



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Heather Hadley (HH) chairing the meeting, Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Anne Wilde (AW), and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Apologies received from Tony Treadwell (TT). Mick Beeson was absent. 3 members of the public were in attendance.

2 – Declarations of interest: Nothing declared.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 9th September 2020, were approved as a true record. They will be signed at the earliest opportunity.

4 – Open Forum: Nothing arising.

5 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

- **Christmas:** The clerk has ordered & received new lights for the village Christmas tree, the village hall & the shop. As we can't hold our annual Christmas event this year, the PC will be publicising a festive window display for villagers to participate in. Clerk to organise.
- **Grants:** APC has received a Business Support Grant of £10,000 from NWBC as part of the government's response to Covid-19. Councillors have started to think about what it might be used for so the item will be carried over to November's agenda. *The clerk has applied for a small grant from the WCC Councillors Grant Fund, with the monies to be used to provide some relief to vulnerable residents in these testing times. We await a decision.
- **Playing Fields:** TF has sought several quotes for a height restriction barrier which is to be installed at the entrance to the playing fields. This would prevent unauthorised high sided vehicles from entering the site. TF proposed a spend of £5500 on this item and this was seconded by SG. All voted in favour, so the motion was carried. TF to progress the matter. TF has also been seeking quotes for a rubberised surface on the play area, but as these are in the region of £23,000 the council decided to stick with bark.
- **Village Maintenance:** The Eucalyptus tree on Main Road has now been removed. *The new dog waste bins have been delivered, councillors are looking at where best to position them before asking the lengthsman to put them in place. It was decided that 1 more large capacity bin needs to be ordered. Lockdown plus more residents and dogs mean that they are filling up faster. LT to arrange. *The corner of Bishop's Cleeve and Warton Lane has been cleared and is looking much tidier, SG asked if the lengthsman could tidy some of the footpaths around the village next.

6 – Planning: 2 applications as per the appendix. The council have some concerns about application PAP/2020/0492, so HH will put together some comments to be forwarded to NWBC.

7 - Correspondence: as per the appendix

8 – Financial & insurance matters: 10 payments as per the appendix.

9 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: HS2 has slipped off the agenda in recent months as there has been nothing significant to report. However, it is believed that the start date of the phase which would affect Austrey significantly has been put back again.

*WALC are holding a briefing on Unitary Authorities, Devolution and Recovery it was asked if any councillors can attend.

*There is still a vacancy on the parish council, so the clerk is to create a poster advertising the fact, to be shared as widely as possible.

*Problems with slow broadband in the village was discussed, as well as the effect this has on people running businesses and working from home. Creating a survey related to download speeds locally was mentioned as a starting point to create evidence and attract fibre providers to the village.

10 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 11th November 2020.

Meeting closed at 8.27pm

Signed _____ Date_____