

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor J Critchlow (Chair)
Councillor N Plant (vice Chair)
Councillor P Cliff
Councillor N Barton
Councillor R Sutton
Councillor P Critchlow
Councillor N Sharman
Councillor M Bailey
Councillor J Ward
Councillor A Banks
Councillor B Jelf
Councillor R Lomas
Councillor P Redstone (Cheshire East)
Mr C 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)
Councillor R Lomas (Glebe Farm)

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

One member of the public was present.

Apologies:

- Cllr I Parry (Holiday)
- Cllr L Wardlaw (illness)

1/22 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2021 are a true and accurate record, and the amended minutes of the meeting on 13 October 2021.

2/22 Cheshire East Report

Due to the Ward Councillor having other meetings to attend, the Council agreed to receive Cllr Redstone's report at the start of the meeting.

Ward Cllr Redstone reported that the planning application for Great Moreton Hall had gone to appeal and the Parish Council's original comments still stand. Despite asking for the gritting of Chance Hall Lane and the Brownlow crossroads to be reinstated, CE Highways will not look at this before May for the 22/23 winter schedule. Councillors also noted that drainage there was as much a problem as the lack of gritting - CE Highways should address this also.

Cllr Redstone reminded the meeting that Ward councillors still had a discretionary budget of £4,200 each to spend on highways and infrastructure which could be used for repairing and siding out footpaths etc. and the parish council could consider match-funding. The Council will put some proposals to Ward Councillors.

3/22 Planning Applications

21/5978C - Great Moreton Hall, conversion of three existing buildings into three dwellings within the walled garden. Cllr Redstone asked if the Parish Council wished this new application to be called in. The Council noted that there were no substantive changes proposed to the existing buildings other than modernisation and they retained the same footprint. The Council **resolved** that they had no objection.

21/6349C - Mow Lane, conversion of a farm building to a residential dwelling. The Council noted that although this was formally presented as a simple barn conversion the plan would in fact add gardens and parking to the curtilage of the building, thus encroaching into the green belt. The Council **resolved** to object to the application, and Cllr Sharman would draft a response.

Cllr Sharman presented a spreadsheet to show how the Council's decisions on planning applications had been reflected or not by Cheshire East. As noted before, the Parish Council's decisions were often more permissive than Cheshire East's.

Cllr Redstone left the meeting at 2000hrs.

4/22 Common Land/Sandy Lane

Common Land - Cllr Plant noted that the land had been cleared and the fallen tree removed. He advised Cllrs that due to the late receipt of quotes he had been unable to meet the deadline for making a grant application to the William Dean Trust. The next Trust meeting is in March and the application will be submitted prior to that, based on the quotes received for the works. Cllr Ward said that he had tree trunks ready to provide a barrier from the lane to the Common Land and would just need a few dry days to place them on site. Forrest Stump had provided quotes for the hedge and tree planting, establishing pathways and a regular maintenance plan, and Cllr Cliff had provided an estimate for mixed hedging and saplings.

The Council noted they had resolved in August that Forest Stump was the preferred contractor from among the three quotes received for the initial clearance and longer-term maintenance plan etc. and **resolved** that the request to the William Dean Trust for support would go forward based on Forest Stump's quotes, plus the additional quote for trees/hedging provided by Cllr Cliff.

Cllr Ward indicated that the William Dean Trust could potentially help with the establishment costs such as hedging and trees but would be less keen on any annual maintenance costs. The Council **resolved** to underwrite the full costs of the planned works to the Common Land to enable the work to commence in the dormant winter period. A sum of £4,350 has been earmarked for this.

Sandy Lane - A resident was still reporting instances of vehicles using the lane, but we still don't have evidence with license plate numbers, as required by the police. The Council noted that other bridleways in surrounding Parishes were protected by some form of barriers which would allow people and horses to use them but prevent vehicles. Yet Cheshire East were insisting that no barriers should be erected. Cllrs were urged to circulate photos of other barriers and the Council **resolved** to approach Cheshire East again to see if they could be persuaded to change their mind.

5/22 Accounts

The following payments were approved, reimbursing Somerford PC for shared costs:

- Clerk's SLCC membership - £89
- Printer paper for Clerk - £11.46

The Council noted that a further £60 should be paid to TCS Management for its ongoing payroll management, which is an unavoidable cost and so will not need repeated Council approvals each quarter.

The Council also **resolved** to approve two invoices for £200 and £125 to be paid to Mr Andrew Thomson (planning consultant) for work on the revised Neighbourhood Plan; and £32.87 to Cllr Jelf for the purchase of legal maps for the forgotten footpath. These relate to the previously agreed budgets for these activities.

