



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm

1: Present: Tristan Fraser (TF), Heather Swan (HS), Sam Goldney (SG), Neil Hayward (NH), Richard Nield (RN), Terry Webb (TW) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). 3 members of the public attended.

2: To elect a new chair of the parish council: Following the resignation of Tony Treadwell after 11 years on the Parish Council, a new chair was elected from current members. TF proposed NH for the position. This was seconded by TW and voted on unanimously. NH accepted the position and thanked Tony for his hard work and dedication during his time on APC.

3: Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda: nothing arising.

4: Minutes: the minutes of the last Austrey Parish Council (APC) meeting which took place on 9th October 2024, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

5: Open Forum: A beat report was sent by PCSO Hodson ahead of the meeting & PC Redman was in attendance. An increase in vehicle crime in surrounding villages was reported, with a reminder to residents to secure all vehicles and to ensure all items are removed.

6: Clerk's Update

6.1: The clerk took part in some WALC training (Employment - The Latest on Legislation Changes) and shared the slides with council members.

6.2: We have been advised by Lloyds Bank that from January 2025, Treasurer's accounts are all being converted to Community accounts and will begin to incur a monthly fee of £4.25, plus some additional transaction fees. LT to research alternative accounts with no/smaller fees.

6.3: Tamworth FC have not yet paid this year's grounds rent, which was due on 1st September. They've already had one reminder and TF agreed to call and chase up the payment.

7: Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

- i. **Christmas 2024:** Due to a clash with the Tractor Run, this year's event is now taking place on 29th November. Road closure letters will go out to residents this week. The bonfire committee are donating 17 bottles of mulled wine. The tree is due to be erected on 24th November, and we will ask for mince pie donations from residents as usual.

- ii. **Church Clock:** NH has heard from the two companies who he sent grant applications to. One has been declined as it's outside of their remit, and the other is still pending.
- iii. **Neighbourhood Plan:** SG provided an update on the outstanding items to be completed before the document is ready for public consultation. These can be found listed on the NDP page of our website. The next actions are: NDP meeting Nov 21st to discuss and agree Reg 14 consultation process and timescales; then aim to finalise the Draft Plan by 4th December for PC approval ahead of the consultation.
- iv. **Playing fields:** The bonfire night was great success and lots of positive feedback was received. The entrance to the fields (Garbor Lane) has been completely resurfaced in the last week. TF is still looking into the best option for replacing the bark on the play area. This will be done in the spring now.
- v. **Upcoming events:** no village events currently planned beyond the Christmas event.
- vi. **Village maintenance:** The planned litter pick has been postponed, and the poppies will be cleared from around the village ahead of the Christmas event.

8a: No new planning applications since the last meeting.

8b: Determined since the last meeting:

- **PAP/2024/0267** - Still Meadow, Newton Lane – granted
- **PAP/2024/0367** - Orchard House, Appleby Hill - certificate of lawfulness issued

9: Financial & insurance matters:

a: Payments made since the last meeting:

- Clerk's salary - November 2024
- HMRC PAYE – November 2024
- T. Treadwell – Christmas expenses - £53.13
- L. Treadwell – Wix website plan £230.40 plus Christmas sweets £25
- Atherstone Christmas Sleigh – attending Christmas event - £150

10: Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: SG would like to purchase some PDF editing software for the purposes of the NDP. Richard M has resigned as village litter picker. The clerk was asked to write him a letter of thanks for his work over the years in helping to keep the village litter-free.

11: Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 11th December 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.26 pm

12: Clerk's annual performance review:

SG led this session and reminded the council of how the pay review works and that it is governed nationally and shared to us via WALC, Because of this it is paid at some point through the financial year and this year Lynsey will need to have her salary increase backdated to April.

Everyone is very appreciative of Lynsey's work; she is knowledgeable, hardworking and conscientious and if there is anything that she / the council are

unsure of, she will go and check in order to ensure that we are always complaint with relevant legislation.

Lynsey is proactive in planning and ensuring that relevant tasks are planned to be discussed at the appropriate meetings. Her minute taking is accurate and provides a true reflection of what has been what has been discussed at the PC meeting. Her communication is also always polite and courteous within the PC and also across the village and when dealing with outside bodies.

We would like to extend our thanks to Lynsey for another excellent year and to thank her for all of her hard work. It was also agreed that SG would speak with Lynsey regarding the possibility of moving her up a pay band for next year as this means we would need to review this in line with the precept charges for next year.

Signed _____ Date _____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell November 2024