



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Assembly

- 1** - The annual report of the parish council was read by the chair. This will be available to view as Appendix 1 to these minutes.
- 2** - The clerk received annual reports from 8 village organisations. These will be available to view as Appendix 2 to these minutes.
- 3** - Any additional matters or concerns raised by the parish: Nothing arising.

Ordinary meeting of Austrey Parish Council (APC)

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT), Sam Goldney (SG), Tristan Fraser (TF), Heather Swan (HS), Neil Hayward (NH), Terry Webb (TW), Richard Nield (RN) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). No members of the public were in attendance.

2 – Declarations of interest: nothing arising.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last APC meeting, which took place on 13th March 2024, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

4 – Clerk’s Update:

4.1: The annual accounts 2023-24 have been signed off by the internal auditors and can be presented at May’s meeting before being passed to the external auditors.

4.2: The clerk is currently preparing an End of Grant report for Groundworks UK/the NDP funding received last year. An amount will have to be repaid due to an under-spend, the final amount is to be confirmed. We will be looking at funding for this financial year as soon as the application is open.

5 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

5.1: Christmas tree lights/electricity supply: TT has contacted WCC and the works to the streetlight are to go ahead; date to be confirmed.

5.2: Neighbourhood Plan: We have had the first draft of Design Codes back from AECOM. It was felt that the report was too general and didn't exclude anything. The report says that deviation from design codes would be OK if it was sustainable development, but this would allow for designs that were incompatible with the village style. SG referred to a planning application for two contemporary style houses in the village, which were declined on the basis of design.

*It is hoped that we will be ready for a consultation period by October, ahead of a village referendum on adopting the revised NDP.

5.3: Playing fields: Our recent grant application for funding to complete drainage works to the area has been declined. TF raised concerns that the pitch might not currently be playable due to the poor drainage and wet ground.

5.4: Village maintenance: There is still mud on the road on Appleby Hill after the recent landslip. TT is chasing WCC about when this will be cleared as it should have been done by now & is potentially hazardous.

STWA have been doing surveys on Warton Lane re the recent flooding. NH has done a lot of work chasing various agencies as to what can be done to prevent more issues in the future and what was promised historically.

5.5: Village orchard: SG would like to purchase some bark for the borders at the newly planted area. SG proposed a budget of £250, which was seconded by HS and agreed by the council. Additionally, a working group is required to help manage and maintain the area; LT to ask for volunteers on social media.

6 – Planning:

a: PAP/2024/0142 - Land 85 Metres East of Norton Hill Barn, Norton Hill, Austrey – TF explained the only real change from the previous application – the position of the entrance – and members discussed the application at length. It was decided unanimously to object, based on such factors as increased traffic on Norton Hill and visibility in and out of the site.

PAP/2024/0144 - The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Austrey CV9 3EE - No objections as the council agrees that the trees need attending to.

b: No planning applications determined since the last meeting.

7 – Financial & insurance matters

a: Payments made, or cheques raised since the last meeting:

- Account-ant Ltd - internal audit fees - £180
- WALC - annual subscription fees - £ 485.20
- Clerk's salary - April
- HMRC PAYE – April

b: Payments received:

- HMRC - VAT refund claim - £ 1148.22

8 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: Works to the clock face are due to begin in May. *SG would like to add funding for a Village Orchard Open Day to the next agenda, along with re-painting the phone box.

9 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 8th May 2024, to include the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell April 2024

Austrey Parish Council
Chairman's Report April 2024

2023\24 has been a positive year for the village and villagers.

Council elections came and went in May and I'm glad to announce that 3 new councillors have made us up to a full council and the new members, Richard Nield, Neal Hayward and Terry Webb have slotted in well. Their profiles are now on the Austrey Parish Website.

The NDP steering group is still working hard to update to update the Neighbourhood Plan and are making great strides towards its completion. They have just distributed a leaflet to residents explaining what they are doing and the aims for the village. Thanks to the members of the steering group who are not members of the PC. Their help is invaluable to this development.

Luncheon Club continues to thrive. It is very well attended and sometimes fully booked, but it would be nice to see new faces attend the coffee mornings. It's an ideal place to socialise, and the cakes are delicious!

