



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 10 January 2024

Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor M Bailey
- Councillor I Parry
- Councillor P Cliff
- Councillor N Barton
- Councillor I Parry
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)
- Ward Cllr L Wardlaw

Declarations of Interest

- None

Part 1 - Public and Press Forum

No members of the public were present.

001/24 Apologies:

- Councillor A Banks (work commitments)
- Councillor R Lomas (travel)
- Councillor B Jelf (personal commitments)
- Councillor C Sutton (personal commitments)

002/24 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 08 November 2023 are a true and accurate record.

003/24 Accounts

The Council **resolved** to approve the accounts. The Clerk noted that a small tranche of CIL money had been received in 2020. The Council **resolved** to add this to the subsequent tranches to avoid separate reporting if possible.

See Annex 1 for details of receipts and payments

004/24 New Accounting Software

After discussion the Council **resolved** to take out a subscription to Scribe Accounting. The cost will be £23 per month plus a one-off onboarding fee of up to £177.00.

005/24 Internal Audit

The Council **resolved** to ask Mr Gary Roberts to conduct the Internal Audit for FY 23/24. The Council further **resolved** to grant Mr Roberts access to the Scribe account.

006/24 Planning Applications

23/2610C – Certificate of lawful proposed use of the track from Fol Hollow to the Moreton Meadows Farm buildings.

The Council **resolved** to object to this application on the grounds that there is no evidence of a track being used as access for 30 years as claimed. Lamberts Lane cannot lawfully be used for vehicular access and the gate to the south simply allows access to a field, not the buildings.

007/24 Migration to the new Parish Website

The Council noted progress with the migration to the new website. The Clerk was asked to edit the text on the home page better to reflect the status of the twin parishes.

008/24 Neighbourhood Plan

The Council **resolved** to approve the costs for the printing of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (£1,683 plus VAT), and the associated costs for postage. The Council noted that the Clerk had received an email from Cheshire East Council enclosing a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report (SEA) which concluded that the changes to the 'old' Plan are not material enough to need to put the new draft out to referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan working group will add covering letters and post the draft to parishioners, making sure all the statutory consultees receive copies.

009/24 Community Infrastructure Levy

Nothing further to report.

010/24 Astbury Traffic Calming Measures

Cllr Wardlaw reported that no further response had been received to her recent enquiries of CE Highways.

011/24 School Admissions Policy

The Council **resolved** that it had no objection to the revised School Admissions Policy to be introduced at the 2024 intake.

012/24 Highways

The Council noted that repairs had been made to the bridge on Brook Lane but regretted that it was deeply unattractive now that the old stone walls had been replaced with brick. The Council noted that potholes and road surfaces generally across the parishes were getting progressively worse. The Clerk will look into advertising the 'Fix my Street' portal on the website, as well as the procedure for making claims against Cheshire East Council if cars are damaged as a result of their failure to keep the highways in good repair.

013/24 Jubilee Tree and Bench at Ackers Crossing

The Clerk reported that a concrete pad had been put down next to the phone box and the Clerk and Cllr Cliff would arrange a time to install the bench on it. Several councillors and the Clerk had removed the dead oak tree on the green before Christmas and planted its replacement.

014/24 Common Land

Additional daffodils have been planted, the Council will consider further maintenance in the Spring when the nettles and other weeds will be growing again. There was evidence that people were using the space during their walks despite the weeds.

015/24 Cheshire East Ward Councillor Report

Ward Councillor Wardlaw reported that a new Cheshire East Chief Executive had been selected. The Council's financial situation was very serious and a public consultation had been launched on choices and priorities for provision of local services. The implication is that parish councils will be asked to take on responsibility for funding some services as the Cheshire East Council steps back.

016/24 Chairman and Members' Reports

Councillors noted several instances of fly-tipping on Watery Lane and elsewhere which they had reported on the 'Fix my Street' portal.

017/24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on his further contacts about the placement of a grit bin by the steps to the Church. After discussion the Council **resolved** to source a larger, 400ltr bin to be placed discretely near the steps to the Church and asked the Clerk to procure an appropriate model, and discuss filling by CE Council. Councillors will arrange to level the patch of earth at the site to accommodate the bin.

The Clerk had received an estimate to replace the kiosk at Ackers Crossing that had been damaged by fire, but unexpectedly the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) had now said that they wouldn't manage the whole project and that the Parish Council would have to arrange the necessary power supply/reconnections with Scottish Power. The Clerk will take this forward. The Clerk will also discuss the most appropriate model and configuration of the kiosk with the CHT.

Meeting closed at 2105 hrs

Annex 1 - Accounts

Bank Balance as of 31 December 2023: **£22,540.17**

Of which:

- **£3,053.86** – unspent Neighbourhood Plan Grant
- **£6,833.47** - unspent Community Infrastructure Levy
- **£441.98** - unspent CIL from 2020

Received since 31 October 2023:

£Nil

Payments since 31 October **to note**:

- £45.69 Clerk NEST pension
- £29.10 - AP Matthews Oak Tree
- £455.76 – Crewe Colour Printers Newsletter
- £786.31 – Clerk Salary including back-pay
- £12.51 - Clerk Mileage Claim
- £70.03 – Clerk NEST Pension
- £80.00 – Clerk Planning Training
- £432.00 – Parish Online website build
- £14.54 – Mr N Sharman NP Stationery
- £555.06 – Clerk Salary

Payments to approve:

£Nil

X

Chairman