



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT), Tristan Fraser, vice-chair (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Neil Hayward (NH), Terry Webb (TW) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Apologies received from Richard Nield (RN) and Heather Swan (HS). No 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 8th November 2023, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

4 - Open Forum: Nothing arising

5: Discussions & updates on recent or regular items

5.1: Beeline Community Transport donation request: As we have exceeded our budget for donations for the financial year, the council have decided not to make a contribution at this time but will invite them to apply for a grant after April 2024 (the new financial year).

5.2: Budget and precept requirements for 2024-25: Discussions took place regarding the amount required this year. It was noted that the precept requirement has stayed the same for the last 2 years, and that costs, services and materials have all increased significantly this year. For this reason, it was decided to increase the precept by just over 5.5%, from £16560 to £17500.

5.3: Neighbourhood Plan (NDP): There was no NDP meeting this month due to other commitments. Not many photos have been submitted for the NDP photo competition, but we have some which can be used. LT to put another request on social media. *Funding has been requested for an orchard to be planted on the green space between Newborough/Orchard Close. Volunteers will be needed to help plant the area and tend to it once established.

5.3.1 - Assets of Community Value (ACVs): A resident contacted APC regarding ACVs in Austrey. A building or other land is an ACV if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community or could do so in the future. Possible ACVs identified in Austrey are: Austrey Stores, The Bird in Hand, the old cricket pitch, Bishops Field, and the Ridge & Farrow Field. After discussions here and at recent NDP meetings, and following direction from the guidelines and our NDP consultant,

it was felt that the ACVs put forward do not meet the criteria or fall within the specified premise. This motion was proposed by TF, seconded by TT, and agreed by all present.

5.3.2 - Infrastructure projects list: NH produced a draft Infrastructure Project List (see appendix 1) for discussion and approval by APC. This lists any projects which the village would like to see CIL monies spent on, and it was reviewed and updated for inclusion in the NDP.

5.4: Playing Fields: The area is currently very wet and boggy. The undergrowth has been removed from around the ditches ready for them to be cleared in the spring.

5.4.1 - Voting on a spend for new lights at the pavilion. TF reported that the strip lights at the pavilion are very inefficient and barely fit for purpose, being those which were fit when the pavilion was originally built. They would be replaced with motion sensor lights in the toilets and new LED strip lights. One quote has been received and the council voted on a maximum budget of £1200 for these works subject to a second quote being sought. This was proposed by TF and seconded by SG. All voted in favour subject to seeing 2 separate quotes.

5.5: Village Maintenance: Communication is still ongoing regarding several maintenance issues which need attending to by NWBC or WCC, namely a missing road sign on Warton Lane, Appleby Hill culvert, Norton Hill drains, drop kerbs and pavement repairs.

5.6: Village Speed Limits: As Austrey does not meet the criteria to have LED speed signs installed, it has been suggested that as an alternative, all local villages/parish councils could collectively agree to and request 20 MPH speed limits throughout. This matter is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

6 – Planning: 2 applications since the last meeting, as per the appendix. Re PAP/2023/0487, members decided unanimously that the design was not in keeping with the village, and that the dimensions are too high. They also questioned why the new barn is to be built so far from the house.

7 - Correspondence: as per the Appendix.

8 – Financial & insurance matters: 12 payments as per the appendix.

9 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: Village speed limits.
*The Christmas tree lights have always been powered by a small box attached to the nearest streetlight, but WCC have reported that it is no longer fit for purpose and that it could potentially be dangerous. For that reason, the tree has had battery operated lights on it this year pending a replacement. APC is awaiting a quote for the works.

10 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 10th January 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell December 2023