There has been an on-going problem with animals and dogs in particular causing problems for people walking their dogs in certain areas of the village and unfortunately, we have had to involve the police. Now, hopefully, the problems are receding.

The Xmas Lights switch on was again well attended and the addition of Amington Band went down very well ,along with Santa and his Sleigh. The children and some not so young enjoyed the sweet treats and the adults welcomed the Mulled Wine and Mince pies. Thanks to all that donated and many thanks to Ellen again for hosting, the band really welcomed her hospitality.

We have been unfortunate to have suffered flooding on at least 3 occasions this year. Councillor Neil Hayward is doing a sterling job chasing the flood defences team, WCC and Severn Trent to carry out the work that was deemed necessary in 2017 but was never carried out. This should alleviate the flooding issue on Warton Lane and the crossroads. This is helping with his sanity whilst he's housebound. Get well soon Neil.

15 Feb 2024 Chairman's Report

Austrey Village Hall

Our Task "To maintain the Austrey Old School Hall for the benefit of the community".

Ethos Austrey Village Hall is a charity which seeks to strengthen community cohesion and to further the integration of new village residents. We champion equal opportunity and will always seek to safeguard the rights of minority groups, to protect children and those vulnerable adult members of society. We will strive to ally ourselves with official organisations such as the Parish Council and to seek always what is best for the wider community. We will hold at the forefront of our joint activity that our role is to ensure the health of our building not as a means in its self but as an asset of the wider community and as a hub and focus of beneficial community activity.

Progress since 2023 Report

We have seen a steady increase in hall usage both by clubs and individual hirers. Most recently Club 139, the village Youth Club, have asked to use our facilities.

Events

We have held a number of very successful community events in the past year

4 Feb. Greek Night. 48 guests enjoyed a good meal and contributed to Hall funds.

18 Mar. Indoor Thrift Sale. A free community event.

22 Apr. Spring Fayre. Well supported and popular event .

29 Jul Skittles Night. As always well attended by younger villagers.

21 October Village Showcase event a free event to enable clubs and businesses to showcase their products.

4 Nov Bonfire night refreshments.

25 Nov Hosted Art Club Display.

2 Dec Hosted a performance by Roger Spencer and Daughter. Excellent event.

9 Dec Christmas Fayre Well attended community event

27 Jan 24. An Evening at the Moulin Rouge. 50 Guests enjoyed an excellent evening.

We have also hosted two Litter Pick Days, providing refreshments

We continue to provide a venue for a number of clubs and community events including coffee mornings and Lunch Clubs

Building Work

Not such a Busy Year. Projects Completed:

Additional external lighting

Rebuild of bar to include wine cooler and storage.

Kitchen improvements:- new storage units.

Repair and replacement of Wendy House (brick shed) roof and door.

Redecoration of Bar and main hall.

Instillation of WiFi and purchase of a card reader.

Creation of external flower displays.

Purchase of a new banner.

Future Plans:

To improve access to the existing toilets and the courtyard from within the hall.

To remedy the toilet heating / burst pipe problem.

Austrey Bonfire and Fireworks

After a very wet event last year we are looking forward to this years Bonfire and Firework Display to be held on Saturday 2nd November 2024 – a date for your diaries. Last year we introduced a ticket only system which worked well and assisted security. At the moment it will still be cash only.

We work as a team divided appropriately, bonfire building, site clearance, fireworks, bar, food, gate, marketing, kiddies corner, facebook co-ordinator etc etc. Last year we had a number of excellent new team members supporting the old hands, we are always searching for more, those with any skills or none are welcome and will be of great use. Everyone pulls together setting up and dismantling the event in extremely difficult circumstances, but the camaraderie and fun are bonding.

For those of you who haven't attended before put the date in your diary and support this village event.

With any profits made bursaries of up to £200 are offered to those submitting a simple application form outlining their plans for something that will benefit the immediate community.

For more information contact Ellen 0779618632 or Tris tristan@austrey.co.uk



Austrey Baptist Church
Main Road, Austrey
C/o Secretary

Dear Parish Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to remind residents and visitors that our doors are always open on a Sunday morning and we hold services from 10.45 to roughly 12 o' clock and then share a hot drink and have a chat.

