



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.30pm

1 – Present: Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Helen Simpson (HS), Heather Swan (HSw), Jacqui Morton (JM), Heather Hadley (HH) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). 4 members of the public were in attendance.

2 – Declarations of interest: Nothing declared.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 8th September 2021, were approved as a true record as signed by the chair.

4 – Open Forum: Rev Joanne Dyer was in attendance and introduced herself.

* The proposed play area on the new estate opposite the village hall was discussed. The area is considerably smaller than on the original agreed planning application and the planting has not been done as agreed. The PC has been corresponding with planning at NWBC for around 18 months on such matters but has failed to ever receive a response. TT to contact again. *A new plan for The Homestead is due to be presented.

5 – Clerk’s Updates: The clerk presented some figures to the PC illustrating the amount of council tax paid to APC over the last 4 years, which shows it decreasing year on year. This was requested by the PC ahead of deciding next year’s precept.

*We have approached NWBC about a loan for some high value replacement items in the village but unfortunately, they do not provide loans for this. *Works are due to begin on the new playground on Hollybank Estate in the New Year. *Clerk’s annual performance review is due next month.

6 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

6.1 – Bus Shelter: Replacement & installation of a new bus shelter, plus a new base will cost in the region of £10k, so it is not financially viable for the PC to fund this. Recent grant applications have been unsuccessful, so the PC discussed the idea of increasing the precept as a one off to finance all or part of it.

6.2 – Christmas 2021: SG & TT will be going to choose and order the village Christmas trees at the beginning of November. All children attending the event will receive a section box from Santa, and Atherstone Rotary Club have agreed to bring their sleigh to the event for some additional festive cheer. The road closure has been requested, TF to provide an event plan & risk assessment for NWBC ahead of the event.

6.3 - Church Clock: A grant of £2960 has been awarded by the War Memorial Trust towards the £7000 cost of replacing the clock mechanisms. There is £1690 available in the dormant secondary account, plus we are due a VAT refund of around £1600 which will go most of the way towards funding the difference. SG proposed the use of these monies and it was seconded by TF. All voted in favour. Motion carried. Smiths of Derby to be contacted to go ahead with the works.

6.4 – Financial Regulation Changes & Approval: The PC have requested that the financial regulations be amended so that an amount can be spend on village maintenance (£250) or the playing fields (£500) without having to put it on the agenda and wait for a vote every time. This was proposed by HSw and seconded by HH. All voted in favour so the motion is carried. LT to amend the regulations and forward them to members. Amounts spent still need to remain within the annual budget for this cost centre.

6.5 - Neighbourhood Plan: SG has made lots of headway with amending the NP. We may be eligible to get a grant to fund the updates and involve some specialist consultants. The new plan would be subject to a village consultation and vote.

6.6 - Playing Fields: This year’s Bonfire event is to be held on Saturday 6th November. Adverts & tickets sale details to follow on social media & around the village.

6.7 – Village Maintenance: The pot-holes have finally been filled in on Norton Hill. *It looks likely that the footpath by Cornfields will be adopted by WCC, so hopefully the hedges can be cut back soon. *We have been recruiting some ‘Guardians’ for the defibrillators in the village. They will help to do periodic checks of the machines and cabinets to ensure they are in good working order. TT to liaise with the volunteers. *HH had the idea of producing some leaflets detailing how the defibs work and how you can access them if needed etc. SG suggested a ‘cut out and keep’ guide for the newsletter which HH will produce.

6 – Planning: 1 application as per the appendix, again relating to The Homestead.

7 - Correspondence: as per the appendix.

8 – Financial & insurance matters: 3 payments as per the appendix.

9 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: TF would like to discuss the precept at the next meeting.

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

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed _____ Date _____