6/22 NALC 'Points of Light'

Cllr Sharman shared information on how other Parishes were taking innovative approaches to funding community projects or supporting community activities, highlighted in a recent publication from NALC, and encouraged Cllrs to consider whether there are any examples of activities that Astbury would be interested in supporting too. Cllr Barton will approach the Village Hall Committee to see if there would be interest in installing an electric vehicle charging point at the Village Hall.

7/22 Neighbourhood Plan refresh

Cllr Sharman reported on the latest meeting of the Working Group and noted the next meeting would be on 18 January. The Group had discussed how there was overlap with the

Local Plan and how the Cheshire East Site Allocation and Development Policies Document had superseded some aspects of the NP, and how the NP should be revised to make sure it complemented not duplicated these other documents. It was not yet clear whether the changes would be so significant that a new draft would have to be put to referendum, but it would be important to seek the views of the community on the draft. The next meeting is to be held in person to look at ways of engaging with Parishioners.

8/22 Newsletter

Cllr P Critchlow noted that the next edition would be issued in February and encouraged Cllrs to propose any items for inclusion. It would invite views on the Neighbourhood Plan and advertise the Annual Parish meeting in April.

9/22 War memorial

Cllr P Critchlow informed the meeting that he was waiting for scale drawings of the additional stone slabs and would continue his research into missing soldiers' names.

10/22 Caravans and Railway at Glebe Farm

Cllr Lomas informed the meeting that the caravan site had been given provisional approval and would be given certification once he had made the changes suggested by the Freedom Camping and Caravan Club. Cllr Lomas also informed the meeting that he had withdrawn his planning application for a miniature railway but that further plans would come shortly.

11/22 Highways

Cllr Jelf reported that the closure sign on Walhill Lane is incorrect and that Sibelco had written to say that the closure would commence on 17 January for a period of up to 10 weeks. There were still problems with HGVs using the lane – the Clerk will get in touch with the PCSO about it.

The Clerk reported that Cheshire East had indicated that there would be some siding out along a stretch of the A34 and he will press them again for further details so that there is no unnecessary duplication. We could potentially seek support through the Ward Councillors' discretionary funding.

The Clerk is seeking quotes to replace the damaged boundary sign and liaising with the insurers. Likewise for the damaged bollard at the Village Green.

Cheshire East had confirmed that they would not consider the Parish adopting the roundabout on the CLR but would consider sponsorship. The Clerk is investigating the costs for this and will also resubmit the planting design provided by Cllr Jelf. Cllr Sutton offered to liaise with Sibelco to see if they would be interested in sponsorship.

Cllr Bailey reported multiple instances of vehicles parking on the chevrons at the pinch-point on Walhill Lane. The Clerk will contact the PCSO about this.

12/22 Forgotten Footpaths

Cllr Jelf reported that she now had the legal copy of the footpath map from 1909. It would be important to get personal testimonies from at least 10 people who had used the footpath before applying for a Map Modification Order. Testimonies will be sought through the next Newsletter. The Clerk will pursue this with help from Cllr Jelf.

13/22 Email and Web Hosting Problems

Cllr Sharman informed the meeting about ongoing web hosting problems and a decline in the level of service. The Council **resolved** that he should investigate switching providers and authorised him to spend around £400 which would cover the costs of a 4-year contract, and noted that the switchover might lead to a short interruption of service to emails etc.

14/22 – Memorial Bench

The Council discussed the memorial bench that had been erected by the entrance to the new Churchyard and which had resulted in some enquiries about erection of further such benches/tributes in the future. Because the actions concerning the bench had been taken by Congleton Town Council without reference to Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council, who took no action in respect of the implementation of those actions, the Council **resolved** unanimously to take no further action.

15/22 Chairman and Members' Report

Cllr Cliff reported that there had been a crash on the A34 by Peck's – another stretch of road that had not been gritted.

Cllr Lomas reported the drain that been covered by tarmac at the entrance to School Lane and which was now causing flooding there – the Clerk will investigate with CE Highways.

Councillors also reported the very poor road surface and potholes at Watery Lane – the Clerk will contact Cheshire East.

Cllr Sutton suggested a note of thanks in the Newsletter for the Christmas lights, and all concerned with the festivities and decorations. Councillors stated that the lights had looked spectacular.

Cllr P Critchlow invited suggestions for the Annual Parish meeting, which could include a speaker from Congleton Museum or other speakers, using the quiz which Cllr Parry had prepared for last year's meeting, some cheese and wine etc. Cllr Critchlow could then advertise this in the Newsletter. The Clerk will contact the museum.

16/22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the Council's Foundation Level accreditation was due for renewal and that the Council will need to reapply for it.

The Clerk reported on the meeting of the Personnel Committee which had proposed that the Clerk could undertake relevant training needed to support his development, up to £150, without having to seek approval for individual invoices within this limit. The Council **resolved**

that they would fund training for the Clerk up to £150 per year without the need for the Clerk to obtain further individual prior approvals.

Part 2

[REDACTED]

Meeting closed at 2140hrs