



## **Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 9 August 2023**

#### **Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

#### **Present:**

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor N Plant
- Councillor N Barton
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor A Banks
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor R Lomas (left at 2030hrs)
- Ward Councillor L Wardlaw
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

#### **Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr C Sutton, Sibelco Planning Application.

#### **Part 1**

##### **Public and Press Forum**

Two members of the public were present. One spoke in support of his planning application, 23/2608C.

#### **Apologies:**

- Councillor M Bailey (indisposed)
- Councillor I Parry (conflicting engagements)
- Councillor P Cliff (work commitments)

#### **99/23 Minutes**

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

#### **100/23 Accounts**

**See Annex 1**

### **101/23 Planning Applications**

**23/2608C** - Demolition of existing commercial stable building and construction of new bungalow, The Holding, WATERY LANE, ASTBURY, CW12 3NP

The Council no longer supports this application and **resolved to object** to it.

The application states that there are currently 14 horses stabled on site. It proposes the demolition of most of the existing stables and the retention of three. This reduction would appear not to support a viable business and no longer demonstrates a need for a permanent dwelling on site. The site is entirely within the Green Belt and therefore the erection of a bungalow would not be appropriate.

**23/1928W** - The extraction of industrial sand, transfer to the existing Bent Farm site, associated ancillary development, retention of the Bent Farm site and pressive restoration, SOMERFORD FARM, HOLMES CHAPEL ROAD, SOMERFORD, CHESHIRE, CW12 4SN

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

### **102/23 Diversion of Congleton Footpath CE Ref: 6PROW/MN 090D/597**

After discussion the Council **resolved** to make no further objection to the proposal which currently crosses the applicant's property. However, the Clerk will write to the Cheshire East PROW team to reiterate concerns over the risk of flooding on the new route, which appears to be in a flood plain. They will need to ensure the footpath is raised and appropriately constructed.

### **103/23 Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Clerk explained that the Levy can be spent on a wide range of projects but the Government guidance is geared towards much larger proposals in larger Councils. He had however canvassed opinions from Clerks in other councils who had given examples of smaller proposals which might be more relevant. One question to consider is the ambition of any proposal and whether to submit a single project or support a series of smaller scale ideas. The Council will have this topic as a standing item for future agendas.

### **104/23 Astbury Traffic Calming Measures**

Cllrs discussed the report that had just been received from Cheshire East Highways about possible additional traffic calming measures along the A34. It was unfortunate that the specific stretch of road just by Astbury Village Green had not been covered by the speed data, though the recommendations themselves do make explicit proposals for further investigation around the Green. Cllrs had previously suggested

several measures including speed cameras and moving the 40mph sign further away from the village, and a set of proposals for realignment of the entrances and exits at the Green had also been put forward. These had previously been discounted by CE Highways on the grounds of cost but may now be looked at again. Given that the report makes a series of recommendation to various teams within CE Highways it will be important to liaise with these other teams and prioritise in particular recommendation 4 (Astbury Junction – potential to re-align and change its operation). Cllr Wardlaw offered to take this forward with some urgency.

### **105/23 Highways**

Cllrs noted that a boundary sign had been damaged again and would be reported on 'Fix my Street'. Similarly the signs on Wallhill Lane which had been turned the wrong way round would also be reported. A short stretch of Wallhill Lane had had some patching at the side of the carriageway. Road dressing is underway on Mow Lane and Cllr Wardlaw will contact CE Highways about whether other important drainage works needed there are also going to be done.

### **106/23 Code of Conduct**

The Council **resolved** to adopt the revised Code of Conduct proposed by the Clerk which follows precisely the model adopted by Cheshire East Council and which they and ChALC are now promoting. The Parish Council will as a consequence develop a Gift and Hospitality Register.

### **107/23 Additional Daffodil Planting**

The Council **resolved** to set aside £200 for the purchase of daffodil bulbs to supplement the planting on the Green, which is a little sparse, as well as at other locations in the parishes. Cllrs will aim to do the planting at the Green on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

### **108/23 - Common Land**

The Clerk reported that he had managed to speak to the owner of the neighbouring property who had very kindly agreed to replace the rotten fence posts along the boundary. Cllr Jelf reported on the meeting with the Head Teacher at the school to talk about possible use of the Common Land by pupils, and potentially asking Odd Rode Parish Council to provide their minibus and driver as transport. Cllrs felt that the site is not looking as good as they had hoped, given how much money they had invested in it. Cllr Sutton volunteered to do some spraying or spot weeding of the weeds and nettles at the site. The Clerk will discuss a longer-term management plan with Forest Stump or other contractors since it looks as if more frequent strimming/spraying is needed than had been first thought. He is also trying to help

Cheshire East identify those trees along Sandy Lane which are thought to be dangerous so that they can contact the landowners about them.

### **109/23 Cheshire East**

Cllr Wardlaw noted that CE Councillors had voted themselves a £500 pay rise, and the Council had been given a 'best wedding provider' accolade. The proposal for a £57 green bin charge had been passed but was being challenged by the Conservative group. A revised proposal for shorter library opening times was being discussed. A consultation had been launched about expansion of the 'Flexi-Link' bus service and a notice about it could be put in the next Parish Newsletter.

### **110/23 Succession Planning**

The Clerk reported that there was no concrete progress with finding someone to take over former Cllr Nick Sharman's website management duties. Therefore the move to the gov.uk standard could also not take place yet.

### **111/23 Chairman and Members' Reports**

The Chair updated the meeting on recent Neighbourhood Plan developments. New central Government funding had now been made available and Nick Sharman will work on costings for the next phase, including printing and postage.

Cllr Jelf noted that Cheshire East Council are consulting on car parking charges and urged councillors to respond individually.

Councillors discussed a complaint that had been sent to Cheshire East Planning Enforcement by some members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. They had complained about a lack of enforcement of planning conditions, a failure to make planning applications and proceeding with construction even though an application had been refused. It was deeply regrettable that they had phrased their complaints in such a way as to give the impression that they reflected the views of the Parish Council and were sanctioned by it. The Clerk will write to the Planning Enforcement team to clarify that these are the views expressed were those of a few residents, not the Council or the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

### **112/23 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that a parishioner was concerned about the newly planted tractor tyre negatively impacting on visibility for traffic turning onto the A34. The Council will keep this under review and Cllr P Critchlow will continue to trim around the tyre as needed.

The Council **resolved** to investigate whether grit bins should be placed at strategic locations - the Church would be very interested in having one by their steps. The Church also intends to submit an application for a donation from the Council.

**The Meeting closed at 2135 hrs**

### **Annex 1 - Accounts**

Bank Balance as 03 August 2023: **£19,207.60**

#### **Received since 4 July 2023:**

- £1,044.65 – HMRC VAT refund
- £2,733.39 – CIL top-up

#### **Payments to approve:**

- £none

#### **Payments to note since 4 July 2023:**

- £800.00 – Coronation bench
- £250.00 – Chairman's allowance
- £35.90 – NEST, Clerk's pension
- £96.60 – A Thomson, Neighbourhood Plan
- £66.00 – TCS Management, payroll services
- £456.00 - Forest Stump for Common Land weeding

**X**

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Chairman