



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 08 May 2024

Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor N Barton
- Councillor A Banks
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor T Potts
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

- Cllr Jelf for any discussion of Wallhill Lane.
- Cllr Sutton for any discussion of Wallhill Lane
- Cllr P Critchlow for a payment to be approved for his expenses

Election of the Chair for 2024/2025

The Council unanimously elected Cllr J Critchlow as Chair for 24/25 and she duly made and signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

Election of the vice-Chair for 2024/2025

The Council unanimously elected Cllr N Plant, *in absentia*, as vice-Chair for 24/25 and **resolved** to allow Cllr Plant to make and sign his declaration of acceptance of office at the next meeting.

Registers of Interest

The Clerk urged those Councillors who had not yet done so to review their Declarations of Interest and send copies to him so they can be published.

Part 1 - Public and Press Forum

No members of the public were present.

062/24 Apologies:

The Council **resolved** to accept apologies from:

- Councillor N Plant (competing engagement)
- Councillor P Cliff (work commitments)
- Councillor I Parry (work commitments and travel delays due to rail strikes)

063/24 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2024 are a true and accurate record.

064/24 Accounts

The Council **resolved** to approve the accounts (**see Annex 1 for details**).

065/24 Planning Applications

24/1267C - New oak front porch and new front cuckoo dormer to front bedroom, WALNUT COTTAGE, SANDBACH ROAD, WALL HILL, CHESHIRE, CW12 4TE

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.

066/24 – Policies to Review

Financial Regulations - the Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) was due to issue a new set of model Financial Regulations imminently. The Council **resolved** to adopt the current Regulations unchanged but review them again once the NALC model had been published.

Standing Orders - the Council **resolved** to adopt the current Regulations unchanged.

Health and Safety Policy - the Council **resolved** to adopt the current Regulations unchanged.

067/24 - Highways

The Council noted that potholes had been marked up for treatment on Mow Lane – after contacts with our local MP. The Clerk noted that it had not yet been possible to arrange a meeting with CE Highways about the placement around the parish of the SID that the Council had previously resolved to purchase.

068/24 – Risk Assessment

The Clerk reported that there were no significant changes to be made but it would be updated slightly for example to specify the terms of the renewed parish council insurance policy. The Council **resolved** to adopt the policy with these small changes.

069/24 – Bench at Ackers Crossing

The Council noted that the bench had at last been installed by the Clerk and Cllr P Cliff and residents had offered to oil and varnish it as needed. The Council **resolved** to investigate whether the unspent CIL from 2020 could cover some of the costs.

070/24 Cheshire East

There was no report in the absence of Ward Councillor L Wardlaw.

071/24 – Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr J Critchlow reported that in light of statutory responses the NP Working Group would look again at the Design Code and offer some (minor) edits. The Group will next meet on 28 May. Councillors noted that the unspent balance of the Groundwork grant had been returned at the end of the 23/24 Financial Year, but that they had previously agreed to cover any additional costs from the existing parish budget.

072/24 – Common Land

The Clerk reported that the contractor he had approached to plant replacement whips at the site had not been available to do so. Cllr P Critchlow will approach another contractor though this would now need to be done in the autumn.

073/24 – Expenses and Allowances

The Council **resolved** to grant a small allowance of £250 for 24/25 to the Chair in furtherance of her official duties.

074/24 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr Lomas noted that the grid/drain at the entrance to Glebe Farm was still blocked. Cllr Sutton reported on her meeting with the 'liaison' group of neighbouring parishes. Discussions included traffic/speeding on the Congleton Link Road. She invited Councillors to help out at the Astbury May Day celebrations. The Council will consider adding details of defibs in the parishes in the next edition of the newsletter.

Cllr P Critchlow suggested a new plaque for the replacement oak tree at Ackers Crossing and noted that the footpath from Childs Lane to Brownlow Heath Lane needs siding out again. The Clerk will look into both these things. The Council noted the sad news that a former Clerk, Charlie Pointon, had passed away.

075/24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk noted that the next meeting would need to sign off all the audit documents for submission. TCS Management, who provide payroll services, had asked the Council to sign a 'letter of engagement', which he will discuss further with the Chair. He reported that '**Vexatious Communications**' policy is being drafted.

The Meeting closed at 2015 hrs

Annex 1

Accounts

Bank Balance as of 30 April 2024: £21,301.55

Of which:

- £nil – unspent Neighbourhood Plan Grant (all unspent amounts have been returned)
- £6,833.47 - unspent Community Infrastructure Levy
- £441.98 - unspent CIL from 2020

The Council **noted** the following receipts since 1 April 2024:

- £7,397.50 - Precept

The Council **approved** the following payments:

- £131.07 - Clerk for computer protection/online backup. Includes non-sterling transaction fee.
- £300.00 – Insurance renewal
- £63.50 – Cllr P Critchlow for paper, printing and mileage when posting agendas and notices

The Council **noted** the following payments since 1 April 2024:

- £471.60 – A Thomson Neighbourhood Plan support
- £48.74 – Clerk NEST Pension
- £219.26 – ChALC affiliation
- £66.00 – TCS payroll Management
- £120.00 – N Sharman Neighbourhood Plan postage
- £81.49 – Neighbourhood Plan grant repayment
- £455.76 – CCP Newsletter
- £555.06 – Clerk Salary

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Chairman