



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 8 November 2023

Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor M Bailey
- Councillor I Parry
- Councillor P Cliff
- Councillor N Barton
- Councillor A Banks
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

- None

Part 1 - Public and Press Forum

Two members of the public were present. One talked about the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the issue of traffic on roads and lanes in the parishes.

Apologies:

- Councillor N Plant (work engagements)
- Councillor R Lomas (travel)
- Councillor T Potts (travel)

128/23 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2023 are a true and accurate record.

129/23 Accounts

The Council **resolved** to accept the LGA recommendations for the 23/24 pay agreement which would mean an increase in the Clerk's salary of £1.00 per hour, backdated to April 2023. The Council also **resolved** that the Clerk's mileage claims would be agreed with the Chair and vice-Chair without needing to come before the full Council.

See Annex 1 for receipts and payments

130/23 Budget and Precept for 24/25

After discussion the Council **resolved** to maintain the current band D Council Tax at £41.65, which would reduce the precept from £15,000 to £14,795. Further options for the 24/25 budget use will be explored by the Council, including a possible donation to support costs associated with the organisation of the Mayday charity events.

131/23 Planning Applications

23/3892C - Proposed part conversion and extension of existing barn to 1no. residential dwelling, with associated access & parking arrangements, Home Farm, NEW ROAD, MORETON, CW12 4RX

The Council noted that the application was in keeping with the Council policy on converting redundant buildings and **resolved** to raise no objection to it, but will stress the need to use local materials where possible, in keeping with the local environment.

23/4057C - Single storey side extension and conversion of outbuilding to create a linked annexe, KINGSPool, NEW ROAD, MORETON, CHESHIRE, CW12 4RU.

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to the application.

132/23 Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Nick Sharman, chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group, confirmed that all the previous comments made by the Council had been taken on board in the latest draft. The question of the front cover for the publication would be decided at a later date. The Council **resolved** that this latest draft should be sent to residents to seek their views.

133/23 Grievance Policy

The Council reviewed the Grievance Policy and **resolved** to adopt it unamended.

134/23 Community Infrastructure Levy

Cllr Wardlaw reported that her discussions with CE Highways and Active Travel about improving the footpaths and installing a cycleway along the length of the A34 were ongoing, and the idea had been added to the CE Transport Development Plan.

Whether a contribution from the Parishes' CIL could contribute to this is an open question. The Council will continue to consider options such as siding out, improving footpaths etc. and return to the topic in January.

135/23 Astbury Traffic Calming Measures

Cllr Wardlaw reported on her correspondence with CE Highways about extending the 40mph limit further south along the A34. They will undertake an assessment and a feasibility study in due course (the Clerk has received a similar letter about reducing the speed limit on Brook Lane).

136/23 Highways

The Council noted that the Tractor Tyre planters on the A34 had been removed. The Council **resolved** to replace them with concrete kerbs sunk in to the ground, rather than wooden sleepers which would rot over time. The cost will likely be in the region of £100. Cllrs P Critchlow and N Barton will take this forward and ensure ongoing maintenance.

137/23 Tree and Bench at Ackers Crossing

The Clerk reported that AP Matthews had offered to replace the failed oak tree for free. The Clerk will discuss planting with Councillors.

The Clerk reported that the residents at Ackers Crossing had now decided on the placing of the coronation bench and he will arrange for a concrete pad to be installed and the bench bolted to it.

138/23 Common Land

Cllr Jelf reported on her recent visit with school staff to plant native daffodils and scatter wildflower seeds. The school doesn't have a nature club at present for the pupils so sadly none attended. The paths might need spraying in the spring to suppress nettles and weeds and the Clerk will approach Chris Kennerley again about a longer term maintenance contract.

139/23 Cheshire East Ward Councillor Report

Ward Councillor Wardlaw reported on further budget shortfalls expected by CE Council who are also seeking compensation from the Government because of the decision to cancel the Crewe section of HS2.

140/23 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr P Critchlow reported that some of the large poppies placed around the parish had been stolen and he will take additional steps to prevent this next time. Cllr Parry reported there had been further fly-tipping on Watery Lane. Cllr Cliff reported that

the bridge on Brook Lane was being repaired and so the Lane was currently closed to traffic. Cllr Sutton reported that Christmas trees would again be put on the Green this year, sponsored by local businesses. She had attended a meeting with other neighbouring parishes (Hulme Walfield, Brereton and Eaton) to discuss matters of mutual interest such as the Community Infrastructure Levy and the Congleton Partnership. The group agreed to meet quarterly in future.

Cllr Jelf reported that she had attended the ChALC AGM. Subscriptions will increase a little due to rising costs, inflation etc. based on parish population. Discussions included engagement with town and parish councils and possible changes to the eligibility criteria for councils to gain the 'General Power of Competence'.

141/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on further discussions about a grit bin by the steps to the Church. The Council had agreed in principle to purchase a bin - delivery, installation and 'first-fill' would cost in the region of £600 and the filling costs thereafter would be around £240 per tonne. The Council **resolved** to cover these costs but asked the Clerk to investigate further whether a larger bin would be feasible and consider its optimal placement.

The Clerk updated Cllrs on the new-look, gov.uk website which will initially have a green background and a new photo representing the parish on the landing page.

Meeting closed at 2135 hrs

Annex 1 - Accounts

Bank Balance as of 31 October 2023: **£25,021.17**

Of which:

- **£3,068.40** – unspent Neighbourhood Plan Grant
- **£6,833.47** – unspent Community Infrastructure Levy

Received since 5 October 2023:

£Nil

The following payments were **noted**:

- £120.00 – N Sharman, website management
- £171.60 – A Thomson, Neighbourhood Plan advice
- £45.69 – Clerk's NEST Pension
- £500.00 – Church Donation
- £66.00 – TCS Payroll Management
- £96.00 – Parish Online subscription
- £350.00 – RBLI Remembrance Day figures
- £455.76 – CCP Newsletter
- £521.94 – Clerk Salary

The following payments were **approved**:

£12.51 – Clerk Mileage Claim July-September

X

Chairman