

Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 12 April at 6.30 pm

Present

Councillor N Plant (vice-Chair)
Councillor N Barton
Councillor Ian Parry
Councillor B Jelf
Councillor R Sutton
Councillor N Sharman
Councillor J Ward
Councillor M Bailey
Councillor P Cliff (arrived 7.10pm)
Councillor A Banks
Councillor R Lomas
Councillor P Critchlow
Ward Councillor L Wardlaw (arrived 6.50pm)
Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jelf (Wallhill Lane)
Cllr Sutton (Wallhill Lane/Sibelco)
Cllr Sharman (Planning Application 23/0942C)
Cllr P Critchlow (expense claim)

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

No members of the public intervened.

Apologies:

Cllr P Cliff arriving late.

44/23 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 are a true and accurate record.

45/23 Accounts

See Annex 1.

46/23 Planning Applications

23/0942C - Listed Building Consent for replacement of rotten sash rear windows with double glazed units - SYCAMORE HOUSE, THE VILLAGE, ASTBURY, CW12 4RQ

The Council **resolved** that it had no objection.

23/1199C - Demolition of existing commercial stable buildings and construction of new bungalow and stable block (resubmission of application reference 22/3834C) - The Holding, WATERY LANE, ASTBURY, CW12 3NP

The Council discussed the application and were minded to object to it. However, since it had been received after the agenda had been published a decision will be held over until the next Council meeting in May.

47/23 Coronation Bench

The Clerk reported that the total costs for purchase and installation of a bench at Ackers Crossing would be in the region of £1,000 – for the bench, wood treatment, laying a concrete pad and fixing the bench to the pad etc. Having looked at several alternatives the Council **resolved** to approve this amount and the Clerk will source the bench from Cyan Teak Furniture and arrange installation.

48/23 Neighbourhood Plan Refresh and AECOM Design Code

Cllr Sharman reminded the meeting that the purpose of the Design Code was to inform any revision to the current Neighbourhood Plan. The revised NP would then be sent to the statutory consultees and resubmitted to Cheshire East who will decide whether it is satisfactory as it stands or whether it needs to be scrutinised further by an inspector. The drafting group feels that the changes are not significant enough to constitute material differences and will therefore not have to be put to a referendum. The Council welcomed the document and thanked Cllr Sharman who offered to continue working on this, notwithstanding his decision not to seek re-election onto the parish council.

49/23 Cheshire East

Cllr Wardlaw reported that flooding events are becoming more frequent and are happening across the Parishes (and beyond). Covid Spring boosters are now available for the over 75s, those in care homes and those who are immune suppressed. She reported that Cheshire East had set aside £4.4m to support those suffering financial hardship, domestic abuse, and needing social care etc. Cheshire East will be upgrading the network of EV charging points – though not in Congleton.

50/23 Succession Planning

Councillors discussed how to continue with the various activities currently being taken forward by the three Councillors who are not standing for election. The most pressing was the website and email management that Cllr Sharman currently looks after. After considering various aspects of this the Council **resolved** to explore whether Parish Online could provide

an appropriate service. Cllrs Sharman, Parry and the Clerk will look into this further as well as what the cost would be to leave our current website hosting contract.

Cllrs Sutton and Ward said they would continue to take a keen interest in Parish Council affairs and support community activities such as the Christmas lights and through partnerships with the William Dean Trust.

The Council resolved to return to the matter of succession planning at a later date.

51/23 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr Parry reported on recent discussions with Cheshire East on possible additional traffic calming measures on Wallhill Lane. Given the numerous discussions and potential solutions the Council **resolved** to create a working group to collate the relevant information that the Council could consider at a future meeting. The Group will consist of Cllrs Plant, Parry and Cliff, supported by the Clerk.

Cllr Jelf reported that a planned liaison group meeting with Sibelco had been postponed. She informed the Council that she would like to attend two ChALC courses on Rules and Procedures and the new Cheshire East Code of Conduct. The Council **resolved** to support these training opportunities. Cllr Jelf is continuing to liaise with the head teacher at Astbury School on how the Common Land might be used as a resource, e.g. through the school's Explorer Group.

The Clerk reported that Forest Stump had been in touch about works at the Common Land. The cost would be £580 plus VAT per day to include all spraying, strimming and pruning, as well as providing wood chip for the paths at £90 per cubic meter. The Council **resolved** to go ahead on that basis.

Cllr Barton reported that the nettles at the Common Land are beginning to take over again, and the Clerk will try to pin down Forest Stump to tackle the area soon.

52/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that his appraisal would take place on 14 April. In terms of his training and the requirements to study for the CiLCA qualification, it isn't clear whether, having completed the ILCA qualification, three other intermediary courses are mandatory or indeed helpful before applying for CiLCA. He will look into this further, including their costs. Matters such as the Clerk's overtime (for training) and contracted hours will be discussed during his appraisal. He urged Councillors to update their training logs.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Annex 1

Bank Balance as of 04 April 2023:

Account: **£16,446.29**

Of which: **£5,443.87** - Unspent Neighbourhood Plan grant

Received since 1 March 2023:

- Nil

The following Payments were approved:

- £36.83 – Sandra Boynton purchase of stationery for Neighbourhood Plan consultation
- £121.60 – Andrew Thomson Neighbourhood Plan drafting
- £120.00 – Cllr N Sharman, website maintenance
- £215.71 – ChALC affiliation fee

The following payments since 1 March were noted:

- £35.90 – NEST, Clerk's Pension
- £455.76 – February Newsletter
- £63.50 – Cllr P Critchlow Expenses
- £480.00 – Defibrillator Unit
- £960.00 – Two Defibrillator Units
- £455.76 – March Newsletter
- £415.83 – Clerk's Salary

X

Chairman