



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT), Tristan Fraser, vice-chair (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Heather Swan (HS), Neil Hayward (NH), Terry Webb (TW), Richard Nield (RN) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). 2 members of the public were in attendance.

2 – Declarations of interest: nothing arising.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last Austrey Parish Council (APC) meeting which took place on 13th December 2023, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

4 - Open Forum: PCSO Hodson attended the meeting to provide an update on incidents in the village. A Community Protection Warning has been put in place regarding reports of loose, aggressive dogs in the village, with a promise from the owners of new fencing being installed at the property.

*A village resident attended to discuss the flooding which occurred last week. SG reiterated that APC put the issue of flooding in comments and objections on recent planning applications, which have still gone on to be approved and built, and have not helped the flood risk.

5 – Clerk’s Update:

5.1: The application for a heritage grant to cover works to the church clock was declined. An application has been completed for a lottery grant for the play area. The clerk had also applied to STWA for the same, but PCs are not eligible. There was a third possibility, but Austrey isn't in the landfill catchment area, so we were also unable to apply for this one.

5.2: LT, SG & HS have registered to take part in some briefings being delivered by 'Communities Prepared' - Community Emergency Planning Workshop, and a Flooding Action workshop which are both later this month.

5.3: Starting this month there will only be an agenda & minutes produced for the meetings. This is to streamline the information produced and to make it easier for members of the public to find the information they need. The appendix will be incorporated into the other 2 documents.

6 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

6.1: Austrey Emergency Plan & flooding issues: APC has received lots of reports and photos of the flooding issues in the village from residents and this was discussed at length. It seems to be caused by either water running off surrounding fields, or blocked/bad drainage. APC has no powers or resources to prevent any future flooding, but can co-ordinate a Flood action group who could liaise with other agencies and respond to incidents should they happen. HS to put

a post on social media asking for volunteers. Cllr David Humphreys was in attendance and he will look at sourcing sand bags for the village.

6.2: Maintenance & repair of streetlight on Main Road: We have been quoted £1,441.61 to install a dedicated feeder pillar for our Christmas tree lights, which would be maintained by WCC. Councillors voted against spending this amount and will look at alternative solutions before the next event.

6.3: Neighbourhood Plan: No meeting this month, nothing new to report.

6.4: Playing fields: A storm has caused a tree to fall near the allotment area and this needs to be cleared. TT reported that RN has applied for a grant from the Commonwealth Games Residual Fund for monies to help with the drainage issues at the playing fields.

6.5: Telephone box: The box needs some maintenance (rub down and repaint) and unfortunately a recent call for volunteers proved unfruitful. SG is to seek quotes for this to work be done. The defib signs are also weathered & faded, so she will order some replacements.

6.6: Village maintenance: A road sweeper was deployed by NWBC at our request following the flooding, to clear away the mud and debris which was a potential skid hazard. Most of it was cleared but for a large section on Appleby Hill.

6.7: Village speed limits: Nothing new to report this month.

7 – Planning:

i: PAP/2023/0277 - The Manor House, 16 Warton Lane, Austrey CV9 3EJ. No objections from the council.

ii: PAP/2023/0006 - Land 50 Metres West Of 55, Warton Lane, Austrey - Notification of Appeal. No objections from the council.

8 - Correspondence:

- Bank statement
- Clerks and Councils Direct publication

9 – Financial & insurance matters.

11 payments made or cheques raised since last meeting:

- Amington Band: £60 - donation for attending Christmas event
- R Machin: £70 - litter picking
- R Machin: £16 - litter picking tool
- T Fraser: £76.36 - pavilion maintenance expenses
- Austrey Village Hall: £75 - APC room hire
- Austrey Village Hall: £50 - NDP meetings
- NWBC: £402.43 - Charges for May 2023 parish elections
- Market Bosworth Young Farmers Club: £40 - Christmas tree recycling
- Clerk's salary - January
- HMRC PAYE - January
- First Rescue Training & Supplies Ltd: £61.14 - Replacement defib pad for defib on Appleby Hill

10 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: The village litter picker has asked for a pay increase, but as he is not actually an employee of APC, the clerk suggested he simply invoice us more to cover the hours he spends on grounds maintenance. This raised the question of whether he has liability insurance, and if the carer who helps him is insured. The clerk strongly recommended that this historical arrangement comes to an end, but the council voted for it to continue, pending some discussions about insurances and invoicing. LT to refer the matter to WALC.

11 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 7th February 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell January 2024