



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT) Chair, Tristan Fraser, Vice-Chair (TF), Heather Hadley (HH), Sam Goldney (SG), Heather Swan (HSw), Jacqui Morton (JM) and Helen Simpson (HS). Apologies received from the parish clerk, Lynsey Treadwell (LT). One member of the public was in attendance.

2 – Declarations of interest: HS declared an interest in planning application PAP/2022/0363, The Limes, as the site is her immediate neighbour. She will therefore step back from discussions about this application.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last Parish Council (PC) meeting which took place on 13th July 2022, were approved by the Council as a true record as signed by the chairman.

4 – Clerk’s Update: : An update will be provided by LT at the next meeting.

5 – Open Forum: The member of the public present raised communication arrangements for the recent village litter-pick as she is not on Facebook and would have liked to have taken part. The Chair thanked the member of the public for raising this point and said we would place some posters in addition to using Austrey Updates (Facebook) to communicate the date of the next litter-pick. The member of the public also suggested holding a village street party or similar event to celebrate the King’s coronation in May next year. The Chair thanked the member of the public and proposed we cover this suggestion as part of the discussions on the summer gala later on in the agenda.

6 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

6.1: Bonfire Night: Earlier this year there had been a suggestion to move the responsibility for the Annual Bonfire from Hazel Meadow Allotments Association to the Parish Council. Following enquiries by the clerk and consideration by the PC it was agreed that although the suggestion was welcomed there would be no benefit to the community in making this change. The Parish Council agreed to continue to support and promote the Annual Bonfire which is a big success every year.

6.2: Christmas 2022: SG and TT will be going to choose and order the village Christmas trees in November. The annual Christmas lights switch on will take place on Friday 2nd December at approximately 6.00pm with the road closure from 5.15 pm until 7.00pm. All of the children attending the event will receive a

small gift from Santa. As in previous years the road closure has been requested with an event plan and risk assessment for NWBC ahead of the event. Atherstone Rotary club have agreed to bring their sleigh again this year. This was a great success last Christmas. In addition to the trees, the PC discussed the purchase of a large inflatable Santa decoration. This is to be confirmed. Mulled wine, squash and mince pies will add to the festive cheer. Last year some residents asked if it was possible to make donations at the event and following discussion it was agreed all donations received will be given to the Warwickshire Air Ambulance Service.

6.3: Neighbourhood Plan: Next steps to set up a village steering group to consider ideas of what we may want our new plan to do and reflect, and any policy changes since the first edition was printed. SG & HS will be attending neighbourhood plan training arranged by WALC (Warwickshire Association of Local Councils). LT will post on social media, noticeboards & website asking for interested residents to join the Steering Group. The process of bidding for funding has started.

6.4: Playing Fields: TF reported that 2 new litter bins are required in addition to those already there, to combat the litter issues. TF has provided quotes including VAT and delivery, with the best being £416 plus VAT & delivery. This was approved at the meeting. TF also updated the PC on the good work of one of our residents who has been painting the fence (2 tins of black paint were used) and weeding the Playing Fields as part of their voluntary work for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

6.5 Summer Gala 2023: To be held potentially on Sunday 7th May, the day after the King's coronation. Interactive discussion on the possibility of holding a Street party or alternatively an event on Austrey Playing Fields, with the summer gala on the same day. The possibility of holding a scarecrow competition over the same weekend was also suggested. Arrangements and dates to be considered in more detail at the next meeting.

6.6: Village Maintenance: The PC were shocked to hear of the theft of a plant and vase from the Phone Box in Main Road. *The Chair said he would report the following three issues to Warwickshire County Council Highways Department:

- There are at least three instances of raised ironwork on Norton Hill which the PC feels is detrimental to traffic. HS_w has sprayed the three places yellow to highlight the ironwork on the road.
- The hedge at on Newton Lane adjacent to the Cornfields homes is badly in need of a cut.
- There was recent work to stabilize the embankment on Appleby Hill and it seems one of the culverts/drains has been blocked and needs investigating as it may need jetting.

Dog waste continues to be an issue. There are many bins located around the village and the PC is reminding any dog owners who have not picked up their dog waste to use the bins or safely dispose of the waste at home. Failure to do so can result in a fine.

7 – Planning: 2 applications since the last meeting, as per the appendix: PAP/2022/0334 – Land 50 metres west of 55 Warton Lane Austrey – change of use to residential and erection of 2 self-build homes. The PC have learned that NWBC have refused the application. Regarding PAP/2022/0363, The Limes, 87 Main Road, Austrey, the PC have previously objected to the change of use of this land at the rear of the property which is a listed building. This application had been approved by NWBC although it was noted that there are on-going concerns with the process for approval.

8 - Correspondence: as per the Appendix.

9 – Financial & insurance matters: 14 payments and 2 receipts as per the Appendix.

10 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: The PC agreed to pursue grant funding opportunities, including from the County Councillors Grant Fund, for half of the cost of a replacement bus shelter. Apologies received from HH for the next meeting. Agenda items for the November meeting to include updates on our annual Christmas event, Neighbourhood Plan, Village Celebration for the King’s Celebration, and a Summer Gala.

11 – Next meeting scheduled for: Wednesday 9th November 2022, 7.30pm at Austrey Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.31pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Produced by Helen Simpson & Lynsey Treadwell on behalf of the Parish Council
October 2022