



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Heather Hadley (HH), Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Helen Simpson (HS) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Mick Beeson was absent. 2 members of the public were in attendance. The clerk shared the news that Anne Wilde has resigned from the council due to work commitments.

2 – Declarations of interest: Nothing declared.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 9th December 2020, were approved as a true record as signed by the chair.

4 – Open Forum: Katherine Webster, Green Space Officer at NWBC joined us for this section to discuss the proposed play area refurbishment at Hollybank Estate. The proposals are on our website and Facebook page and NWBC are looking for feedback from residents. Some village groups have already been consulted.

5 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

- **Budget & Precept:** Details of the proposed budget and precept for 2021-22 has already been shared & discussed by email ahead of the meeting. SG proposed that we ask for £15756 this time (which is last year's precept plus a small increase in line with inflation). HH seconded this and all councillors voted in favour.
- **Christmas Update:** The PC has received lots of positive feedback about the Christmas efforts made this year in lieu of our annual event. The Window Display Competition had a great response, with around 20 entrants in total. This is in addition to extra trees and lights, and the Christmas Hampers produced using grant funds received from WCC Councillors Fund. Clerk to formally thank the councillors involved in approving the grant. HH suggested that we make this an annual occurrence and the council agreed.
- **Playing Fields:** The council need to choose which benches they prefer so that TF can order them. *The pavilion door is on order and will be fitted asap. It was also noted that the exterior of the pavilion is looking quite shabby and requires repainting. TF to source quotes. *TF has also had a quote to clear the ditches, so this will be put on the next agenda. *The height restriction barrier has now been installed, and finally, the playground bark is in the process of being laid on the play area.
- **Village Maintenance:** A section of the B5493 by No Mans Heath is currently closed due to road works around the new Mercia Park development. Many cars are using Appleby Hill rather than the signed diversion. Concerns were raised that the verges on Appleby Hill are now muddy and deteriorating, with pot holes starting to appear due to the extra traffic. TT to contact WCC. TF pointed out that a couple of signposts around the village are in a state of disrepair or are out of date. TT to progress this matter.

- **Website & newsletter:** Due to some changes to Wix website editor, a lot of the website content can no longer be edited, so the clerk is in the process of re-designing it. LT reported that she is trying to do this in priority order and that some area of the website may be up-to-date.
The newsletter is still on hold due to the COVID situation and the lack of news to print! AW had agreed to take on this role when it resumes, but as she has resigned a new editor needs to be found to take on the role when the time comes. Clerk to put a post on the website & Austrey Updates.

6 – Planning: 1 application as per the appendix. The council noted that there are several applications which have been pending for some time now. Borough Cllr David Humphreys agreed to look into the situation.

7 - Correspondence: as per the appendix

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

9 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: The Neighbourhood Plan is still in need of an update. AW was leading this project so that task needs to be re-allocated. To be put on next agenda.

10 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 10th February 2021.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed _____ Date _____