



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT), Sam Goldney (SG), Terry Webb (TW), Richard Nield (RN) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Apologies received from Neil Hayward (NH), Tristan Fraser (TF) and Heather Swan (HS), which were accepted. 3 members of the public attended.

2 – Declarations of interest: nothing arising.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last Austrey Parish Council (APC) meeting which took place on 7th February 2024, were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.

4 - Open Forum: PC was in attendance and provided an update on incidents in the area. There have been no burglaries or vehicle crimes in the last month. A Community Protection Notice has been issued re 2 loose dogs around the Appleby Hill area, meaning that a fence needs to be erected and the dogs kept under control. Rural Crime have also been investigating loose dogs and ponies on Warton Lane.

*Rev Dyer also attended the meeting to outline the major structural work which is needed at St. Nicholas Church, including a leaking roof which needs completely replacing, and collapsing ceilings. In addition to looking at various events to bring in income to help towards the works, lottery grants for preserving heritage are available. The church is looking for APC's support in these ventures and for help in writing funding bids. The PC stated that it is happy to provide this support to the church as the village cannot let this historical building crumble.

5 – Clerk's Update:

5.1: We have been advised by The National Lottery Community Fund that they are not taking our grant application for new play equipment to the second stage. The reasons given were that there are projects in their pipeline that are more closely aligned with their priorities, and that APC was not able to demonstrate that public consultation was carried out to illustrate a desire for this project from residents.

5.2: We have been advised by our insurers, Gallaghers, that our litter picker is covered by our policy for litter picking duties only. Therefore, he can continue doing several hours per quarter and invoicing the parish council.

5.3: The clerk has received a speculative grant application/request from The Stan Bowley Trust, based in Lichfield. The application states that they will be applying to all parish councils in the Midlands for funding. The grant would not benefit our parish directly and has no specific purpose beyond general

fundraising, which is a stipulation of applying. Therefore, the application will not be considered by the council.

6 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

6.1: Christmas tree lights/electricity supply: RN has thoroughly investigated alternatives to having the streetlights modified, but options are limited and would possibly be ineffective. Therefore, the council voted unanimously on having the work done, as per the quote received from WCC earlier this year, as long as we receive assurances that the works remain fit for purpose for some years and that we are not liable to re-do the work again. This was proposed by RN and seconded by SG. LT to contact the lighting department at highways to discuss time frames etc

6.2: Neighbourhood Plan: The recent funding bid for a community orchard was successful, and the trees have already been planted. An opening ceremony is to be arranged and a plaque erected. *A newsletter outlining developments to the plan and what is left to do is in the process of being written and should be delivered to all residents with the next month. *The draft design codes have been received and are currently under review by the NDP committee.

6.3: Playing fields: The electrical works at the pavilion have now been completed.

6.4: Village maintenance: There has been a land slip on Appleby Hill and despite WCC having been advised, the area remains coned off and the soil has not been cleared. This poses a potential hazard to vehicular traffic as it narrows the useable portion of the highway, so TT is to chase this up.

7 – Planning:

a: Notification of Appeal: PAP/2023/0117 - 81-89 Main Road Austrey CV9 3EG - Variation of condition no: 4 of planning permission PAUSAV/0602/96/FAP (PAP/1996/3856) dated 14/08/1996 relating to use of swimming pool: APC plans to re-submit its objections as these have not been addressed. Additionally, it fails to see how traffic to the site can be policed.

b: No planning applications determined since the last meeting.

8 - Correspondence:

- Bank statement
- Clerks and Councils Direct publication

9 – Financial & insurance matters.

8 payments made or cheques raised since last meeting:

- Clerk's salary - March
- HMRC PAYE – March
- Carl McGrath – Pavilion lighting balance - £595
- Safelinks Ltd - replacement defib pads for the village hall defib - £80.58
- Smith of Derby - annual service of church clock - £374.40
- L. Treadwell - reimbursement for 5-year domain renewal & dog waste warning templates - £95.42
- Kirkwell's Ltd - NDP consultation fees - £1944

- Amazon gift voucher for NDP photo competition - £50

10 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: Nothing arising.

11 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 10th April 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell March 2024