



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

1. **To elect a chair for the coming year:** MB proposed TT and this was seconded by DJ. All members voted in agreement and Tony accepted the position.
2. **To elect a vice-chair for the coming year:** MB proposed DJ and this was seconded by SG. All in agreement and Debbie accepted the position.
3. **Present and apologies:** Following the uncontested elections on 2nd May, Austrey Parish Council welcomes back Tony Treadwell (TT), Mick Beeson (MB), Debbie Jenkins (DJ), Sam Goldney (SG) and Tristan Fraser (TF). No apologies received as all members are present and two places remain open on the council.

Ordinary Meeting

1. **Present:** Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Debbie Jenkins (DJ) vice-chair, Mick Beeson (MB), Sam Goldney (SG), Tristan Fraser (TF) and parish clerk/RFO Lynsey Treadwell (LT) plus 3 members of the public.
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **Minutes:** the minutes of last parish council meeting which took place on 17th April 2019 were approved as a true record & signed by the chair.
4. **Nominations & voting on co-opting new members of the council:** Following the recent uncontested elections, 5 members gained positions on the council which left 2 vacancies. Anne Wilde came forward as a potential new candidate. Anne has been a councillor for Austrey previously and was a great asset, so for this reason TT proposed Anne & TF seconded. All voted in favour and Anne was welcomed back to the council. Councillors discussed other residents who have expressed an interest in joining the PC and it was suggested that they approach the chair for an informal discussion ahead of the next meeting.
*MB raised the question of the process behind creating another position on the council, raising the total membership to 8. LT looked into this last year and it can only be increased by going through a formal process known as a Community Governance Review. This involves a community consultation, consultation with NWBC and possibly an election with associated costs. Given that last year meetings were cancelled due to lack of members, the clerk advises against it.
5. **Open Forum:** It was confirmed that the annual bonfire event is scheduled to go ahead this year and more details will follow later in the year.
*One resident recently attended the annual Village Sale held in Sheepy Magna and wondered if Austrey could hold a similar event next year. Stallholders would pay a fee to take part, profits would be spent within the village and participants would have a say on what it is spent on.

6. **Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:**

- **Beeline Community Transport** have asked for a donation, which they rely on to operate as no funding is received. The clerk asked how many villagers use the service and we were advised that Austrey has 15 regular users. After some discussion, TT proposed a donation of £300 & MB seconded it. All councillors voted in agreement.
- **HS2:** Representatives from HS2 have asked if they can attend July's meeting of Austrey PC to provide an update. Other than that, there are no developments to report.
- **Playing Fields:** TF ran through the latest Playground Inspection Report. There are several small repairs needed to the equipment but the main concern is that the steps up to the slide have eroded and need replacing. Cllrs are to seek quotes for this work and report back. The bark is also due to be replaced – the PC are still seeking quotes. Both items are to be added to July's agenda.
 - *Two benches have kindly been gifted to the village and are to be placed at the playing fields.
- **Village Maintenance:** A dog waste bin has been requested on the walk-way between Orchard Close & Newborough Close following a spate of dog waste being left in the area. We have recently purchased 3 new dog waste bins, bringing the total of various bins in Austrey to 16. The Parish Council have decided to move an existing bin which is under-utilised to the walk-way in question in the hope that dog walkers will be encouraged to use it. Hopefully, this will be done in the next few weeks and the PC hopes it makes a difference.
 - *TF is now in possession of the red paint and hopes to repaint the old phone box shortly.
 - *The dog waste bin recently erected on Cinder Lane is to be move from its current position at the request of Crisp Farm shareholders. TF to action.

7. **Planning:** 2 planning applications as per the appendix

8. **Correspondence:** 7 payments as per the appendix

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

*The clerk reported that the accounts for 2018-19 have been signed off by the internal auditor along with the annual Governance Statement. The forms were then signed off by the chair and can now be sent to the external auditors.

10. **Councillors' matters & items for the next agenda:** A resident has been looking at the PC website with a view to improving it. MB handed out some bullet point on what ideas he had in mind & asked for the item to be placed on the next agenda.
 - *The scout group will begin work on the Wild Flower Area in the next few weeks. They have reported that it is in a real mess. TT is to contact the contractors responsible for parking on this area to ask for a contribution. They said at the time that the area would be restored, but this amounted to sprinkling grass seeds on the land without even flattening out the tyre marks first.
 - *It was reported that a Christmas Tree has been fly-tipped from a residence on to Warton Lane in the last week or so. The clerk was asked to contact the Letting Agents recently involved in rented out the house in question so that the tenants can dispose of it in the correct manner.

*One cllr asked if there are any events in Austrey this summer to which the answer appears to be 'No'. Profits from the last Arts Festival are being held by the PC in a separate account should anyone have any ideas for a village event. An article containing more detail will be in the next newsletter.

11. **Next meeting scheduled for** Wednesday 12th June 2019

Meeting closed at 8.39pm

Signed (chair) _____ Date _____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell – Clerk to the Parish Council – 14th May 2019