

Austrey Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday, 11th December 2019 at 7.30pm

1. **Present:** Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Sam Goldney (SG), Anne Wilde (AW) minutes, and Tristan Fraser (TF) plus 2 members of the public. Apologies received from Heather Hadley (HH), Mick Beeson (MB), Debbie Jenkins (DJ) and Lynsey Treadwell (LT) parish clerk.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** AW repeated that her employer is involved in the JLR development at J11.
3. **Minutes:** the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 13th November 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the chair.
4. **Open Forum:** There was a discussion relating to drainage and the impact of recent heavy rainfall in and around the village, including St Nicholas Close, Bishops Cleeve, Warton Lane and Main Road. TF asked whether arrangements have been made by Morris Homes to ensure that ditches are free flowing during building work. It was explained that the lagoon has been designed to ensure that water run-off from the new development is better controlled than in the past. It was pointed out that ultimate responsibility lies with Severn Trent.
5. **Discussions and updates on recent or regular items:**
 - **Christmas Tree Lights:** the event had been a success, despite the poor weather. Around 150 people had attended. The bus came through the road closure at one point, but this was handled well. All remaining selection boxes have been donated to Austrey School, and left over mince pies to Linden Lodge Care Home in Polesworth. The date was fixed for next year's event on Friday 4th December, 2020, and SG agreed to investigate the availability of reindeer or a horse & cart. Around £16 was collected in donations and this has been put towards the next street party. It was agreed that letters of thanks should be sent to the school and to Ellen Beaty for their support.
 - **Church Clock:** an application for £6500 funding has been submitted to the National Lottery Community Trust Fund to cover the cost of repairing the village clock. It was agreed that the PC should write to the company that repaired the clock previously, complaining that it is not fit for purpose, and give them the opportunity to refund some of the cost before instructing another company to go ahead with the repair.
 - **HS2 Access Renewal:** it is not expected that any progress will be made until after the election. It was agreed that Henry should be asked to speak to HS2 on our behalf before signing and returning the paperwork received.
 - **Playing Fields:**
 - The recent bark delivery is continuing to create problems. It was agreed that TT will ask whether bark can be delivered to Corbett's farm and then transferred to the playing field by trailer rather than paying £50 per pallet to cancel the order because we do not have suitable facilities for unloading at the Playing Fields.

- Discover Outdoors have not replied to the reminders sent for payment. It was agreed that LT should go ahead and serve the eviction notice.
- It was agreed that there was no need to push Tamworth FC to complete the necessary maintenance work until they start using the Playing Fields again in the spring.
- **Village Maintenance:**
 - The discussion returned to drainage and the recent flooding. TF has cleared some drains but believes that the problems this year have simply been down to the unusually high levels of rainfall.
 - Lanes into the village are in a poor state of repair because of the heavy construction traffic, particularly that using Norton Hill. Morris Homes were asked to use Norton Hill as the main access route rather than driving through the village and it was felt that damage was inevitable but should be repaired once heavy construction work has been completed. It was agreed that construction vehicles should be discouraged from using Orton Hill and damaging that too.
 - Marion Humphreys confirmed that the Borough Council has been in touch with the developers regarding the amount of mud on the roads.
 - The Borough Council is also in touch with builders working on the Homestead, asking them to clear up and secure the building rather than letting it fall down. It was agreed that LT should write to Fiona Wallace, Planning Officer at NWBC to complain about the state of the Homestead, urging them to complete renovation work as quickly as possible.
- 6. **Planning:** as per appendix, one application relating to the Crisp Farm development, whereby Morris Homes have elected to use solar panels in meeting the renewable energy requirements for the new houses.
- 7. **Correspondence:** as per appendix.
- 8. **Financial and Insurance matters:** as per appendix.
- 9. **Councillors' matters and items for future agenda:**
 - TT reported that Jane Hodgkinson and Gordon Parslow will continue to maintain the village planters, despite the fact that the Garden Society has been wound up. It was agreed that we should send them a box of chocolates to thank them for their hard work.
 - It was suggested that we also provide boxes of chocolates for those that help with the distribution of the newsletter.
 - TT confirmed that he had asked for the drains to be jetted but that this has not yet been done.
 - TT confirmed that the County Council had been out to inspect the pot holes in the road by The Green / Post Office.
 - AW has contacted NWBC again about the fence/hedge on Newton Lane behind one of the houses on Paget Rise. It was agreed that this should be followed up with a letter.
 - It was agreed that we should postpone any discussion on the Village Hall parking spaces until all the Councillors are present.
 - It was agreed that village signs would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

- The sub-committee had met to discuss the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Policies were reviewed firstly. TT will discuss further with AW before the next meeting.
- TF asked whether he could have a key for the notice board as he lives so close and can help to keep it up-to-date.

10. Date of Next Meeting: scheduled for Wednesday, 8th January 2020, at 7.30 pm.

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting at this point.

11. Clerk's Performance Review: those present were unanimous in thinking that the clerk continues to be professional and hard working. Everyone is pleased with the standard of her work and commented that she often goes above and beyond the call of duty. Salary to be discussed at January's meeting when more councillors are present.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____