

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 11 August 2021, 1930 hrs

Present

Councillor I Parry
Councillor B Jelf
Councillor J Ward
Councillor N Barton
Councillor R Sutton
Councillor L Wardlaw CE Ward Councillor
Councillor P Redstone CE Ward Councillor
Mr Carlton Evans - Clerk

Declarations of Interest

Barbara Jelf (Wallhill Lane discussion)
Roger Sutton (Walhill Lane discussion)

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

No members of the press or public were present.

Apologies:

- P Cliff (recovering from illness)
- J Critchlow (travelling)
- P Critchlow (travelling)
- A Banks (business trip)
- R Lomas (travelling)
- N Plant (travelling)
- N Sharman (prior engagement)

92/21 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2021 are a true and accurate record.

93/21 Common Land/Sandy Lane

The Council discussed again the report of the working group established to look at the issue of access to the Common Land off Sandy Lane. Given the advice from Cheshire East that a barrier/fence/bollard should not be placed across the lane, the Council **resolved** to contract

a company from among the three quotes received to undertake the clearance work after the bird nesting season is over.

Since only one of three bids had been received for the fencing/barriers into the common land, the Council **resolved** to discuss these quotes at a later stage.

The Council also **resolved** that the Clerk should investigate appropriate signage at the entrances with Cheshire East, subject to clarifying what is permissible depending on whether the lane is classified as a bridleway, byway or restricted byway.

94/21 Policy to review – Disciplinary Policy

The Council **resolved** to follow closely the model provided by ChALC, and that the Clerk should make any appropriate minor amendments before re-presenting the policy to the Council.

95/21 Accounts

The Council noted the balance of accounts and **resolved** to approve the following payments:

- Hire of the Village Hall for Council meetings for the rest of 2021 - £283.50
- TCS Salary Management for the previous clerk during 2020/2021 - £108

96/21 Caravans at Glebe farm

The Council noted that the Freedom Camping Club had not finished their assessment. The Council **resolved** to return to this issue at a later meeting once the decision was known.

97/21 Councillor Surgeries

The Council noted that there had been low/no take up of these before the 2020 lockdown. The Council **resolved** not to reinstate them but encourage members of the Parish to attend the monthly Council meeting in the village hall. It was also noted that if Parishioners were not able to attend the monthly Parish meeting the contact details for all Councillors were readily available on the Parish website and they should feel comfortable in contacting a relevant Councillor to respond to their queries.

98/21 Missing Councillor emails/forwarding

The Council noted the report from Councillor Sharman and **resolved** that no further action was needed unless it became evident that problems of missing emails were recurring.

99/21 Community Governance Review

The Council discussed the paper produced by Councillor Jelf. The Council reiterated their view that the rationale behind the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors for the Parish was flawed and didn't reflect the size or needs of the Parish. They also questioned the value of the proposal as it would simply increase the workload of each Councillor without any obvious benefits. The Council **resolved** that Councillor Jelf and Councillor Parry if

available should participate in the virtual consultation with Cheshire East at the end of August and report back to the Council in September.

100/21 Highways

The Clerk reported that he was still investigating who was responsible for the damaged sign on the A34 and how best to tackle the weeds which had returned since the siding out of the footpath.

The Council noted that satnav (Google) maps were recommending that traffic on routes through the Parish south to north should cut through Walhill Lane rather than follow the HGV traffic routes signposted by Cheshire East (via Congleton). The Council **resolved** that the clerk should discuss this further with Cheshire East.

The Council noted that Walhill Lane would be closed for approximately 10 weeks while Sibelco constructed a tunnel under the road to the new quarry site. The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should discuss with Cheshire East how this opportunity could be used to understand the traffic implications of the CLR and Walhill Lane restrictions better.

101/21 Cheshire East Report

Councillor Redstone noted that waste collection was being negatively impacted by Covid restrictions and shortages of staff and HGV drivers. Cheshire East would be prioritising black bin collection as well as drafting in drivers from elsewhere, if possible. If we received any concerns about elderly/vulnerable people and their ability to cope with this reduced service we should contact Councillors Redstone and Wardlaw.

102/21 Chairman and Members' Report

The Council noted that the defibrillator at The Smithy on Brownlow Heath Lane had recently been used. Councillor P Critchlow will be asked to check if it needs any servicing.

The Council noted that the white road markings at the Brownlow crossroads were heavily degraded and probably contributed to the increased number of accidents there. The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should investigate with Cheshire East Highways if this could be addressed, especially as this section of road was part of the Tour of Britain route and so road works/markings would shortly be undertaken in the vicinity.

103/21 Clerk's Report

Neighbourhood Plan – Councillor Sharman will attend a first meeting on 26 August and on the fourth Wednesday of the month thereafter with Councillors J Critchlow, P Critchlow, plus Parishioners John Carter and Sandie Boynton. Don Muir had declined the invitation. The hedge overhanging the footpath to the school has now been cut. The Newsletter is due to go out with the Councillor vacancy advertised. The PCSO has confirmed that there was an accident at the Brownlow crossroads in May but it will be difficult to obtain an incident number for it. The Cycling Tour of Britain will be going through the Parish from the A50 to the A34 via Brownlow and Astbury on 9 September. Some road surfacing and road marking will be done in advance, though we can't be sure where.

Part 2

The Council **Resolved** that in accordance with the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960 as extended by the Local Government Act 1972, section 100, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for discussion of the undermentioned item on the grounds that the publication of the matter would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

[REDACTED]

Meeting closed at 2135 hrs.