



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 10 May 2023

Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor N Plant
- Councillor N Barton
- Councillor I Parry
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor M Bailey
- Councillor P Cliff
- Councillor R Lomas (left at 2040 hrs)
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Ward Councillor L Wardlaw
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

- Cllr B Jelf (Wallhill Lane)
- Cllr N Plant (planning application 23/1355C)

53/23 - Election of Chairman for 23/24

Cllr J Critchlow was elected as Council Chairman for 23/24

54/23 – Election of the vice-Chairman for 23/24

Cllr N Plant was elected as vice-Chairman for 23/24

55/23 - Declarations of acceptance of Office

All Councillors present completed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office. The Council **resolved** that Cllr A Banks could sign his Declaration at or before the next meeting.

56/23 – Registers of Members' Interests

Councillors were urged to complete and return their registers of interests to the Cheshire East Monitoring Officer as soon as possible.

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

Several members of the public were present. The applicants for Planning Applications 23/1199C and 23/1355C gave further details of the plans to help the Council in its deliberations. Another asked questions about possible traffic measures on Wallhill Lane. Both items were on the agenda and so are recorded in more detail later.

Apologies:

- Cllr A Banks (work commitments)

57/23 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2023 are a true and accurate record.

58/23 Accounts

See Annex 1

59/23 Planning Applications

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 noted that it had objected when the previous application was presented. The Council **resolved** not to object to this current application though it still has concerns. The Council is concerned at the precedent that approval of this application will set, as it may encourage other properties in the green belt to seek to convert to non-agricultural uses in the knowledge that there will likely be no enforcement of any conditions placed on them.

23/1355C - Demolition of existing equestrian buildings and erection of detached dwellinghouse and reuse and alteration of building to form double garage. PEEL FARM, PEEL LANE, ASTBURY, CHESHIRE, CW12 4RJ

Cllr N Plant recused himself from this discussion having declared an interest. The Council **resolved** not to object to this planning application. However, it did want to see an agricultural tie to the proposed dwelling to ensure that it isn't sold as a residential property separate to the other buildings onsite. The Council also wanted reassurances that the Newbold Astbury Footpath 20 will be maintained or appropriately diverted.

23/1630C - Double garage and associated works. East Lodge, New Road, MORETON, Moreton, CW12 4RY

The Council **resolved** not to object to this planning application.

60/23 Highways

Cllr Parry reported on the meeting of the Working Group established to consider measures to mitigate the impact of traffic on Wallhill Lane. It had looked at what had already been done and considered what additional measures might be taken. At the request of the WG Cheshire East were conducting another feasibility study on potential mitigating measures, including signage and the optimal placing of it, additional road markings (such as dragon's teeth), an additional SID to record data and help prompt any appropriate police interventions. The Council **resolved** that it would fund the cost of the SID itself while CE had offered to arrange appropriate licenses and manage the installation costs. Other measures such as additional buildouts and road surface changes would be looked at but might be much less practical for example in terms of local farm vehicle access. The Council also **resolved** to explore with CE whether the SID could be installed quickly, notwithstanding any other measures that might come out of the feasibility study. The Council will schedule another discussion in October when the full feasibility study may be available.

The Clerk reported that he was in discussion with John Harding about a multiannual contract to cover the siding out, weeding and branch cutting etc along the full stretch of the A34 in the parish, and he will report back in due course.

61/23 - Common Land

Cllr Jelf reported on the boundary fence which was rotten and had collapsed and was leaning on the whips that we had planted last year. The Clerk will write to the landowner to discuss any plans to repair or replace it.

62/23 Neighbourhood Plan

Chairman J Critchlow told the meeting that the revised Design Statement had been received which the working group will review. There will be some minor tweaking and updates to photos and maps etc. Former Cllr Nick Sharman has offered to continue to oversee the process and will advise if/when we can apply for additional funding. Once approved the group will seek three quotes for printing and a pictureless version will be sent to parishioners, then the full document sent to the statutory consultees. Once they give their views the group will make any necessary changes and forward it to CE. They may decide to send to a planning inspector and ascertain whether it would need to go to referendum – though the WG believes the

changes are not significant enough for this. Given the length of the design Statement it will not be sent in hard copy to parishioners but will be available online.

63/23 Cheshire East

Cllr Wardlaw reported that the Ward Councillors had a budget of £6,400 each to spend in the parishes and would be prioritising various traffic management projects in Odd Rode this year. Councillors suggested that future plans could include improved/additional bus stops in the parishes - Great Moreton Hall, the top of Wallhill Lane towards Arclid and on the A534 towards Congleton. Councillors noted that potholes were still a very serious problem in parts of the parish.

64/23 Succession Planning

Postponed til next meeting.

65/23 Expenses and Allowances

The Council **resolved** to grant the Chairman an allowance of £250. The Chairman will present receipts and return any unspent allowance at financial year-end.

66/23 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr P Critchlow noted that a parishioner had pointed out that there were some gaps in the daffodil coverage on the village green. Cllrs will address this next time to fill in gaps. Cllr Jelf was in discussion with the School about how to use the Common Land as a resource for the children. The Clerk will chase the Community Heartbeat Trust about the replacement/repairs to the defib at Ackers Crossing and the Clerk will take forward plans to install the coronation bench. Councillors will return to the matter of where to place the additional defibs that had been purchased. Cllrs Plant and Barton will aim to erect the replacement boundary sign on the A34 soon. Cllr P Critchlow reported that an additional 25 new servicemen names had been approved for the war memorial. Cllrs noted that the tractor tyres/planters had been put in place near Peck's and the garden centre will provide soil etc to fill them.

67/23 Date of next meeting

Because of absences and the time needed to complete the internal audit the Council **resolved** to hold its next meeting on 28 June, at Astbury Primary School, possibly with a pared down agenda given the proximity to the scheduled July meeting.

68/23 Clerk's Report

Items already covered elsewhere.

Part 2 – no public or press

The Council **resolved** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960 as extended by the Local Government Act 1972, section 100, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for discussion of the following items on the grounds that the publication of the matter would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature.

69/23 Clerk's Appraisal

Chairman J Critchlow reported on the Clerk's appraisal. There are some additional pressures on his time including the need for additional training to achieve his CiLCA qualification. The Council **resolved** to increase his contracted hours to 10 per week and to finance the additional training costs (to be shared with Somerford). The Council were pleased with the Clerk's performance and on that basis **resolved** to approve his salary progression to spine point 21 on the NALC pay scale, with effect from 1 April 2023.

The Meeting closed at 2150 hrs

Annex 1

Bank Balance as of 01 May 2023: **£16,871.51**

The Council noted the following receipts:

- £7,500 - Precept

The following Payments were approved:

- £768.00 – Forest Stump for Common Land works

The following payments since 1 March were noted:

- £36.83 – Stationery for NP consultation
- £121.60 – A Thomson Neighbourhood Plan drafting
- £120.00 – Cllr N Sharman, website maintenance
- £215.71 – ChALC affiliation fee
- £63.00 – TCS Payroll Services
- £121.60 – A Thomson Neighbourhood Plan drafting
- £405.00 – Astbury Village Hall hire
- £121.60 – A Thomson Neighbourhood Plan drafting
- £35.90 – NEST Pension
- £63.00 – TCS Payroll Services
- £5,354.71 – unspent Neighbourhood Plan grant
- £415.83 – Clerk's Salary

X

Chairman