Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 14 October 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 A Banks
- Councillor M Bailey
- Ward Councillor L Wardlaw
- Clerk Carlton Evans

Part 1 – Public and press Forum

Several members of the public were present and made representations about planning applications 26/3260/PIP and 26/3434/FUL.

129/26 - Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Bailey for planning application 26/3273/HOUS.

130/26 – Apologies for Absence

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

- Cllr S Harrop

131/26 Minutes

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 09 September 2026 are a true and accurate record.

132/26 - Accounts

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

133/26 – Ward Councillor report

Cllr Wardlaw had reported multiple signs that were either damaged, difficult to read or redundant across the parishes. She is investigating s106/developer contributions due to Cheshire East though it is unlikely that they could be directed to Astbury. Bin collections are still being missed and there's little evidence that the situation will improve in quick time. She had joined a meeting with Staffordshire Moorlands and Cheshire East Councils, and both Staffordshire and Cheshire Police to discuss the Anti Social Behaviour at Mow Cop, with a view to finding a more appropriate solution than the illegal dumping of stone in the laybys there. However, little progress had been made.

134/26 – External Audit Report

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors had issued a qualified opinion on the accounts due to a small mathematical error and the response to a newly worded question about Trust Funds (which the Council does not have). The latter had caught out so many Councils that the wording of the question and associated guidance has already been changed for the 26/27 annual return. The Council asked the Clerk to liaise with the vice-Chair in advance of the next audit process to try to identify any areas that may need closer attention.

135/26 – Planning Applications

26/3260/PIP
Permission in Principle for a minimum of two and a maximum of four dwellings.
Land Off Newcastle Road, Astbury (next to Astbury Garage).
The Council **resolved** to object to this application.

26/3273/HOUS
Proposed two storey side extension.
9 New Road, Ackers Crossing
The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.
(Cllr Bailey, the applicant, left the meeting for discussion of this application and returned once a decision had been reached).

26/3434/FUL
Proposed change of use of land for the siting of a temporary rural worker's dwelling for three years.
Doric Riding Stables Bent Lane
The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.

26/3407/HOUS
Proposal to change rear elevation to include large openable windows.

1, BROWNLOW HALL MEWS Brook Lane,
The Council **resolved** to raise no objection to this application.

Update On:
26/2988/PRIOR-3MA
Prior approval for proposed conversion of existing building into 1No dwelling.
The Smithy, Brownlow Heath Lane

The Council noted that the application had been refused yet work on the site seemed to be continuing. They asked the Clerk to liaise with the Environment Agency and Cheshire East Planners to reiterate the Council's concerns.

136/26 – Business Plan
The Clerk set out that he intended to restructure the Council's approach to follow more closely the stated ambitions of the draft Business Plan, and separate out spend that was not project based but was more related to running costs – insurance, memberships, the Clerk's salary etc. He will work this up and discuss it with Cllr Plant so that a precept proposal can be made to the November meeting.

137/26 – Budget 2027/2028
Covered in the Business Plan discussion above.

138/26 - Church Grant Request
Councillors considered a request from the Church authorities for a grant towards the cost of scaffolding and purpose-made chocks to support the roof that was showing signs of bowing, and **resolved** to make a grant of £560 towards this.

139/26 – Newsletter Printing and Distribution
Councillors noted that a handful of properties had not received copies of the latest Newsletter. The Council asked the Clerk to investigate if the printers could post copies rather than hand deliver it themselves.

140/26 - Highways
Cllrs Plant and Parry confirmed that they had installed the SID on Peel Lane and had already noticed drivers slowing down when the warning sign flashes. Cllr Parry and the Clerk will meet to install software on the parish laptop to be able to download traffic data.

141/26 – Defibrillator at Ackers Crossing
Cllr Pear had arranged that the defibrillator cabinet is now in place and connected, but unfortunately the defibrillator itself was not working so she has obtained a replacement while the first is being fixed. The Clerk will explore how to get the defib unit on the national database and what inspections should be undertaken.

142/26 – Common Land
Chair J Critchlow will discuss next steps with Councillors Bailey and Jelf and report back.

143/26 - Chairman and Members' reports
Cllr Jelf informed the Council that she will attend the ChALC AGM next week. Cllr Pear announced that she was tendering her resignation and the Council thanked her for the significant contribution she had made to the parishes.

Councillor Potts reported that CE Highways had said that the dangerously overgrown hedges on The Flash did not need cutting back and she will continue to pursue the matter. She had also reported the significant fly-tipping that had taken place at Ganny Bank.

Cllr P Critchlow reminded the meeting that daffodil planting would take place on 31 October along Wallhill Lane and Brownlow Heath Lane.

144/26 - Clerk's Report
Nothing further to report.

The meeting ended at 2115 hrs.

X

Chairman

Annex 1 – Accounts

Bank Balance as of 01 October 2026: **£26,821.14**

Of which:

- **£976.06** - unspent NCIL from April 2025

Received since 01 September:

- **£11,000** - Precept

Payments to approve:

- **£None**

Payments to note since 01 September

- £43.45 – NEST, Clerk Pension
- £252.00 – PKF Littlejohn, External Audit
- £604.72 – Clerk Salary, including back pay
- £200.00 – Cllr P Critchlow, daffodil bulbs
- £150.00 – Cllr P Critchlow, Remembrance Day poppies
- £420.00 – Eden Arboriculture, tree survey