

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st August 2019 at Astbury Village Hall.

Part 1

Present

Councillor A Banks (AB)
Councillor N Barton (NB)
Councillor P Cliff (PCI)
Councillor J Critchlow, Vice Chairman (AJC) *who Chaired the meeting*
Councillor P Critchlow (PCI)
Councillor B Jelf (BJ)
Councillor R Lomas (RL)
Councillor N Plant (NP)
Councillor N Sharman (NS)
Councillor R Sutton (RS)
Councillor J Ward (JW)
Councillor L Wardlaw, Cheshire East (LW)
Ms J Mason - Clerk.

Declaration of Interest

Cllr P Cliff – Wallhill Lane, Cllr J Critchlow – Wallhill Lane, Cllr P Critchlow – Wallhill Lane, Cllr B Jelf – Wallhill Lane.

Cllr P Cliff and Cllr B Jelf both acknowledged interests that would preclude them from voting on Wallhill Lane mitigation measures.

Cllr B Jelf had requested a dispensation to speak on the item number 4 which had been granted by the Clerk.

Public Forum

9 members of the public present.

A resident from Wallhill Lane had read the notes from the meeting with the Parish Council and CE highways officers, to discuss the mitigation measures on Wallhill Lane on the 5th August. He felt the options were not conclusive and the Parish Council would be voting on one of the options with very little evidence on what mitigation measures they would implement. The only safe option was to have a road closure. He went on to disagree that Cllr BJ had a pecuniary interest in the vote and that Cllr P Critchlow and Cllr J Critchlow also must have the same interest if this was the case. He questioned the plant business that they operated.

Cllr RS wished it noted he felt Cllr P Cr and Cllr AJC had no interest

The other residents wished the PC to support the option of road closure and gave several examples of the dangers that they experienced living on the lane. They felt the Councillors had an obligation to represent the residents living on the lane as it was not safe now and would obviously become worse with the opening on the CLR. This situation had been presented to them from CEC and their lives would be untenable when the bypass opened.

Cllr B Jelf

Cllr BJ spoke on the feedback from Mr Sean Halewood CE Highways Officer and said he still could not give any firm options of what mitigation measures would be offered on the lane. The only ones they had seen were the options from 2014, and more importantly they still had not seen the traffic figures which had been carried out in June/ July 2019. The option two from CE was flawed and the PC will be deciding not having all the facts to hand. She pleaded with members if that was the option, they preferred, conditions should be enforced

and clarity on the wording of 'significant'.

A member of the public spoke about the reduction in speed on the A34 by the Watery Lane junction to enquire if any progress had been made by the PC.

108/19 Apologies

Councillor J Carter and Cllr C Kennerly both due to annual holidays.

109/19 Minutes

- *Cllr PC wished the minute reference 100/19 amended to 19/2415C Limekiln Farm, Limekiln Farm Lane, Astbury CW12 3NU – proposed conversion of redundant dairy/ milking parlour into domestic dwelling. **Resolved** No Objection.*
- *Cllr BJ wished the minutes reference 96/19 be amended to 'After a ballot was held it was resolved to co-opt Cllr J Ward.'*

Resolved the minutes from 12th June 2019 were accepted and signed as a true and accurate record.

109/19 Business Plan

The Chairman had sent his apologies that due to other commitments he had not managed to redraft the Business Plan. This would be deferred until the next meeting.

110/19 Wallhill Lane Mitigation

The Chairman, Cllr NS and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Mrs F Price and Mr S Halewood on Monday 5th August and the notes had been circulated. CE had given the PC two proposals;

- i) Would the Parish Council support the closure of Wallhill Lane as a mitigation measure when the Congleton Link Road opens, subject to an exemption for agricultural traffic?
OR
- ii) A degree of mitigation works would be implemented prior to the opening of the CLR followed by extended monitoring. If traffic flows increased by x% over pre-CLR conditions closure would be implemented but still retaining agricultural exemption.

The Chairman requested all Cllrs present gave their views on the proposals put forward by Cheshire East. It was agreed that option two was vague and needed clarity.

It was noted that five Town and Parish Councils had been consulted; Congleton Town Council who had declined to comment, Brereton Parish Council who had not commented, Smallwood Parish Council who had objected to the lane being closed and Somerford who had attended the meeting and strongly objected to a lane closure.

Cllr R Lomas proposed that Wallhill Lane was not closed, and this was seconded by Cllr N Plant.

VOTE:

FOR – RL, AB, NB, PCI, AJC, PCi, NP, RS, JW. AGAINST- NS.

Resolved the Parish Council did not support a lane closure as a mitigation measure when the Congleton Link Road opened.

Resolved the Parish Council supported mitigation measures with extra clarity and if this was not successful in reducing the traffic speed and the safety of the residents living on the lane the Parish Council would support closure.

The Chairman requested that another meeting was held with CE highways officers and the residents were given clear guidance of what mitigation measures would be conducted.

111/19 War Memorial

The PC had received correspondence from a relative of a soldier whose details had been added to the War Memorial but over time the letters had deteriorated. They requested the lettering was improved.

Resolved the lettering was improved on the War Memorial.

The Cllrs were frustrated how long the actions were taking to improve the War Memorial and could not see why it was necessary to wait for actions to be taken by Congleton Town Council.

Resolved Cllr PCr would pursue the necessary actions to improve the War Memorial.

112/19 Planning Applications

- 19/3258C Proposed Congleton Link Road – Variation of conditions 2 & 3 of 15/4480C – the proposed Congleton Link Road – a 5.7km single carriageway link road between the Sandbach Road and the A536 Macclesfield Road.

