

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor N Plant (vice Chair)
Councillor N Barton
Councillor R Sutton
Councillor N Sharman
Councillor J Ward
Councillor Ian Parry
Councillor B Jelf
Councillor L Wardlaw (Cheshire East, arrived 8pm)
Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

Councillor B Jelf (Walhill Lane)
Councillor R Sutton (Walhill Lane)

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

No members of the press or public were present.

Apologies:

- Councillor A Banks (travel)
- Councillor J Critchlow (ill health)
- Councillor P Critchlow (ill health)
- Councillor Rob Lomas (conflicting appointment)
- Councillor P Cliff (travel)
- Councillor M Bailey (conflicting obligations)

35/22 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 09 February 2022 and the minutes of the meeting on 12 January 2022 (as amended) are a true and accurate record.

36/22 Common Land/Sandy Lane

Cllr Ward reported that the parish application to the William Dean Trust had been successful. The WDT will grant Astbury Council the sum of £2,000, and invited the Council to reapply

next year for any additional set-up costs (not regular maintenance). The Council thanked Cllr Ward and asked him to pass on their sincere thanks to the other trustees also.

Cllr Jelf reported that Forest Stump had completed the planting of hedge whips and six trees on site, with a few whips left over.

The Clerk reported that Forest Stump was keen to start the proposed path through the Common Land in April and Cllr Jelf will meet him on site when does so. The Clerk is still discussing how to restrict vehicular access with the Cheshire East PROW team. The log chicane across the Lane has been moved so that the logs no longer restrict access.

37/22 Accounts

The Council noted the balance of accounts: £16,507.46

The Council **resolved** to approve the following payments:

- £458.10 – AP Matthews Nurseries
- £188.82 – AP Matthews Nurseries
- £58.50 – Cllr P Critchlow for Notice Board maintenance
- £321.47 – Crewe Colour Printers: Newsletter
- £1,440.00 - Forest Stump

38/22 Neighbourhood Plan Refresh

Cllr Sharman reported that the working group had met on 23 February to prepare the document further and will meet again soon. The application for financial support was in train and would be completed shortly. A meeting with parishioners is planned for Saturday 9 April from 9am to 2pm at the Village Hall and will be advertised in the Newsletter.

39/22 Newsletter

No report in the absence of Cllr P Critchlow.

40/22 War Memorial

No report in the absence of Cllr P Critchlow.

41/22 Caravans and Railway at Glebe Farm

The Clerk had been informed by Cllr Lomas that there was some clearing up after recent rains to be done and work to develop the miniature railway was in train.

42/22 Highways

Walhill Lane closure – due to be reopened at the end of the week. A Cheshire East traffic survey had been completed (before and during closure) and had found that traffic and speeds had increased almost everywhere else, except Brownlow Heath Lane. The Clerk and Cllr Wardlaw were seeking information on a post-closure survey. **A34 footpaths** – no concrete progress with Cheshire East on further plans for siding out. **Damaged boundary sign** – the Clerk has been in touch with the original suppliers of the sign. Their price for a replacement would be just under £140.00. This does not include installation, so the Clerk will

investigate these costs. The Council **resolved** to purchase the sign. **Roundabout adoption on the CLR** – the Clerk was exploring whether all of the roundabouts on the CLR could be decorated/planted with a single theme to do with the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Sibelco had expressed an interest in sponsorship too. The Clerk will pursue with Congleton TC. **Ward Councillor discretionary budget** – a proposal from Odd Road has been put forward. **Accident Blackspot at Village Green** – proposals had been put forward previously by the parish and the Clerk has been told that the matter has been passed to the road safety team.

43/22 Emails/Web Hosting

Cllr Sharman reported that there seemed to be no problems but one Councillor still needs to verify a forwarding arrangement.

44/22 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

The Council discussed the possibility of purchasing gazebos for May Day, Jubilee and other celebrations instead of hiring them annually. The Council **resolved** not to purchase any gazebos on cost effectiveness grounds and possible storage challenges but could make a donation on application. Council noted there is also a Jubilee fund from CE which could provide £120 per grant.

Cllr Jelf reported the School is planning to purchase commemorative coins for each child at a cost of £290. The Council **resolved** to allocate this sum for a donation subject to application.

Cllr Sutton informed the meeting of plans for National Flying Club pigeon races in honour of the Jubilee which would be widely advertised on their website and in the press. The Queen is patron of the Club. When there are dates the parish could put a piece in the Newsletter.

Commemorative mugs - the Council **resolved** not to purchase mugs as the cost was prohibitive.

The Clerk reported that he had been approached by a resident at Ackers Crossing proposing that the Council could plant a **commemorative tree on the green**, possibly with a bench as at Astbury village green. The Council **resolved** to canvass views of local residents to see if there was widespread local support and discuss it at the next meeting.

Cllr Barton had been approached about a possible **party on the green** – the Council has no objection.

45/22 NALC ‘Points of Light’

Cllr Barton will report at the next meeting after the Village Hall has met to discuss the idea of an electric vehicle charging point in the car park.

46/22 Annual Parishes Meeting

Ian Doughty has confirmed attendance and will speak. Andrew Thomson will attend to discuss the benefits of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Barton will purchase refreshments for the meeting. The Council resolved to hold a short Council meeting immediately before the parish meeting in case there was any business to discuss.

47/22 Cheshire East Report

Cllr Wardlaw reported on the Great Moreton Hall planning appeal for new houses on New Road and refurbishment of the garden plus an additional appeal on the conversion of existing buildings. Cllr Redstone will attend the planning meeting. The speed management strategy consultation has been concluded and responses are being collated. The CGR process is nearing completion and further meetings of Cheshire East are planned for April before a full council meeting on 27 April. Implications for Astbury may be limited to a reduction in Councillor numbers. The constituency boundary review shouldn't affect Astbury.

48/22 Policies to Review

The Clerk introduced the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. No amendments are proposed at this stage. The Council **resolved** to adopt them as they stand.

49/22 Chairman and Members' Report

Cllr Jelf noted the ChALC double taxation survey. The Clerk will respond for the Council. Cllr Parry reported more instances of fly-tipping and Cllr Ward noted the continuing problems on Watery Lane. Cllr Sharman updated the council on how planning applications were progressing. Cllr Jelf noted that the trees on the bunt on Walhill Lane had been removed. The Clerk will ask for this to be on the agenda for the next meeting with Sibelco. A complaint had been received about building at Puddlebank Lane and a possible application for an agricultural building at the site. Cllr Parry reported a complaint about heavy waggons visiting a site on Lambert Lane but this was not a matter for the Council and the lorries were entitled to access the site. There had been fly tipping on the Flash and at Chance Hall Lane. The Newsletter will remind parishioners that they should report fly tipping direct on the Cheshire East website as they will be dealt with more quickly that way.

50/22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk mentioned the donations for Ukraine which are being collected at Glebe Farm. Cllrs are invited to the centenary celebrations at the Golf Club and the Clerk can collate any responses.

Part 2 – Clerk's Performance Management and Salary

[REDACTED]

Meeting closed at 2130hrs