

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor J Critchlow (Chair)

Councillor N Barton

Councillor B Jelf

Councillor R Sutton

Councillor N Sharman

Councillor P Critchlow

Councillor R Lomas

Councillor J Ward

Councillor A Banks

Councillor M Bailey

Councillor L Wardlaw (Cheshire East) (arrived 8.10 pm)

Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jelf (Wallhill Lane)

Cllr Sutton (Wallhill/Sibelco)

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

One member of the public was present to discuss traffic on Wallhill Lane. Chairman J Critchlow said that the situation was the same as at the last meeting – the Clerk had approached CE Highways and was awaiting a substantive response.

Apologies:

- Councillor P Cliff (conflicting appointment)
- Councillor I Parry (travel commitments)
- Councillor N Plant (travel commitments)

14/23 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023 are a true and accurate record, subject to 2 minor corrections. It was a local businessman,

not a parishioner, who had offered to provide defibrillators; and additional names for the War Memorial had been sent to the Astbury Church Warden, not the Diocese.

15/23 Accounts

The Council noted the Bank balance as of 01 February 2023:

Account: **£19,777.76**

Of which: **£5,602.30** - Unspent Neighbourhood Plan Grant

The Council **noted** the following receipts since 1 January 2023:

- £nil

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

- £13.19 – domain name renewal fee

The Council **noted** the following payments:

- £65.29 – Clerk pension
- £35.00 – ICO annual fee
- £500.00 – May Day Committee donation
- £121.60 – A Thomson Neighbourhood Plan
- £415.63 – Clerk Salary

16/23 Planning Applications

None received.

17/23 Parish Newsletter

The next Newsletter is ready to go and will include dates for future meetings. The March edition will have a financial report and the Chairman's report, plus information about the forthcoming Councillor elections.

18/23 Preparations for the Annual meeting of the Parishes

The meeting must take place between 1 March 1 June. The Council **resolved** to hold it on 12 April after a regular meeting of the Parish Council. The regular meeting will start at 6.30pm and the Annual Parishes meeting at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be offered, Cllr Barton will check with the Village Hall that they are happy for him to provide wine, and the Clerk will provide cheese and biscuits, fruit juice etc. Cllr P Critchlow suggested a speaker (Harold Gilman) to talk about the stretch of the Macclesfield Canal that crosses the Parish.

19/23 Dates for future meetings

The Council **resolved** to hold the Annual Parish Council meeting on 10 May. Future meetings for the rest of the year will be held on the second Wednesday of each month as now, except for December. Cheshire East are offering briefing sessions to explain what needs to happen for the forthcoming elections where all councillors will need to step down and stand for re-election (if they want to). Cllr Jelf will attend one of these, the Clerk will attend a Clerk-specific briefing session.

20/23 Neighbourhood Plan Refresh

Cllr Sharman reported on the responses to the questionnaire which had been a little disappointing in terms of numbers but largely supportive of the direction the draft was taking. Traffic and fly-tipping were frequently raised and questions were also raised about how the NP could be framed to support local businesses. The text will seek to address these issues, though the Council noted that fly-tipping was already a criminal offence.

21/23 Highways

Councillors discussed the flooding on Mow Lane and the numerous potholes and poor road surface. Some remedial work had been done to tackle the flooding but not completed. The Clerk urged Councillors to ask parishioners to report any issues such as potholes on the Fix My Street portal to make CE Highways aware. He also highlighted that it is possible to make a claim against CE and seek compensation if they have been negligent in tackling known issues. Information on this will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

22/23 Common Land

Cllr Jelf said there was not much to report. More seeds are ready to sow in the Spring, and the nettles will be monitored to make sure they don't take over again.

23/23 War Memorial

Cllr P Critchlow reported that another three names had been approved in addition to the five he reported on last time, and three more are ready to be sent to the Warden at Astbury Church. Cllr Critchlow will discuss the design of the Memorial with John Carter.

24/23 Cheshire East

Cllr Wardlaw reported that Sibelco are monitoring the water run-off at Holford Farm. Any concerns should be raised with David Walton or Karen Jinks at Sibelco. Councillors discussed whether there were sufficient salt/grit bins in the parishes – these can be ordered/topped up using Fix My Street.

25/23 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr Wardlaw and Cllr Ward will look into the overgrown hedge between the Village Hall towards the school forcing people off the pavement and other hedges nearby that need attention. Cllr Wardlaw will also contact CE Highways about the grid near Glebe Farm which had been covered with tarmac.

Councillor P Critchlow suggested purchasing a bench to commemorate the King's coronation at Ackers Crossing and approaching Astbury Garden Centre to sponsor/maintain a planter by the double boundary sign on the A34. The Clerk will ask the residents at Ackers Crossing and look into costs of installation; and Cllr Ward will ask the Garden Centre. Cllrs noted the severe financial pressure that CE Highways are under which will likely mean deep cuts to the repairs budget - indeed all budgets are under intense scrutiny.

26/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on his discussions with the Head Teacher at Astbury School. He had invited her to the next Parish Council meeting so we could discuss how to maintain our engagement with the school. Councillors noted that an Ofsted inspection of the school was long overdue. The Clerk updated the meeting on the defibrillator and phone box at Ackers crossing. He was awaiting a response from the Insurers but this could be a lengthy and costly job. The kiosk will likely need professional cleaning and some repairs, there will need to be a new electricity supply from the nearby H-pole, a new breaker in a GRP box and then the defibrillator will need to be purchased and connected.

The Personnel Committee has met to discuss the Clerk's performance and the Chair and vice-Chair will fix a date for the Clerk's annual appraisal.

The Meeting closed at 2050 hrs