

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 08 June 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor J Critchlow (Chair)
Councillor N Plant (vice Chair)
Councillor N Barton
Councillor R Sutton
Councillor N Sharman
Councillor J Ward
Councillor Ian Parry
Councillor B Jelf
Councillor P Critchlow
Councillor A Banks
Councillor L Wardlaw (Cheshire East)
Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

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

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

Several members of the public were present. As at previous meetings, one parishioner complained about a perceived failure of the Parish Council to seek the closure of Wallhill Lane because of the increase, as he saw it, in traffic on the Lane. He claimed that Cheshire East had promised a 12-month closure of the Lane if traffic increased substantially, and he argued that there was indeed a significant increase in traffic. The Chair informed the meeting that Cheshire East were planning a post-closure traffic survey, and the Council would discuss the matter again when this data is available.

Several members of the public voiced their opinions on the Glebe Farm planning application and were concerned that the site had become a 'leisure park'. Granting the current planning application would, they felt, increase the noise and other inconveniences for neighbours, including increased traffic. Other neighbours felt that current noise levels were not at all intrusive.

Apologies:

- Councillor R Lomas (travel)
- Councillor M Bailey (holiday)
- Councillor P Cliff (work commitments)

76/22 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2022 are a true and accurate record.

77/22 Planning Application - 22/1550C proposed siting of a miniature railway at Glebe Farm

Some councillors echoed concerns raised by members of the public at how close the proposed route of the railway was to neighbouring gardens. The site is a conservation area and there are restrictions as to what can be done, including as a result of the provisions in the Astbury Neighbourhood Plan. Some felt the proposed screening may not be adequate and so there was still the risk of additional noise, fumes and general nuisance as well as obscuring open views. However Councillors also sought to balance these concerns with the desire to encourage economic activity in the area.

The Council discussed several alternatives and an amendment was proposed to give conditional approval, subject to conditions such as re-routing the track away from neighbours' fences, adding additional screening and clearing the overflow car park which some felt had become a dumping ground. Cheshire East Planning would then need to accept or reject this proposal. In a vote this motion was defeated. The Council therefore took a vote on the original planning application. The result was 3 in favour of the proposal, 4 against the proposal, and there were 2 abstentions. The Chair did not vote. Therefore the Council **resolved** to oppose the planning application.

On other planning matters, Cllr Sharman reported that a previous application had been withdrawn while the siting of telecoms towers near Ackers Crossing had been refused.

Cllr Ward referred to the conversion of an agricultural building at Ganny Bank which doesn't look like it has planning permission. Cllr Sharman will investigate further.

78/22 Accounts

The Council noted the balance of accounts: **£18,649.61**

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

- £146.60 – Andrew Thomson (Neighbourhood Plan)

The Council noted the following payments:

- £300.00 Zurich Insurance
- £1,030 Forest Stump (footpath installation)
- £480.00 Forest Stump (brush clearance)

79/22 Annual Internal Audit Report

The Council **resolved** to receive and note the Internal Audit. The Clerk noted the comment made by the Internal Auditor in terms of seeking assurances from TCS Management about their management of the Astbury payroll.

80/22 Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022

The Council considered and **resolved** to approve the Annual Governance Statement, Section 1, and the Clerk and Chair duly signed it.

81/22 Accounting Statements

The Council considered and **resolved** to approve the Annual Accounting Statement and the Clerk and Chair duly signed it.

82/22 Certificate of Exemption

The Council considered and **resolved** to approve the AGAR Certificate of Exemption and the Clerk and Chair duly signed it.

83/22 Bank Reconciliation

The Council considered and **resolved** to approve the annual Bank Reconciliation and the Clerk and Chairman duly signed it.

84/22 Explanation of variances

The Council considered and **resolved** to approve the annual Explanation of Variances and the Clerk and Chairman duly signed it.

85/22 Notification of the Exercise of Public Rights

The notification will be published on 27 June and end on 5 August.

86/22 Cheshire East Report

Cllr Wardlaw reported that the Great Moreton Hall planning application outcome is still awaited. She welcomed the upgrade of the junction of the Brownlow Crossroads which is a big improvement. The A34 road safety survey by Cheshire East is not complete yet. The winter gritting consultation has been closed but Cllr Wardlaw has raised objections because of the withdrawal of some services in the parish.

87/22 Neighbourhood Plan Refresh

Cllr Sharman reported that the grant application had been successful and we should receive funding of £6,642.00. Because of timing of the grant application this doesn't cover costs incurred in the last financial year, 21/22. Andrew Thomson has applied for support with a Design Code outsourced to a design company called AECOM. Cllrs said they wanted to be involved in decisions on the Design Code. AECOM will deliver a draft to the NP Steering Group who will then discuss with the Parish Council. An initial draft of a questionnaire for parishioners has been drawn up to seek views on the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

88/22 Highways

Cllrs reported that the blocked drains at Watery Lane have been dealt with.

89/22 Common Land

Cllr Jelf noted that everything was growing well at the site but no further activity such as a planting scheme was anticipated before the Autumn, when wildflower and native daffodils would be considered.

90/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Council noted the Jubilee celebrations at the village.

91/22 NALC 'Points of Light'

Cllr Barton noted that the Village Hall had not met again since the last Parish Council meeting to discuss a possible electric vehicle charging point.

92/22 War Memorial

Cllr P Critchlow reported that research into additional names for the memorial was ongoing.

93/22 Chairman and Members' Report

Cllr Sharman reported that Congleton Town Council had asked if they could send copies of their regular newsletter to parishioners alongside the Astbury parish newsletter. The Council were receptive to the suggestion that Congleton Town Council could make copies of their newsletter available to our parishioners but did not want to be involved in active distribution that would entail any costs. Cllr P Critchlow referred to the paths along the A34 which need siding out or weeding again. The Clerk will look into the costs of doing so.

94/22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had renewed the dispensation for Cllr Jelf to participate in discussions about Walhill lane. There had been another accident at the junction of the A34 and Peel Lane. The Clerk will circulate a proposal about simplifying our Financial Regulations which are much more prescriptive than the NALC model Regulations.

The Meeting closed at 2200 hrs