

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10 November 2021 at 7.30pm at Astbury Village Hall.

Part 1

Present

Councillor A Banks
Councillor N Barton
Councillor P Cliff
Councillor J Critchlow, Chairman
Councillor P Critchlow
Councillor B Jelf
Councillor I Parry
Councillor N Plant, Vice Chairman
Councillor N Sharman
Councillor R Sutton
Councillor J Ward
Councillor P Redstone, Cheshire East Council
Mr Carlton Evans – Clerk.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor B Jelf (Walhill Lane)
Councillor R Sutton (Walhill Lane)
Councillor J Critchlow (Walhill Lane)
Councillor P Critchlow (Walhill Lane)

Part 1

Public Forum

No members of the press or public were present.

Apologies

- Cllr R Lomas (prior commitments)

134/21 Minutes

The Council **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2021 are a true and accurate record subject to a minor clarification about approaching the William Dean Trust for support for the planned works at the Common Land.

135/21 Common Land/Sandy Lane

Cllr Ward said he could provide large straight tree trunks as an alternative to telegraph poles to provide a boundary between the Common Land and Sandy Lane, with a gap or a shorter length which could be moved to allow necessary vehicle access for clearing the brush etc. The Council expressed its gratitude and **resolved** to pursue this option, and therefore not to choose any of the alternative fencing quotes provided by contractors.

Councillors said that neighbours were reporting more instances of 4x4 vehicles green-laning down the bridleway after a summer lull. Cheshire East were still insistent that they needed proof (vehicle type, colour, time, registration if possible) before they could act. Councillors discussed again whether to erect some sort of barrier at the south entrance, to which Cheshire East strongly objects. Cllr P Critchlow will undertake research to find other bridleways e.g., the Salt Line in Alsager which have installed gates or barriers.

Cllr Jelf referred to her email of 10 November highlighting that the Woodland Trust were not at present taking any applications, so they couldn't apply for free saplings etc. straight away.

The Council agreed that the hedging should be done in January (but by March at the latest) in collaboration with the Woodland Trust. Weed control would be needed before planting along the length of the proposed hedge to ensure it was barren land. Cllr Jelf will estimate numbers needed (hedging and trees) and Cllr Cliff will obtain costings for them. Cllr Plant will make a formal application to the William Dean Trust for support. The Council resolved to earmark £3,000 in the budget for this work which would include stakes and tree protectors. Cllr Plant will monitor actual costs as this was an estimate only and planting would take place in the Spring.

The Council also discussed the need for a longer-term maintenance plan. The Clerk will approach Forest Stump about this and clarify when work could start. Once a date has been arranged the Working Group on the Common Land would arrange to meet Forest Stump on site and discuss requirements in more detail.

136/21 Planning Applications

21/4797C Brook farm, Watery Lane, CW12 4RR

The Council **resolved** not to object.

137/21 Accounts

The costs of revising the Neighbourhood Plan were discussed. Our planning consultant, Andrew Thompson had made an initial estimate of £3,000. Council **resolved** to set aside up to £5,000 to cover the costs and to pursue external grant funding in the meantime. The Council **resolved** to cover the costs in full if unsuccessful.

The following payments were approved:

- Cllr Sharman website maintenance - £120
- September locum Clerk cover - £60

138/21 2022/23 Budget and Precept

The accounts and budget forecast were noted. The Council **resolved** to maintain the budget at current levels, subject to setting aside up to £5,000 for the Neighbourhood Plan and up to £3,000 for the Common Land works (both partially covered by a new £3,000 contingency provision). Council noted that the War Memorial work would now likely fall into the next Financial Year and be more expensive than previously anticipated. Council **resolved** not to raise the precept but considering these longer-term plans **resolved** to request £15,000 from Cheshire East for 22/23.

139/21 Neighbourhood Plan Refresh

Cllr Sharman reported on the Working Group's latest meeting which had identified those Neighbourhood Plan policies that have been superseded due to overlap with policies in the latest draft of Cheshire East's Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (a component of the Local Plan). All members were tasked with reviewing the partially overlapping policies for discussion at the next meeting. The Working Group had identified several key issues for the Neighbourhood Plan, including climate change and affordable housing.

Councillors suggested asking parishioners for their input through the Newsletter to get a wider perspective on Parish priorities. The Working Group will meet again on 24 November.

140/21 Caravans at Glebe Farm

The Clerk reported in Cllr Lomas' absence that the application had been provisionally approved subject to some fire safety alterations. The site would be further visited once these had been completed and then the license issued if all was satisfactory. The Council noted this and asked for the matter to be kept on future agendas for any further updates.

141/21 Highways

Cheshire East will do some 'before and after' monitoring of traffic levels once the temporary closure of Walhill Lane takes place (17 January to 11 March). The Clerk had contacted Cheshire East about the current monitoring of traffic as well as the future monitoring. Cheshire East had said they might have some good news soon about footpaths on the A34 so the Clerk will not pursue siding out just yet to see what they propose.

Cllr Banks reported his discussions with Cheshire East on moving the A34 speed restrictions further back from the village. He will pursue and discuss the matter at the next meeting.

Cllr Ward reported that the Garden Centre were happy for a sign to be erected by the entrance, but this would need more investigation as the siting of the telegraph pole there could cause problems. The Clerk will discuss further with Cllr Wardlaw.

The owners of Astbury Garage had confirmed they do try to dissuade people from parking inconsiderately at the front and reducing vehicle visibility and will continue to do so. They already have cones on the corner and do talk to drivers if they know they are badly parked but often they don't know til it's too late. They also try to dissuade those who park in the lane itself which gives access to the back of the residents' houses. Cllr Sutton will contact the usual parties about the Christmas Lights.

Roundabout adoption by the Parish – Cheshire East are not in favour, but the Clerk has been in contact with Congleton Town Council since they have the appropriate insurance to undertake maintenance on roads/highways. The Clerk will approach Sibelco to see if they would be involved or could help. Somerford Parish Council are also looking into adopting new roundabouts on the CLR.

PCSO Carter had been in touch about the possibility of a traffic mirror at Mow Lane, close to Whitehall Farm after they attended a two-vehicle road traffic collision there. The Clerk will await a response from Cheshire East.

The Clerk had contacted our Insurers about the road sign damage on the A34 and the damaged bollard in case a claim was to be made and was waiting for a response.

Councillors discussed the plans from Cheshire East not to undertake gritting in the winter on Chance Hall Lane and Poolside. Councillors noted that this route was dangerous/liable to flooding and accidents occurred even outside the normal gritting seasons. The Clerk will follow up with Cheshire East. Councillors also discussed the Cheshire East tactics of passing on costs that they would normally incur. They can't force this but when they withdraw services it's often left up to Parish Councils to do the work with all the associated costs.

142/21 Report from Cheshire East Council

The Council **Resolved** to suspend the Standing Orders to accept a report from the Ward Councillor Redstone.

Cllr Redstone reported there was a meeting soon of the Cheshire East strategic planning board which would discuss the possibility/plans for new affordable housing. The plan does permit building on open countryside, but the Astbury Neighbourhood Plan would be a defence against any excessive proposals since it is a statutory document which Cheshire East must take account of.

143/21 Forgotten Footpaths

Cllr Jelf reported that she had ordered and paid for the legal copy of the map of the area and should receive it by 25 November.

144/21 Congleton Footpath FP6

Councillors noted that the proposal to divert the existing path could worsen access as it would take the new route through more boggy areas adjacent to the brook. Although technically the path does pass through the property's yard, it has in practice already been diverted to skirt the boundary of the property. The Clerk will investigate whether this existing diversion could be the basis of the new route.

145/21 Email Problems

Cllr Sharman updated the meeting on continuing problems with email addresses. This could be both because of ISP restrictions and phone handset compatibility issues. He will continue to investigate.

146/21 Parish Newsletter

Cllrs were invited to suggest any topics for the next Newsletter. Cllr Jelf has photos of the Tour of Britain going through the Parish which could be used. Councillor P Critchlow suggested that the database of residential addresses in the Parishes needs

to be checked and updated both for the Newsletter distribution and the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk and Cllr Critchlow will liaise on this.

147/21 War Memorial

Cllr P Critchlow said there was nothing further to report, but he suggested we might want to purchase a dozen or so additional poppies to place strategically around the Parish to ensure all areas were appropriately covered. The Council **resolved** to authorise this purchase in readiness for November 2022.

148/21 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr Jelf will go to the next ChALC Code of Conduct course in April, after the revised policy document has been agreed. She reported on the bulb planting which had been done and had been helped very much by Sibelco's efforts. Cllr Jelf also proposed that the Council should purchase a booklet produced by ChALC, on how Councils should ensure they are good employers. The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should purchase two copies.

Cllr Plant reported that fly tipping was getting worse since the closure of the Congleton tip. This included large items such as mattresses but also household rubbish bags and garden waste. Cllrs were encouraged to report these instances online as it would make Cheshire East take note, rather than allowing them to claim there are no instances/complaints. This will be covered in the Newsletter also.

149/21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk requested a meeting with the Personnel Committee that had been established to monitor him, as he still hadn't received a contract of employment or received feedback from the meeting of the Committee.

The Chair thanked members for coming and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on 10 January 2022 at 7.30pm in Astbury Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm