



# **AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm

**1 – Present:** Tony Treadwell (TT), Tristan Fraser, vice-chair (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Heather Swan (HS), Neil Hayward (NH), Richard Nield (RN) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT).

2 members of the public were in attendance.

**2 – Declarations of interest:** Nothing arising

**3 – Minutes:** the minutes of the last Austrey Parish Council (APC) meeting which took place on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

**4 – Clerk’s Update:**

**4.1:** The external audit of the annual accounts for the year 2022-23 has now been completed and a Notice of Conclusion of Audit posted on the website.

**4.2:** LT has added a page on the website for Neighbourhood Plan minutes, updates etc. This can be found under the ‘planning’ banner.

**4.3:** The grant application that was mentioned at the last meeting to possibly fund new play equipment at the playing fields was declined at the expression of interest stage as parish councils are not eligible. Likewise, a second application with STWA was not possible as they don’t fund play equipment. LT has contacted CAVA for some help and has been sent a list of possible funding opportunities.

**4.4:** The clerk has applied to NWBC for road closure consent ahead of this year’s Christmas event, which will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**5 – Voting on applicants for the current councillor vacancy:** One applicant was present at the meeting – Terry Webb - who has previously attended meetings and submitted an application. HS nominated Terry and SG seconded this. All members voted in agreement and welcomed Terry to Austrey Parish Council.

**6 – Open Forum:** Craig Dunkerley, the CEO of Twycross Zoo, attended the meeting to introduce himself and to re-establish links between the zoo and the village, and to discuss ways to engage with the community and school.

**7 – Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:**

**7.1 – Bus Shelter:** The bus shelter has been painted this week. We have also received another quote for replacing it, which is considerably less than the previous one. However, it is still beyond the PC’s means, so funding still needs to be sought.

**7.2: Church Clock:** Smiths of Derby are in talks with Tamworth Scaffolding regarding a start date for the works to the clock face.

**7.3: Neighbourhood Plan (NDP):** LT applied for the next round of funding to continue to develop the NDP. This has been awarded & received and will continue to pay, in the main, for a specialist consultant to assist in the process, as well as room hire, printing and marketing.

**7.4: Playing Fields:** The field is looking really good at the moment. An area has been cleared of brambles & overgrowth allowing access to the ditch, which has now been cleared.

**7.5: Road Safety & Maintenance:** Conversations have taken place on social media in recent weeks relating to the speed of vehicles through the village. The PC has not had any official correspondence on the subject and no parishioners attended the meeting to discuss. This topic has been visited in the last 1-2 years when APC was offered some speed checking resources. However, nobody came forward to volunteer to join the team required to check speed levels, so the matter was dropped. The PC discussed the viability of commissioning a traffic survey in the village to provide actual data on the matter.

**7.6: Village Maintenance:** There have been comments on several sections of overgrown hedges and bushes around the village. It was noted by the PC that they could not have been cut back before the beginning of September due to nesting birds. NWBC is responsible for one of them, and the PC has no powers to make residents cut their hedges.

\*NH has taken part in an accessibility survey with the Localities Officer from WCC. They reviewed the drop kerbs and general pavement access and found several problem areas. Rectifying the issue depends upon WCC's budget, so may not be addressed any time soon.

**8 – Planning:** 3 applications since the last meeting, as per the appendix

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

**10 – Financial & insurance matters:** 11 payments as per the appendix. LT is to book 2 more places on the NDP training course for members of the steering committee.

**11 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda:** A litter pick & village clean-up is to be arranged, with a tentative date of 14<sup>th</sup> October (TBC). The annual Christmas event is to be added to the next agenda.

**12 – Next meeting scheduled for** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

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

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell September 2023