



# AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm

**1 – Present:** Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Helen Simpson (HS), Heather Hadley (HH), Jacqui Morton (JM) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). 2 members of the public were in attendance. Apologies received from Heather Swan (HSw).

**2 – Declarations of interest:** Nothing declared.

**3 - Minutes:** the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021, were approved as a true record as signed by the chair.

**4 – Open Forum:** Cllr Humphreys (WCC) confirmed that the play area on the new Morris Homes estate will not be extended. The PC questioned whether incorrect procedures have been followed given the absence of communication on this matter, and discussed formal complaint procedures. \*It is thought that a truck-stop for up to 95 HGVs is to be established at Little Wigston. \*The bonfire event was very well attended and a great success. The PC discussed taking on the event to save on VAT & insurance costs (it is currently run by a community group). Clerk to liaise with the group & HS to discuss the viability of this option.

**5 – Clerk’s Update:** A VAT claim has just been processed for around £2725, which will be put towards the clock repairs. The balance of the Arts Festival account has also been transferred over to cover the rest. The PC decided to keep the 2<sup>nd</sup> account open should it ever be needed, and use it for projects or events.

## **6 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:**

**6.1 – Christmas 2021:** The trees have been ordered and are due on 27<sup>th</sup> November; Atherstone Round Table have confirmed their attendance, & selection boxes have been purchased. Mince pies are required: the clerk has been asked to put an appeal on Austrey Updates.

**6.2 – Church Clock:** Works are due to begin in January. The clerk has done a press release and shared the news of the WMT grant on social media.

**6.3 – Neighbourhood Plan:** Funding is available to update the plan, with the amount depending upon the level of change required. This would initially cover a scoping meeting and some professional support. North Warwickshire is still short of its housing quota overall, so it is important that the plan is amended.

**6.4 – Playing Fields:** nothing to report.

**6.5 – Precept – initial discussions:** APCs portion of council tax has gone down over the last 4 years, as has the precept in real terms, against the rising costs of services. It is feasible that it can be increased this year to stay in the line with increased costs to the PC, or increased significantly as a one off to do some essential repairs and maintenance around the village. Members are to give it some consideration and to return to the matter at the next meeting.

**6.6 - Village Maintenance:** Hedges on Newton Lane remain overgrown (thus reducing the width of an already narrow lane) and complaints continue to come in. The homeowners have been written to, so TT will call round this week to discuss it further.

**7 – Planning:** 1 application as per the appendix. \*There have been no further updates or decisions on The Homestead on Main Road.

**8 - Correspondence:** as per the appendix.

**9 – Financial & insurance matters:** 6 payments as per the appendix.

**10 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda:** Members would like to offer some defibrillator training to residents, so TT will look at organising 2 sessions at the village hall. Additionally, HH and JM are looking at producing an information leaflet for all households on defibrillator use, to keep in the home. \*There have been several incidents of break-ins, intruders and thefts around the village of late. We will continue to post updates on social media, and the advice is to report every incident. \*The Newsletter is still in production. There have been some delays to due to Covid, isolating and other commitments but watch this space!

**11 – Next meeting scheduled for** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**12 - Clerk's annual performance review:** There are no issues with the clerk's performance and the Council passed on their thanks for all of the clerk's hard work. A cost of living increase has been agreed in line with NALC's recommendations.

Meeting closed at 9.05

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_