Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 09 September 2026

Astbury Village Hall, 7.30 pm

Present:

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor N Plant
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor I Parry
- Councillor C Pear
- Councillor T Potts
- Councillor C Sutton
- Councillor S Harrop
- Councillor M Bailey

Part 1 – Public and press Forum

About 16 members of the public were present and spoke about the anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping in the laybys at Mow Cop.

112/26 - Declarations of Interest

Cllrs P and J Critchlow in respect of planning application 26/2988/PRIOR-3MA since they are neighbours.

113/26 – Apologies for Absence

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

- Cllr A Banks

114/26 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2026 are a true and accurate record.

115/26 - Accounts

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

116/26 – Ward Councillor report

Cllr Wardlaw informed the meeting that she will continue to liaise with Staffordshire and Cheshire East Councils and their Highways Departments, as well as the Police, to try to find a long term solution to the Anti Social Behaviour on Mow Cop, and give feedback after a meeting that is due to take place on 22nd September. She noted that road markings on the A34 by Astbury Garage had still not been reinstated, and the problem of fly-tipping at The Flash had still not been resolved – and there is currently no information about when both issues will be tackled. The Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) had recently given a somewhat damning opinion on Cheshire East Council's performance.

117/26 – Planning Applications

26/2988/PRIOR-3MA
Prior Approval: Change of use - Commercial, business and service to residential
Prior approval for proposed conversion of existing building into 1No dwelling.
THE SMITHY Brownlow Heath Lane

The Council **resolved** to raise no objection but to ask that the historic stone (pinfold) wall on the site should be reinstated as it represents a community asset.

26/3076/HOUS
Ground floor kitchen + utility room extension to dwelling. Ground floor extension+ refurbishment/re-roofing of existing potting shed to dwelling.
The Old Stables Newcastle Road

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

118/26 – Policies to review

The Council reviewed its Code of Conduct and **resolved** to make no changes.

119/26 – Business Plan

The Council will return to this subject at its next meeting after further discussions between the Clerk, Cllr Plant and Chair J Critchlow.

120/26 – Anti Social Behaviour at the laybys on the Congleton Road, Mow Cop

Councillors noted that since the laybys had been blocked by fly-tipped waste, flooding of the road was both worse and more frequent. Moreover, cars were now parking on the road as they couldn't access the laybys, causing a further hazard. Although the fly tipping had stopped most of the ASB the Council does not condone it and an alternative solution should be found that both stops the ASB while avoiding flooding.

121/26 – Registers of Members' Interests

The Clerk explained that because of changes to the Localism Act 2011 Councillors are no longer obliged to publish home addresses in their Registers. However, Councillors are still obliged to provide Cheshire East Council with unredacted versions. All Councillors should update their Registers and those who do wish to redact their home addresses should send two versions to the Clerk who will forward them to Cheshire East Council.

122/26 - Highways

Cllrs Plant and Parry confirmed that they will install the SID on Peel Lane as soon as convenient and before the October Council meeting.

123/26 – Defibrillator

Cllr Pear has been conducting research into the costs of a cabinet for the replacement defib unit. The cabinet will cost in the region of £400 plus VAT, and the electrician will charge around £530 to make the connections. The Council **resolved** to proceed on that basis and Cllr Pear will endeavour to make sure the project is completed before the October Council meeting.

124/26 – Common Land

Chair J Critchlow reported that we had finally received advice from the Congleton Town Council Streetscape team about ongoing maintenance but she felt there was insufficient detail to support a Parish Council grant application for the works. She will discuss this further with Councillors Bailey and Jelf.

125/26 - Chairman and Members' reports

Cllr P Critchlow reported that Sibelco had agree to provide some manpower to help with the planned daffodil planting this year. He had also found a source of some additional better value Remembrance Day poppies which he will order. He suggested that the Congleton Rotary Club might be a source of grants to purchase wildflower seeds to sow on the grass verges near the boundary signs and elsewhere.

Councillor Potts has reported the hedges at The Flash which need cutting. Councillor Harrop reported that a CEH vehicle had damaged the Parish Notice Board at the Village Hall and he will pursue them to replace or repair it. Councillor Sutton will explore whether the Community Payback Team could help with renovation of the Cheshire Railings in the area.

126/26 - Newsletter

Councillors were generally pleased with the quality of the newsletter but were aware that a few residents didn't receive copies. The Clerk will discuss this with The Leaflet Company, including whether the costs would need to be revisited.

127/26 - New NALC pay scales

Chair J Critchlow informed the meeting that NALC had published new pay rates for staff, and the Clerk had achieved the CiLCA qualification, with consequent implications for the Clerk's salary.

128/26 - Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the conclusion of the External Audit which would make a minor qualification to the accounts. He had been in touch to get quotes for tackling the problems with the sycamore at the Village Green as recommended by the Arboriculturist survey. The Council **resolved** to ask Astra Tree Services to complete the works, once planning permission had been received.

The meeting ended at 2105 hrs.

X

Chairman

Annex 1 – Accounts

Bank Balance as of 01 September 2026: £17,491.31

Of which:

- £976.06 - unspent NCIL from April 2025

Received since 01 August:

- £1,040.33 – HMRC VAT Refund

Payments to approve:

- £None

Payments to note since 01 August

- £43.45 – NEST, Clerk Pension
- £314.00 – The Leaflet Team, Newsletter
- £497.68 – Clerk August Salary
- £240.00 – Shona Amies, 12 month website management