Resolved No Objection

- 19/3262C Land opposite Hillside View, Mow Lane Astbury. Conversion of and extension to former agricultural building to single story dwelling and associated access.

Resolved No Objection

- 19/3531C Brookhouse Farm, Puddlebank Lane, Astbury CW12 3NW. Retrospective planning application for fencing at field entrance and crushed stone surfacing to access track and to front and sides of consent agricultural building.

Resolved Objection

113/19 Community Liaison in the Parish Council

To improve communication in the Parish, the members discussed the value of holding a coffee morning once a month at Glebe Farm. It was agreed it may be an opportunity to touch base with the residents of the Parish extra to a Parish Council meeting.

Resolved two of the members on a rota would attend Glebe Farm for an hour on the first Saturday of every month and it would commence on 2nd November.

Resolved the Clerk would organise the necessary advertising.

114/19 Highways

Congleton Link Road

Notes had been circulated.

Speed Reduction on the A34 by the Watery Lane junction

The Clerk had contacted CE highway and it seemed the accident history was not substantial enough to justify a speed reduction. The site also did not fit the Speed management strategy which gave the guidelines to a reduction. The members felt that the main opportunity should be taken when the garden centre submitted a planning application to make improvements to the entrance from the A34. It was acknowledged this was an imminent proposal.

The Clerk was also requested to enquire with CE about the accident's statistics by the junction with Childs Lane.

Kerb Stones on the Village Green

The Clerk had requested a quote from Willis's but was still awaiting a response.

Hedge along Childs Lane

As the owner had taken no actions therefore CE Highways had now raised a job pack to cut back the hedge and this would be subsequently charged to the owner.

Weight Limit sign on Dodds Lane

This had been reported by the Clerk to CE highways as it had been knocked down – no actions have been taken to date. A resident from the lane had contacted the Clerk in reference to a lorry exceeding the weight restrictions having an accident on the bridge and had gained all the relevant details. The Clerk had contacted CE Highways to report the accident but unfortunately this had been dismissed by the structures department of highways. Cllr LW offered support in chasing this issue.

Footpath along the A34

The Clerk had checked if this action could have monies contributed to CE from the PC to take actions, but no response was forthcoming.

Resolved the Clerk would contact CTC for a quote to side out the footpaths.

Hedge outside the Rectory

The hedge along the footpath by the Rectory was overgrown and needed cutting back due to safety of pedestrians.

Resolved the Clerk would write to the owners of the Rectory and request they cut back the hedge.

Weight Restriction 5650161

Response from the Bridge Manager at CE Highways- the bridge in question, is owned and maintained by Canal & Rivers Trust. The Capacity of the bridge is 'Construction & Use' i.e. 40 tonnes. The only permissible way to restrict traffic would be to introduce an Environmental Weight restriction. A restriction can be imposed for environmental reasons on routes which have been identified as unsuitable for use by heavy goods vehicles, and where there is a better and equally convenient alternative. An environmental weight restriction will usually only apply to vehicles with a maximum gross weight of 7.5 tonnes or above. The maximum gross weight is the maximum permitted weight of the vehicle when fully loaded. Environmental restrictions can be applied to individual routes or a defined area of roads that have been determined as unsuitable for use by vehicles over a certain width or weight. They are useful in preventing heavy goods vehicles from using minor roads as inappropriate short-cuts between main routes. The route here in question is classified as a 'C' Class highway. There are several parallel routes to Fence Lane/Wharf Lane and the introduction of one environmental weight restriction would have to be applied to all the routes. This would be difficult to implement and enforce and with the widespread use of Satellite Navigation, particularly heavy goods vehicles, we are unfortunately seeing more heavy vehicles across routes that previously would not have been considered.

Resolved this would not be pursued by the PC due to the implications it imposed.

Water running down 'Ganny' Bank – Mow Lane

Resolved the Clerk would report.

115/19 Accounts

To note the balance of the accounts - £13,611.37

Payments

- *Cheque no 694* - £185.00 CGT Electrical Services

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

Receipts

- Nil

Santander online account

The Clerk had submitted the application and enquired of the progress but unfortunately had been informed there would be costs attached to the account when payments were made and a possible monthly fee.

Resolved it was agreed that the Clerk would pursue online banking with the RBS.

116/19 Newsletter

Cllr PCr and Cllr AJC reported that the newsletter had been completed and it would be delivered this week.

117/19 Fly the Red Ensign for the Merchant Navy

The Parish Council discussed the arrangements for the flag being lifted at Glebe Farm. Cllr RL would ask the Town Cryer. It was agreed the event would take place on Saturday 31st August at 11am.

116/19 Cheshire East

Resolved to suspend the Standing Orders to accept a report from the Ward Councillor P Redstone.

Cllr LW reported that the 'Local Plan for Site Allocations' document was out for consultation from CE. She encouraged members to read it.

She would also contact CE officers in relation to Wallhill Lane and confirmed she felt both the options were very vague to take a vote on.

The floods had caused a great impact on CE over the past month especially in Poynton, but it was noted how supportive people had acted. There were insurance claims in process, but it has been very disruptive and costly for the authority.

117/19 Chairman and Members Report

Daffodil bulbs

Cllr JW offered to contribute bulbs for the community via the William Dean Trust.

Email addresses

All Cllrs were struggling with setting up the new email addresses and requested support.

It was agreed Cllr NS would circulate more information.

118/19 Clerks Report

Induction Cllr Training

Resolved Cllr JW would attend on 25th September.

PART 2

[Redacted]

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm