



# AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

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

**1 – Present:** Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Heather Hadley (HH), Heather Swan (HSw), Jacqui Morton (JM) and Helen Simpson (HS). Apologies received from the parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). 8 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

**4 – Clerk’s Update.** TT provided an update on behalf of the clerk:

**4.1 – Grounds Maintenance & Street Cleansing:** Quote received from North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) as the current agreement is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 with option for a one year or a two-year fixed price agreement with an annual cost of £868.24 plus VAT. TT proposed the two-year agreement. TF seconded this and all voted in agreement. Clerk to advise NWBC.

**4.2 Improvements at Playground Holly Bank Play Area:** Works are due to start at the end of this week and subject to weather conditions should be completed by the end of February.

**4.3 Village Hall:** The Village Hall Committee are applying for a grant to develop the rear area as a leisure/entertainment area and are consulting residents using a survey on their website. LT has included the survey on Austrey Updates & the village website.

**4.4 Gardening Society** – The society are applying for grant to plant a tree in celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and have asked the PC for our support and if we have a particular place in mind to plant a tree for everyone in the village to enjoy. The PC is in full support and will agree our proposed position for planting the tree at our next meeting.

**5 – Open Forum:** A member of the public (Ellen Beaty) asked if 2 or 3 members of the PC would join the Bonfire Committee for the planning of the annual Austrey Bonfire Event, and requested funding to support the event. She was unsure how much is needed but would confirm nearer the time. VAT and insurance considerations were raised. TT suggested the possibility of a budget to be identified by the PC as part of their budget considerations for the financial year (from 1 April 2022). Further details to be provided and will be considered at the next PC meeting. TT to update LT.

Preparations for the Platinum Jubilee Street Party were also discussed including a grant funding bid to be submitted to NWBC for commemorative mugs for all

the children in the village. However, it won't be organised by APC. HS to action the grant application.

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

- **6.1 – Allotments: to discuss the purchase of a new gate:** TF reported that the firm who had supplied the original gates was no longer trading. Two additional companies had been approached for quotes and will be presented to the PC next month for consideration and decision.
- **6.2 - Neighbourhood Plan:** SG reported that a grant funding application has been submitted for a consultant for help with the process and that there had been a good response for our request for volunteers to get involved as part of a Steering Group to support development of the updated Plan. SG said it's a big piece of work and the process could take 18 months to 2 years. HH added that Austrey was unusual as it was one of only a few villages that already have a Neighbourhood Development Plan already in place.
- **6.3 - Playing Fields:** TF reported that the ground continues to be very wet, as is usual during the winter months.
- **6.4 – Phone Box:** A resident had emailed the clerk about the messy books and toys which appeared to have been dumped in the phone box, and queried whether in view of this the phone box should continue to be used as a book library. The PC agreed that we would tidy up the phone box and that as it used, it should continue as a book library.
- **6.5 – Queen's Jubilee Street Party:** Covered earlier in the meeting.
- **6.6 - Village Maintenance:** TF reported that the blocked ditch on Warton Lane (next to Fairfax Rise) had now been cleared and looks a lot better. TT to contact WCC as it requires jetting equipment to aid the flow.
- A resident has contacted the PC requesting the PC investigate refurbishment of the Churchyard footpath. This is a right of way which many residents are not aware of as it's so very heavily covered by overgrown bushes. TF discussed access points to the footpath and SG raised the importance of not losing existing footpaths. HS to contact WCC to request funding to help clear the footpath. TT recommended this to be brought forward to the PC meeting next month.
- HSw raised the need for overgrown hedges at the top of Windmill Lane to be cut back - TT will contact WCC. SG reported that a road sign on Newton Lane has been cleared of overgrowth.
- SG updated on the on-going sewage issues impacting on the houses on Norton Rise. SG had contacted Severn Trent (STWA) again and they responded that people need to be careful what they are flushing down toilets. SG will be contacting STWA again and HH is following up her complaint letter to them as they haven't responded. Some of the residents present said that some gardens had been dug up to try to identify the problem. SG had called STWA again and they're coming out to the site tomorrow (10 February).
- Although 2 new gates arrived some time ago for the fields at Bishops Cleeve, SG reported that the landowner has not fitted them yet and had indicated they may not be fitted until September. HS to send complaint about this delay to WCC.

- **6.7 - Church Clock:** TT reported that the church clock is now keeping accurate time following recent repair work. Due to a supplier issue, a new sprocket (chime mechanism) still needs to be fitted, which will mean the chime will soon be working again too.

**7 – Planning:** One application as per the Appendix, AP/2021/0707 - land to the west of Wulfric Avenue. The PC had submitted its objection to the application. County Councillor M. Humphreys said she understood that Highways had also objected, there had been a lot of objections and the application was being considered by the full NWBC Planning Board. Some of the residents present at the meeting said they had raised objections to the application and also complained to the Highways Department. HH added that the sewage problems were also relevant to the objection.

Councillor M Humphreys (MH) updated the PC on the significant delays by the owner of the Homestead in protecting the listed building and proceeding with approved plans within the timescale as agreed with NWBC. This will be considered again by the NWBC Planning Board on Friday. HH raised concern that the building could collapse. There is also the safety risk due to the pavement in front of Homestead being closed to pedestrians. MH offered to communicate the PC’s concerns on our behalf to the Board. She also stated that there had been a change to the application for the barn on Norton Hill; the plan was the same except for the size of the proposed barn had been increased. This application was also going to the full Planning Board on Friday. The PC view is not to object if that is the only change to the application (previously considered by the PC at its meeting last month).

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

**9 – Financial & insurance matters:** 2 payments as per the Appendix.

**10 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda:** HSw has offered to help with some of the lengthsman duties. TT said training will be need to be arranged due to the health and safety risks of using the equipment.

\*HH asked for an update on the Planning Application by Charity House. MH to update in March.

\*The PC was asked about an ongoing streetlight which is blocked by a resident and rubble on part of Main Road which just needs moving by the homeowner. The PC agreed to send a letter requesting that the resident address the issue.

**11 – Next meeting scheduled for** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Apologies received in advance from HH and JM.

Meeting closed at 8.21pm

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

Produced by Helen Simpson & Lynsey Treadwell February 2022