We invite a variety of different ministers to preach, and enjoy the variety which that offers us. We are always delighted to welcome visitors and a Sunday School is available, with fully DBS checked teachers.

If there are any additional ways we can serve the community, then please let us know, If you require an additional information you are always welcome to give Anita a call on 01827 830086.

God bless,
Anita Allsopp
Secretary to Austrey Baptist Church

AUSTREY BELLES CLUB SUBMISSION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

APRIL 2024

This year 2023/2024 our members have enjoyed the following programme:-

Knickers and Nighties by Elizabeth Smitham
Like Father Almost like Son by Roger Bragger
Garden Centre Visit with Afternoon Tea
Owls by Sandra Turnbull
Wartime Afternoon Tea with WW2 Quiz and Sing-a-long
The History of Drayton Manor by Roger Field
Canals by Geoff Purseglove
HMY Britannia by Graham Mainwaring
Christmas Workshop with 2 course Lunch
Games Night
My Life as a Vet by Roger Coley
Borneo Slides by Anita Carr

In addition, we had 2 theatre trips to see the Vicar of Dibley and the D Day Darlings. A visit to Curborough Farm, a trip to Packwood House with subsidised coach to see the house decorated for Christmas and entered a Team in the Gardening Society's Quiz..

As promised last year we have included speakers from outside.

We hope you have enjoyed this year's ABC programme and will continue to support us in the future. We have tried to vary the subjects and speakers as much as possible to find something of interest for all and will endeavour to do the same this coming year.

Lynn Wynne
Secretary

Austrey Archery Group

Annual Report 2023-2024

Austrey Archery shoots at Shuttington field on Saturday mornings and also Wednesday evenings from May – September. Indoor shooting is from October – April. Our club membership is now back to pre-pandemic levels. Throughout the year we have held several training courses and introduction to archery sessions. Unfortunately, the weather during 2023 did affect our shoots, with only one Saturday in July being suitable for outdoor shooting.

We again supported Warton Carnival with over 100 people having a go.

The choice of competitions offered has increased and is aimed at all abilities and ages.

Archery is a fully inclusive sport. Anyone from the age of 9 can have a go. It is a sport where young and old can shoot side by side.

Our club also has a social side. The annual skittles evening, which is open to friends and family, is an event not to be missed, along with the Christmas meal and other events throughout the year.

If you are interested in trying out archery, please email austreyarcherygroup@hotmail.co.uk or check out our Face book page.

Hazel Meadow Allotments

Another productive year, we so enjoy producing our own food, the satisfaction of being involved from start to finish and then the enjoyment of delicious and healthy food.

There is a lovely atmosphere with everyone helping each other when necessary and always someone whose advice to ask. All the allotments are managed differently dependant on personal preference.

We have a very wet start this year but that hopefully will balance out.

If you are interested in an allotment, want to be added to the waiting list or want to know more about us contact Ellen on 07790618632

Austrey Women's Institute

We are not Jam and Jerusalem. We are a small friendly group who meet on the 2nd Thursday in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Pop in and see us you will be made very welcome.

Apart from the monthly meetings we have regular outings varying from watching the lambing, enjoying breakfasts at various locations, Serious Science Lectures, Treasure Hunts, not just staying in the Village but joining the Polesworth Group and County for their many activities – when we want to. Most of us aren't very 'crafty' but you should see our collection of pumkins.

WI are Keep Britain Tidy, WI are campaigners for prostate screening, WI are fighting against Domestic Violence and WI are promoting the education and well-being of women and their families.

Don't let stereotypes fool you.

Notice of our next meetings are on the village notice board, and we hope shortly to have a Facebook page – progress indeed.

For more information contact Ellen on 07790618632

AUSTREY WALKING GROUP (aka 4 COUNTIES WALKING)

The group has grown rapidly over the past year, in part due to the Village Showcase event. At the start of the year we had approximately 10 members we now have over 30 registered members and regularly field 14 to 18 walkers on each walk.

We aim to walk at venues within 20 miles of Austrey and have explored a number of different locations. We do, however, retain our aim of walking locally at least once a month. Recent weather and the poor state of local paths such as Salt Street mean that this aim is generally only attainable during the summer months. We have observed that some recognised paths in the area are not being as well maintained / used as they should be and intend to re-claim them this summer.