would also be 4 classes from September as opposed 5. It was agreed that the school

would start to write a regular update in the Parish Magazine and a communication link through the clerk would be established.

The Chairman thanked the head teacher for attending the meeting and welcomed the chance to improve the working relationship.

The Head teacher left at 8.15pm

93/17 Website Analytics

Cllr N Sharman reviewed the statistics for the website usage and explained to members.

94/17 Neighbourhood Plan

Cheshire East had contacted the Clerk to inform the neighbourhood planning referendum for Newbold Astbury and Moreton cum Alcumlow was taking place on 17 August 2017.

The Information Statement will be published and the Notice of Referendum will be published on Thursday 13 July. The Notice of Referendum will be published for the notice boards. There is a "Purdah" period which applies to Neighbourhood Planning Referendums, as per elections: essentially to avoid the reality or perception of Borough or Parish Council resources being used in such a way as to seek support for a particular outcome.

The guidelines had been circulated so members are aware of the potential pitfalls of Purdah.

The group were due to meet to discuss the advertising and communication of the referendum.

The clerk had received the grant funding from Groundworks UK.

95/17 Volunteers to work in the Parish

Qwest Services ,Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AH

This company had contacted the Clerk to introduce themselves as a local company who are keen to find volunteering opportunities for their staff in the community. All the relevant questions in relation to insurance, health & safety and working arrangements had been clarified. The Parish Council had discussed projects within the parish and agreed the fact that it would be an opportunity for the Cheshire Railings within the parish to be painted.

Resolved the Clerk would arrange for the volunteers to paint the Cheshire Railings at Brownlow crossroads, New Road, Moreton and Watery Lane/A34.

96/17 Common Land at Brownlow

The Clerk had contacted Mr Adrian Fisher in Cheshire East and he had confirmed-

"The land which is highlighted on the pdf OS 1:2,500 plan attached to your email relates to an area of common land (CL67). The land highlighted on the OS plan, (OS parcel 441) accurately reflects the extent of the common land rather than the land highlighted red on the Google aerial image which is only an approximate representation.(Appendix 1)

The land was determined as common by the Commons Commissioners in 1980.

There was a dispute over encroachment in 2006 with the owners of 2 Moreton Cottages, which, judging from the correspondence extant on file did not appear to be fully resolved.”

Resolved the Clerk was instructed to resolve the encroachment over the common land at Brownlow from the neighbours at 2 Moreton Cottages.

97/17 Highways

Traffic Calming Survey

Cllr N Sharman and Cllr L Wardlow had both contacted Mr S Wallace CE Highways to request that a more detailed report was submitted to the PC. He had not responded. Cllr L Wardlow CE requested that she was allowed to speak with highways before a Freedom of Information request was submitted.

Cheshire Railings at Brownlow

Cllr P Critchlow requested that these railings were painted. Minute reference 95/17.

Dog Bin on Peel Avenue

A new dog bin had been sited at residents request and would be emptied every Friday by Congleton Town Council.

20 mph zone outside the school.

The school had not authorised the proposed speed reduction but this had recently been completed and the response for siting the signs was as follows; it is confirmed the process for installing signs on the highway requires a pre-assessment needs to be carried out, during which various items of information relating to the work areas are recorded. One of the items which must be considered at this stage is the need to identify and record any existing hazards in the area which could cause harm or damage during the construction process. In this instance it has been identified during the pre-assessment that a number of overhead power cables run parallel with the road and as such given the height of the new signs and the associated solar panel unit, located above the sign, there is insufficient clearance to locate any of the signs under power cables without violating the minimum distance which has to be maintained around them. In view of the above I would confirm the proposed sign locations have been finalised to;

- avoid any danger/hazard of contact with overhead power cables,
- ensure sunlight is efficiently captured by the solar panel unit, located above the sign, to provide power to the flashing amber lights, and
- ensure all signs are suitably visible to motorists.

Existing school warning signs will be removed following installation of the new 20mph signs, ensure there are always signs in place to warn motorists of the presence of school children in the area.

Grass verges

The rural cut had just been actioned this week along the A34 but the siding had not been dealt with even though been reported since November 2016. This was due to the CE budget being cut from £10,000 to £5,000.

Resolved the Clerk would obtain 3 quotes to side the footpaths back from Pinfold House to the boundary line to Moreton cum Alcumlow boundary along the A34.

Wallhill Lane signs

The signage was concerning due the narrow points in the road and the speed of traffic.
Resolved Cllr L Wardlow would report to CE highways and report back.

98/17 War Memorial

Cllr P Critchlow proposed that the statue was improved and painted. All members seconded this proposal.

Resolved Cllr P Critchlow would investigate funding options available to such projects.

99/17 Accounts

To note the balance of accounts – Royal Bank of Scotland = £10,443.08 (Parish Council - £10,443.08 + NP – Nil)

Payments

- *Cheque no 596* - £26.16 Mrs J Mason expenses April to June
- *Cheque no 597* - £469.52 Mr P Cliff & Sons Ltd Newsletter
- *Cheque no 598* - £24.00 Fat Arrow Ltd
- *Cheque no 599* - £1,361.29 Cranage Parish Council (Clerks salary £1,268.14 inc £50.00 home allowance + £93.15 HMRC contributions)

Receipts

- Nil

Resolved the above payments be approved and signed for as above.

Videhost renewal

The contract was due to be renewed and Cllr N Sharman updated members with the various options available to utilise as a platform. It was £70.80 which was a 20% increase but still the best value for money when research had been completed.

Resolved the Parish Council would renew the contract with Vidahost.

100/17 Planning Applications

- 17/3006C Beech Croft, Childs Lane, Smallwood Cw11 2XA – Proposed removal of Condition Number 2 relating to an agricultural workers dwelling at Beech Croft, Childs Lane Brownlow re Application 08/2439/2

Resolved No Objection

- 17/2788C The Long Barn, Sandbach Road, Congleton Cw12 4TE – Demolition of existing building and erection of two new garages

Resolved No Objection

Approval of 16/4732C Alcumlow Hall Farm, Chance Hall Lane, Astbury CW12 4TL

Change of use from disused farm barn to events venue/function room – although absent Cllr P Cliff had reported an enforcement officer had visited the site.

The Holding, Watery Lane CW12 4RR Site Visit 28th June at 10 am- Cllr J Carter had attended with Cllr R Bailey CE. It was noted no questions were presented from the Inspector Mr Christopher Preston.

101/17 Cheshire East

Cllr L Wardlow updated members on the recent announcement that Arclid Waste site was due to close due to lack of funding to update the site.

There had been an update to safer parking in communities in the cabinet and who had the responsibilities for dangerous parking. In and around local schools CE had accountabilities as did the school.

The policy for improvement to homes for disabled homes was being reviewed and the care facilities. It seemed for every £1 spent at this stage saved £18 in care homes later on.

102/17 Clerks Report

Minutes – the Clerk still had not received the historic minutes. It was agreed Cllr J Carter would write to the retired clerk.

103/17 The next meeting would be the on 9th August 2017 at 7.30pm in Astbury Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 10.10 pm

