



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 09 April 2025

Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present:

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor N Plant
- Councillor T Potts
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor P Cliff
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor I Parry
- Councillor S Harrop
- Councillor A Banks
- Ward Councillor L Wardlaw
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

None.

Part 1 – Public and press Forum

No press or members of the public were present.

034/25 - Apologies

- Cllr M Bailey - travel
- Cllr N Barton – no reason given

035/25 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March are a true and accurate record.

036/25 – Ward Councillor Report

Cllr Wardlaw reported that there were fears that the devolution supported by Cheshire East Council could have negative consequences local decisions on planning applications. Social workers in Cheshire East are trialling the use of IA to reduce the

administrative burdens on them. There is a ban on barbecues in all parks in the region. There are proposals to make the development of 1500 homes in Handforth more of a garden village, but this scale of development could have implications for regional transport links.

037/25 - Accounts

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

038/25 – Planning Applications

25/0535/ADV Advertisement Consent, Pecks Restaurant

Advertisement Consent for additional new signage and alteration to existing signage,

The Council **resolved** to support the proposed extension but not the signage. The scale and design is not in keeping with the provisions of the Neighbourhood Plan since it doesn't 'respect local character and distinctiveness.' (EC2)

25/0868/HOUS Brook Farm Watery Lane, CW12 4RR

Proposed demolition of external dwarf wall, diversion of overhead electricity cable and installation of an air conditioning unit.

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection

25/0471/HOUS The Hollies Newcastle Road, CW12 4RN

Alteration and extension of existing dwelling and outbuilding including demolition of rear extension, erection of 2-storey extension, remodelling of elevations, extension of outbuilding and provision of hard standing.

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to the alterations and extension to the existing house, but **resolved** to object to the proposed barn conversion. The property is located in both the Green Belt and the Conservation Area, and the proposed size of the barn conversion would be 'disproportionate'.

Generally, Councillors expressed their concern that the new Planning Portal was not operating well with, for example, missing documents, applications not found, and long delays in posting comments on the site. Cllr Cliff had heard some speculation that delays in loading documents and delays responding to applications could encourage more people to go ahead with their schemes in the knowledge that any objections would be 'timed out'.

039/25 – Policies to Review

Councillors **resolved** to postpone discussion of the Risk Assessment until details of next year's insurance are available, since insurance is one of the key risk mitigation measures.

040/25 – Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk invited Councillors to reach out to parishioners and see if they would be willing to stand for election/co-option.

041/25 – Annual Meeting in June

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Council must elect a Chair at its Annual Meeting and may elect a vice-Chair, and so Councillors should discuss among themselves who would like to put themselves forward as candidates.

042/25 – Business Plan Update

The Council asked the Clerk to update the Business Plan now that the revised Neighbourhood Plan has been made.

043/25 - Highways

Nothing further to report.

044/25 – Common Land

The Common Land Working Group will try to meet on site soon to discuss the proposals from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. The Clerk will chase contractors to spray off the nettles as soon as possible.

045/25 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr Cliff reported problems locally with the bin collection services.

Cllr Harrop noted that the Astbury May Day organisers had asked for a donation towards the cost of the event. This would need to be put in writing.

Cllr Cliff noted the serious accidents that had recently happened on the A34. He had done a PH test on the Village Green which had revealed a slight magnesium deficiency and recommended dressing the area with gypsum.

Cllr Jelf reported that she had sent a response to the many letters which the pupils at Astbury School had written to the Council as part of their 'Archbishops' Young Leaders Award' activities. To be discussed once they had replied.

Some Cllrs had visited the Sibelco Bent Farm site with neighbouring parishes. More local water quality monitoring will take place before work on the splay at the entrance (Holmes Chapel Road) will begin.

046/25 Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the general problem of speeding around the parish especially around the Village, the clerk will investigate whether the PCSO could bring a speed gun to assess the situation.

Part 2 – no public or press present

The Council **resolved** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 as extended by the Local Government Act 1972, section 100, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for discussion of the following items on the grounds that the publication of the matter would be prejudicial to the public interest or by reason of its confidential nature.

047/25 – Clerk's Annual Appraisal

Councillors discussed a report from the Personnel Committee on the Clerk's performance and annual appraisal and **resolved** that he should progress from spine point 22 to point 23 on the NALC pay scale.

The Meeting closed at 2140 hrs

Annex 1 - Accounts

Bank Balance as of 01 April 2025: £17,153.63

Of which:

- £6,833.47 unspent Community Infrastructure Levy
- £411.98 unspent CIL from 2020

Received since 01 March 2025:

- £nil

Payments to approve:

- £nil

Payments to note since 01 March 2025:

- £483.98 – Crewe Colour Printers, Newsletter
- £51.50 – NEST, Clerk's Pension

X

Chairman