

# Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 10 August 2022 at 7.30pm

## Present

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Councillor J Critchlow (Chair)  
Councillor N Plant (vice Chair)  
Councillor N Barton  
Councillor R Sutton  
Councillor N Sharman  
Councillor J Ward  
Councillor P Cliff  
Councillor M Bailey  
Councillor B Jelf  
Councillor P Critchlow  
Councillor L Wardlaw (Cheshire East)  
Mr C Evans (Clerk)

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## Declarations of Interest

Councillor B Jelf (Walhill Lane)  
Councillor R Sutton (Walhill Lane)  
Councillor P Cliff (Brookfield Stables)  
Councillor M Bailey (Brookfield Stables)

## Part 1

### Public and Press Forum

No members of the public were present.

### Apologies:

- Councillor R Lomas (travel)
- Councillor I Parry (travel)
- Councillor A Banks (travel)

### 106/22 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the revised minutes of the meetings held on 08 June 2022 and 13 July 2022 are a true and accurate record.

## 107/22 Accounts

The Council **noted** the balance of accounts to end July:

- **£17,274.63 (bank account)**
- **£6,642.00 (Neighbourhood Plan grant)**

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

- £136.80 – Clerk for Defib Battery

The Council **noted** the following payments:

- £64.00 – Locum Clerk fee
- £375.64 – Clerk July Salary
- £279.10 – Primary School for Jubilee Coins

## 108/22 Planning Applications

**22/2558C** – Advertisement consent for replacement Church noticeboard, St Mary's Church, Astbury. The Council **resolved** to raise no objection

**22/2480C** - Certificate of existing lawful use for residential use at BROOK LANE, BROWNLOW, CW12 4TJ

At this stage Cheshire East will consider whether to request a full planning application. The Council said that it did indeed wish to see a formal application.

**22/2175C** - Proposed new 3-bedroom dwelling house and associated carport to replace the existing stables and garage structures at Greenways Cottage, SANDBACH ROAD, WALL HILL, Congleton, CW12 4TE. The Council noted that at their previous meeting no Design Access Statement had been available. Now that it has been made available the Council **resolved** that it had no objection to this application.

The Council expressed some disappointment at the planning permission for three new houses that had been granted at Great Moreton Hall despite their concerns. Cllr Sharman reported that despite this it looked as if Cheshire East was prioritising non-sensitive applications but deferring others on listed buildings etc.

## 109/22 Planning Training

At the previous meeting Councillors had expressed an interest in having some 'refresher' training on planning. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to David Kaiserman who provides training for ChALC and other local Associations, and he would be happy to run a two-hour session at a time to be agreed. The Clerk will investigate suitable dates and costs. Cllr Jelf noted the Code of Conduct training that she will attend in November, and Cllr Bailey will go on a New Councillor course in October.

## 110/22 Cheshire East Report

Cllr Wardlaw reported on the refreshed advisory service, called Voiceability, to help people negotiate their way through requests for social, healthcare or financial support etc. The

Cheshire East contact is Kelly Bighthouse. There is another Cheshire East crowdfunding facility to support community projects up to £10,000 and applications are being invited. No news from Cheshire East Highways on further speed restrictions through the village.

### **111/22 Neighbourhood Plan Refresh**

Cllr Sharman reported that there were no financial implications for the Parish from the development of a Design Code, as the costs were borne by the company 'Locality' and the Neighbourhood Plan team had met AECOM to discuss further. AECOM are considering not just the built environment but walking routes, cycling, agriculture activity etc. The revised parish consultation questionnaire had been mocked up and a draft 'vision' and 'aims' set out for the Neighbourhood Plan. The intention is to send one hard copy to each household and make an online response available. A further discussion will be scheduled for the Council meeting in October and meanwhile Cllr Sharman will recirculate the full costed budget for the whole project.

Cllr Sharman proposed that we should try a subscription to Parish Online, a digital mapping tool that would give much more detail on the electoral base and addresses in the parish to support accurate mailing lists etc., as well as allow us to add layers and show various things of importance, such as assets like the Common Land, benches and so on. The Council **resolved** to start a free trial subscription and consider a full subscription later at a cost of some £90 per annum. It will be discussed again in September.

### **112/22 Highways**

There was still no news about the planned traffic survey on Wallhill Lane and the Clerk will follow this up with Cheshire East Highways. The Clerk will also chase a repair to a pothole by the pinch point on Wallhill Lane.

### **113/22 A34 Siding Out**

Cllr Wardlaw reported that some money may be available from Cheshire East for siding out between the Garden Centre and the Parish boundary. Cllr Ward reported overhanging branches and hedges on the A34 from the Garden Centre along the Moreton Level which are making it difficult for cyclists and others to use the footpath safely.

### **114/22 Common Land**

Cllr Jelf reported that there is a flush of nettles alongside the flowers, and the Common Land Working Group will visit the site and consider how much to clear and which seeds would be most suitable for sowing in the Autumn, in particular to encourage wildlife. The Council agreed that the clearance and sowing would be done in sections rather than trying to clear everything at once.

### **115/22 War Memorial**

Cllr P Critchlow reported that research into additional names for the memorial was ongoing and Bill Ball had approved the addition of four more names, meaning that 13 of the 49 proposed names are now approved.

### **116/22 Tree and Bench at Ackers Crossing**

The Council suggested purchasing a smaller tree (7'-9') than originally thought as it would stand more chance of getting established and was more likely to grow well and 'catch up' quickly. The plan is still to purchase a circular bench in the future once it is more mature. The tree should be available in November and the Clerk will investigate options for planting and possibly an event to mark the occasion.

### **117/22 Budget use for Financial Year 22/23**

Chairman Critchlow was keen to make sure we had sufficient projects in train to make sure we were utilising parishioners' money well. Suggestions included additional boundary signs, additional flower planters near the boundaries or seeing if more sites were suitable for new Cheshire Railings. Improving the few bus stops in the parish to make them more usable and safer was also discussed, though Councillor Wardlaw cautioned that Cheshire East seemed to be blowing cold on using Councillors' discretionary budgets for this purpose. Previous ideas for planting up the roundabout on the Congleton Link Road were discussed, though Congleton Town Council had not so far been very helpful in actively taking this forward. The plan for moving and adding to the War Memorial were still on the table but we would need more accurate costings if money were to be set aside for this. Cllr P Critchlow will try to make progress on this.

### **118/22 Plans for seasonal Daffodil Planting**

Cllr P Critchlow suggested planting additional daffodil bulbs at various places as some areas need filling out. £150 is already set aside in the budget for the purchase of bulbs, and Councillors fixed Saturday 29 October to plant them.

### **119/22 Chairman and Members' Report**

Cllr Plant said he had received the replacement boundary sign for the A34, Cllr Barton will investigate whether this could be easily erected. Cllr Bailey mentioned a dog which kept running loose onto the road at Wallhill Lane. The Clerk will follow up if it happens frequently.

Cllr Sharman said the battery for the parish laptop was failing, and the Council **resolved** that he should purchase a replacement (only some £30 or so).

### **120/22 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk confirmed that revised Financial Regulations would be scheduled for discussion in September. The Clerk also mentioned a planning application just in from Cheshire East for signs on the CLR roundabout that could be sold/rented for advertising. The Council expressed concern over road safety as they would likely provide a distraction for drivers. Cllr Parry had emailed about the parish donation for rental of gazebos at the May Day celebrations which would be discussed at the next meeting.

### **The Meeting closed at 2145 hrs**