



# **AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm

**1 – Present:** Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Helen Simpson (HS), Heather Swan (HSw) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Apologies received from Heather Hadley (HH) and Jacqui Morton (JM). 2 members of the public were in attendance.

**2 – Declarations of interest:** Nothing declared.

**3 - Minutes:** the minutes of the last parish council (PC) meeting which took place on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

## **4 – Clerk’s Update:**

**4.1:** The clerk has finally had to replace the PC laptop as the previous one purchased in 2017 is no longer fit for purpose. SG suggested wiping the old one & donating it to a community group.

**4.2:** A VAT refund claim has been submitted this week for a total of £1165.74.

**4.3:** A resident has made contact about forming a village youth club & asked what support might be available. The PC agreed that a grant application would certainly be considered to help with set-up costs, but that the PC would not want to be involved in running it.

**4.4:** There will be a temporary road closure on Appleby Hill on 4<sup>th</sup> April. This information has been shared with residents.

**4.5:** NALC have awarded all clerks a pay award of 1.75%, dated from April 2021. Adjustment to be paid this month, ahead of the new financial year.

**5 – Open Forum:** A member of the public asked for advice from the council on his recent planning application & how best to proceed to get it agreed. He was urged to speak to NWBC. APC didn’t object to the application, but are not experts and so aren’t in a position to offer advice. \*NWBC Cllr Humphreys reported that the Norton Rise estate has now been signed over to a management company so any changes or additions to the play area would need to be agreed by them and all homeowners who pay a fee to them.

## **6 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:**

**6.1: Allotments: to discuss the purchase of a new gate:** TF has been seeking quotes for a replacement gate at the allotments, following the theft of the previous one, and now has 3 in place. HSw proposed a spend of £850 to replace it, HS seconded and all members voted in agreement. TF to order and arrange fitting.

**6.2: Bonfire 2022:** Discussions were had about APC taking on the organisation of the annual bonfire event as of this year. It would benefit the village, make the organisation & administration smoother and provide a clear audit trail. A sub-committee is to be formed, consisting of TF, HSw & SG. LT to look into the viability of accepting card payments.

**6.3: Great British Spring Clean:** A date has been set for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April for a village-wide litter pick. We still have some equipment from the event planned in 2020 which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to COVID. LT to contact NWBC about borrowing their litter-picking kit & to publicise the event on social media.

**6.4: Neighbourhood Plan:** HS reported that APC has been awarded £1790 to fund updating the plan. Well done to all involved – the sub-committee is to meet with a consultant later this month.

**6.5: Playing Fields:** Dog waste is currently a concern at the fields. TF proposed some new 'welcome' signage at the entrance, with a reminder for people to pick up after their dogs.

**6.6: Village Maintenance:** The play area off Windmill Lane is now almost complete; it just needs some drop kerbs and some litter bins installing.

\*Overgrowth affecting a street light near the crossroads has now been cut back & the light is once again effective. \*A quote has been received from Smith of Derby (who did the recent repair work & originally installed the mechanisms) for an annual maintenance service on the church clock: £284+VAT. SG proposed this, HSw seconded and members agreed unanimously that this would be money well spent to keep the clock in the best working order possible, and hopefully avoid costly repairs in the future.

**7 – Planning:** 2 applications as per the appendix. Several residents have asked for details on the recent appeal on a planning application for a Gypsy site on Warton Lane. Clerk to share the link to NWBC on social media.

**8 - Correspondence:** as per the Appendix.

**9 – Financial & insurance matters:** 6 payments as per the Appendix. Our annual subscription to WALC is due for renewal next month. The clerk explained what an invaluable service they provide, so all councillors voted in agreement to continue to subscribe to their services.

**10 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda:** HS reported that she's been in contact with Marina at WCC about the delay in getting new gates installed on a public footpath on Bishop's Field. HS was advised that they would be installed by 18<sup>th</sup> March. \*HS has also been looking into the footpath along the side of the churchyard following a resident enquiring about getting it re-established. HS is to meet with the resident and the vicar next week to discuss. \*A resident will shortly be making blue & yellow flowers and asking villagers to sponsor one. They will be placed around the village to raise awareness and funds for Ukraine. LT to share on social media when the details are finalised.

**11 – Next meeting scheduled for** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022, to include the Annual Parish Assembly.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell March 2022