



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

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 13 September 2023**

**Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

### **Present:**

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor N Barton
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor M Bailey
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor P Cliff
- Councillor R Lomas
- Ward Councillor L Wardlaw
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

### **Declarations of Interest**

- None

### **Part 1**

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

One member of the public was present (Mr Nick Sharman) from the Neighbourhood Plan Revision Working Group.

### **Apologies:**

- Councillor I Parry (overseas)
- Councillor A Banks (work engagements)
- Councillor N Plant (no reason given)

### **113/23 Minutes**

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 09 August 2023 are a true and accurate record, subject to one typo corrected.

## **114/23 Accounts**

**See Annex 1**

## **115/23 Planning Applications**

None received.

## **116/ Neighbourhood Plan**

Mr Nick Sharman explained the progress made with the Neighbourhood Plan revisions and confirmed that a grant to the Council of £3,240 had been agreed to support the costs associated with the revision and consultation, printing etc.

Councillors had various concerns, questions and suggestions for the draft and after discussion the Council **resolved** to hold an extraordinary meeting as soon as possible to focus on the revised plan, even if this meant that the timetable for publication would slip a little.

The Council **resolved** to accept the printing quote received from Crewe Colour Printers.

The Council **resolved** to agree the estimates from Mr Andrew Thomson for further consultancy work on the draft.

## **117/23 Donation to Astbury Church**

The Clerk noted that Astbury Church had approached the Council seeking a donation for the upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard and cemetery. The Council **resolved** to make a donation of £500 to the Church.

## **118/23 Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Council discussed various options for use of the CIL money it had received, including provision of CCTV at the Church and widening and improving or resurfacing the pathways along the A34 from Chance Hall Lane towards Congleton. The pathways would also benefit from dropped kerbs at each junction to improve accessibility, though this is likely to be expensive. The Clerk will seek quotes for the works and will liaise further with Cllr Wardlaw to see if the Council's resources could be combined with the Ward Councillors' budgets and/or resources from Cheshire East Council under the 'Active Travel' scheme, as well as using the CIL monies.

## **119/23 Astbury Traffic Calming Measures**

Cllr Wardlaw reported that Cheshire East Highways had not yet responded to her request to meet and discuss possible traffic calming measures along the A34 so she will approach them again.

### **120/23 Highways**

CLRs discussed a complaint about the tyre that the Council had placed and planted up by the boundary sign on the A34 and will seek further advice from the police and Cheshire East Highways.

CLRs discussed the proliferation of fly-posting at the Wallhill roundabout on the Congleton Link Road and at the junction of the A34 and Chance Hall Lane. This has been reported to Cheshire East Highways who have said they will attempt to deal with it in due course. CLRs suggested stating the Council's opposition to fly-posting in the Neighbourhood Plan revision (alongside fly-tipping).

### **121/23 Councillor Vacancies**

CLRs discussed the current vacancies. One application had been received after advertising in the Newsletter. The vacancies were also advertised by Cheshire East Council who have confirmed that we may now co-opt a candidate as there were no calls for an election. The applicant will be invited to the next regular Council meeting for interview.

### **122/23 Tree at Ackers Crossing**

The Clerk informed the Council that the oak tree planted at Ackers Crossing had died and **resolved** to replace it as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to source the replacement in time for Autumn planting. Some soil improvement will be considered to give it the best chance for survival.

The Clerk reported that he had taken delivery of the Coronation Bench for Ackers Crossing and he will discuss installation with local residents.

### **123/Publication Scheme**

The Council **resolved** to approve a revised Publication Scheme as proposed by the Clerk. The scheme is required by the Information Commissioner's Office and there were just three minor edits in the current document needed to bring it up to date.

### **124/23 Health and Safety Policy**

The Council **resolved** to approve a revised Health and Safety policy as proposed by the Clerk. It is based on a template more suitable to larger councils with offices and staff but is 'fit for purpose' with some minor edits.

### **125/23 - Common Land**

CLr Sutton reported on attempts by volunteers to clear some of the nettles and weeds. Unfortunately the work had disturbed a wasps' nest and had to be

abandoned. A local resident has offered to remove the nest and will let us know when this has been done so the work can be completed.

### **126/23 Cheshire East Council report**

Cllr Wardlaw noted that there was a Cheshire East Council consultation on flood risk management underway. Charges for garden waste-bin collection will be introduced next year and people will be able to sign up for the service in October. A junior Government minister had visited Leighton Hospital where new wards are to be built and which should address the discovery of RAAC concrete in the current buildings.

### **127/23 Succession Planning**

The Clerk reported that the person who currently manages the Somerford Parish Council website has offered to manage Astbury's also. The Council **resolved** to take up the offer and go ahead with move to the gov.uk standard for the website as previously discussed, using Parish Online. The Council **resolved** to ask the new website manager to oversee the transition process. There will be no lengthy employment contract as such but there will be an exchange of letters to finalise the details and expectations on both sides.

### **128/23 Chairman and Members' Reports**

Cllrs discussed a Christmas social event and will arrange a meal at the Horseshoe Pub on 13 December. Cllr Lomas reported that the drain outside Glebe Farm had been covered up again with tarmac and many of the drains along the A34 are also blocked. Cllr P Critchlow reported that the William Dean Trust had agreed a donation of £300 for the purchase of additional daffodils for the Village Green and the Common Land. He has approached Sibelco to ask if they can assist again with the planting. Volunteers are invited to congregate at the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 14 October. Cllr Sutton has arranged for a soil sample to be taken to see if any top dressing or other soil improvement is needed and reported that the garden centre by the Village Green had also offered to donate additional bulbs.

### **129/23 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator at Ackers Crossing had not yet been replaced but that the Community Heartbeat Trust will project-manage the whole process, which will include a refurbished telephone kiosk, reinstatement of the power supply etc. The Cheshire East Planning Enforcement team had not acknowledged the email he had sent distancing the Council from an email sent by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group making several planning complaints. The Clerk will continue to pursue RBS to issue a debit card for the Parish Council bank account.

**The Meeting closed at 2135 hrs**

## **Annex 1 - Accounts**

**Bank Balance as of 04 September 2023: £17,685.46**

**Received since 3 August 2023:**

- £158.32 – Somerford PC for their share of the Clerk's laptop

**Payments to approve:**

- £nil

**Payments to note since 3 August 2023:**

- £25.00 – Cllr Jelf CoC training
- £75.08 – NEST, Clerk's pension
- £455.76 – CCP Newsletter
- £521.94 – Clerk's salary
- £379.99 – Clerk's replacement laptop
- £45.69 – NEST, Clerk's pension
- £177.00 – Clerk SLCC membership (to be shared with Somerford Parish Council)

**X**

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Chairman