



Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 12 March 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 M Bailey
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest

Cllr

Part 1 – Public and press Forum

No press or members of the public were present.

022/25 - Apologies

- Cllr A Banks – travel commitments
- Cllr I Parry - travel commitments
- Cllr C Sutton – no reason given
- Cllr S Harrop – no reason given
- Cllr Barton – no reason given

023/25 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2025 are a true and accurate record.

024/25 – Ward Councillor Report

Cllr Wardlaw reported on several issues. She had received a form to fill in from CE Highways so that the posts to take a mobile SID can be installed now that locations have been identified. The position on using the Ward Councillors' Budget Scheme for siding out along the A34 should become clearer soon. CE Council has managed to

secure a £19m loan to allow them to continue to provide at least some services while they seek further savings. There is a consultation open on the Local Transport Plan, devolution discussions are continuing and CE Council are producing a (mandatory) Nature Recovery Plan.

025/25 - Accounts

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

026/25 – Planning Applications

None Received.

027/25 - Complaints

Councillors reviewed the Council's Complaints Policy and **resolved** to make no changes.

028/25 - Vacancy

Cllrs discussed how best to advertise the current Cllr vacancy and agreed to write a piece for the Newsletter and advertise on the website and noticeboards.

029/25 - Parishes Meeting

The Clerk confirmed that the Very Revd Dr Jeff Cuttall had agreed to give a talk at the Annual Meeting of the Parishes. It will start at 6.30pm with a regular meeting of the Council at 7.30pm. It will also be advertised in the Newsletter as well as on the website.

030/25 - Highways

Councillors noted that CE Highways had refuted a report in the local newspaper that Cheshire roads were the worst in the country, and claimed that instead they were in the second quartile - 14th out of 40 members of the Future Highways Report Group. They claim there are not 17,191 active pothole reports as stated in the newspaper but a mere 550. This does not match the lived experience of parishioners and Councillors will continue to report problems with the roads.

031/25 – Common Land

The Common Land Working Group has not yet met on site to discuss future plans but will try to do so soon. Meantime the Council asked the Clerk to find a contractor to spray the nettles as soon as possible. They also asked him to chase the Cheshire Wildlife Trust for their report and recommendations for the site.

032/25 Chairman and Members' Reports

Cllr P Critchlow reported that there were still patches on the Green where the daffodils don't seem to have grown and Cllr Cliff will investigate some soil sampling to inform future action. Cllrs were still unhappy with the amount of rubble and building material being imported onto the strip of land at The Flash, and the amount of water run-off at the site and the Clerk will contact the Environment Agency again to follow up. Cllrs also noted (again) the numerous fly tipping incidents that are happening around the parishes. Cllr Jelf reported that the Astbury School head teacher had forwarded a series of letters from pupils at Astbury School who are pursuing the 'Archbishops' Young Leaders Awards'. The letters raise concerns about litter, dog fouling, pot holes and the absence of a safe crossing place along Peel Lane. As the School Liaison point person Cllr Jelf will draft a response.

033/25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that a Cllr from Somerford Council had offered to draft clearer instructions for setting up our new email addresses and would circulate this soon.

The Meeting closed at 2035 hrs

Annex 1 - Accounts

Bank Balance as of 01 March 2025: £17,689.11

Of which:

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

Received since 1 February 2025:

- £nil

Payments to approve:

- £nil

Payments to note since 1 February 2025:

- £51.50 – NEST, Clerk's Pension
- £10.79 – N Sharman for Hostinger website
- £412.00 – D Kaiserman Planning Training
- £585.02 – Clerk Salary

X

Chairman