



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 28 June 2023

Astbury Primary School at 7.30 pm

Present:

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor N Plant
- Councillor I Parry
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor P Cliff
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Ward Councillor L Wardlaw
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

- None

Part 1

Public and Press Forum

No members of the public were present.

Apologies:

- Councillor A Banks (work commitments)
- Councillor N Barton (conflicting engagements)
- Councillor B Jelf (conflicting engagements)
- Councillor M Bailey (conflicting engagements)
- Councillor R Lomas (conflicting engagements)
- Ward Councillor P Redstone (conflicting engagements)

70/23 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2023 are a true and accurate record.

71/23 Accounts

See Annex 1

The Clerk noted that an unexpected payment of £4,100.08 had been received under the Community Infrastructure Levy. He is in contact about the amount with Cheshire East (CE) and what the monies could be used for and will discuss further with Cllr Wardlaw.

72/23 Internal Audit Report

The Council received and noted the report of the Internal Auditor. In relation to VAT the Council encouraged the Clerk to claim VAT for 22/23 as soon as practicable. In relation to Insurance the Council **resolved** to review its insurance in due course once the Ackers Crossing defibrillator claim had been completed to ensure cover is adequate.

73/23 Annual Governance Statements

The Council received, considered and **approved** the Annual Governance Statement in section 1 of the AGAR return which was duly signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

74/23 Annual Accounting Statement

The Council received, considered and **approved** the Accounting Statement in section 2 of the AGAR return which was duly signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

75/23 Certification of Exemption

The Council received, considered and **approved** the Certificate of Exemption which was duly signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

76/23 Annual Bank Reconciliation

The Council received, considered and **approved** the Annual Bank Reconciliation which was duly signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

77/23 Explanation of Variances

The Council received, considered and **approved** the Explanation of Variances which was duly signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

78/23 Exercise of Public Rights

The Council noted the period for the exercise of public rights – 3 July to 11 August.

79/23 Planning Applications

No new applications received.

The Council discussed application **23/1199C** – The Holding, Watery Lane - which had been refused by the CE Planning Department. The objection from the Planning Officer included well-argued assessments using various criteria against which the

application was judged, including our own Neighbourhood Plan. Since Nick Sharman had resigned from the Council and had always taken the lead on planning Cllr Plant encouraged Councillors to adopt a similar approach to future applications, i.e. assessing each application against the full range of national and CE policies including our own Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Plant will lead on an application that will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Wardlaw noted that the practice at Congleton Town Council was that if a Councillor had submitted a planning application the Council would not normally take a view on it. This is not a practice that would be adopted by Astbury and Moreton Parish Council.

80/23 Design Code and Planning Statements

Cllrs noted the latest draft of the Design Code from AECOM/Locality dated June 2023 and **resolved** to approve and accept it as a final version. The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group would be on 29 June. The Council **resolved** that they would continue to fund the WG from its own resources, since the additional money from Groundworks had been returned.

81/23 Highways

Cllrs noted that no discussion of Wallhill Lane would be put on the agenda until Cheshire East had made their proposals. They also noted that there had been two accidents on Mow Lane due to large potholes and roadworks which were forcing vehicles onto the wrong side of the road on a blind bend. The area is now scheduled for repair.

82/23 - Common Land

Cllrs noted that the collapsed boundary fence has been braced by Forest Stump but the Clerk will contact the owner about permanent repairs.

83/23 Cheshire East

Cllr Wardlaw said she was trying to pin down responsibility for improving the bus stops in the parishes. There was a CE consultation about libraries and their use in the face of budget pressures. There is also a live bus consultation to help prioritise the use of some additional resources that have become available. Cllrs were urged to make their views known. Finally there was also a review of needs and support services for those with learning disabilities to inform a new strategy.

84/23 Succession Planning

Several Cllrs mentioned problems with lack of email storage which was causing problems receiving new emails. After discussion Cllrs **resolved** that we should try to move to the gov.uk standard as soon as practicable. The Clerk will investigate with

Parish Online how this could be taken forward and the implication for email storage. Cllrs Parry and Sutton will try to find someone capable of doing the website management aspects.

85/23 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllrs discussed the need for a SID at Peel Lane given the number of accidents there. CE had advised that moving SIDs between sites could be more effective than leaving them in place permanently. The Council noted the CE review looking at road safety on the A34 from the Red Bull traffic lights to Astbury Mere. The Clerk has chased this up several times but the review is not yet available. Cllr Wardlaw said there were extensive road surface improvements planned at Station Road and New Road. The Council will discuss traffic in and around the green at Astbury including speed limits on the A34 at its next meeting.

Cllr P Critchlow highlighted the overgrown footpaths between Brownlow Heath Lane and Childs Lane. The Clerk has approached John Harding but they have not yet responded. Weedkilling to the boundary sign was also now needed and the Clerk will follow this up.

Cllr Cliff reported that CE had de-silted under the bridge at Brook Lane to inspect it for structural safety. They might have to install some sort of supports or rebuild the bridge completely. Cllr Critchlow reported that the tractor tyres at Pecks have been planted up.

86/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk is updating published Councillor contact details which currently show official email addresses. The Clerk urged Councillors to make sure they auto-forward emails to any other addresses that they use more frequently for parish business.

The Clerk reported that Odd Rode Parish Council would be happy to hire out their minibus to Astbury and Moreton council if requested, for example for the Explorers Club at Astbury Primary School. He invited Councillors to the information session about the proposed new sand quarry in Somerford that had been arranged jointly by Somerford and Brereton Parish Councils.

The Meeting closed at 2100 hrs

Annex 1

Bank Balance as of 20 June 2023: **£18,757.45**

Received since 01 May 2023:

- £4,100.08 - NCIL

Payments to approve:

- £nil

Payments to note since 1 May 2023:

- £35.90 – NEST (Clerk's pension)
- £308.71 – HMRC (PAYE)
- £768.00 – Forest Stump
- £300.00 – Zurich Insurance
- £50.00 – Andrew Thomson
- £300.00 – John Harding
- £415.63 – Clerk's Salary
- £35.90 – NEST (Clerk's Pension)

X

Chairman