



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Mick Beeson (MB), Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Anne Wilde (AW), Heather Hadley (HH) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). No members of the public were in attendance.

2 – Declarations of interest: None

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 19th August 2020, were approved as a true record & signed by the chair.

4 – Open Forum: Nothing arising.

5 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

- **Christmas:** Councillors were in agreement that the annual Christmas event is unlikely to go ahead this year due to COVID restrictions. A tree will still be erected in the usual spot and decorated ready for the beginning of December, and the council discussed putting several other lit trees in other locations around the village, as well as lights outside the village hall. SG proposed a budget of £500 for new lights and this was seconded by MB. All voted in favour; LT to order some new lights.
- **Church Clock:** TT has been keeping an eye on the clock and it seems to be keeping reasonably good time, usually at only a minute or two out. It is also chiming as it should be. He will continue to monitor it.
- **Playing Fields:** MB reported that Tamworth FC has one year remaining on their lease. *TF is awaiting quotes for drainage works to the field.
- **Village Maintenance:** The Eucalyptus tree on Main Road is due to be felled and removed by the end of the month after having been inspected and surveyed by professionals. The PC asked if it could be pollarded, but due to the size of the tree plus its shallow roots it is deemed to be dangerous now.
*We are still awaiting delivery of the new dog waste bins, which had an estimated delivery date of almost a month ago. LT to look at alternative providers with a view to cancelling the existing order.

6 – Planning: No applications

*AW reported that a planning officer from NWBC is conducting a site visit to look at the fences on Newton Lane as they may be in breach of planning conditions.

*NWBC has distributed Draft Local Plan documents and AW volunteered to co-ordinate a review of the documents amongst councillors and report back to the council.

7 - Correspondence: as per the appendix

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

9 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: AW is undertaking the editing and producing the village newsletter on a trial basis. There has not been an edition for a few months since the previous editor moved on, largely due to COVID and a lack of content. LT to forward templates and useful info to AW.

*The council had a discussion about Village Welcome Packs, and deemed it safe to start delivering them to new residents again.

*WCC Councillors Grant Fund is open for applications again. AW suggested that as we can't organise social gatherings at the present time, it would be generous to put together food parcels for the elderly & vulnerable in the village. LT to progress the grant application.

10 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 14th October 2020. Due to changes to Coronavirus regulations due to take effect next week, it is not yet known if this is to be held at the village hall or virtually.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell – Clerk to the Parish Council – September 2020