



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 10th February 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.

2 – Declarations of interest: Nothing declared.

3 - Minutes: the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 13th January 2021, were approved as a true record as signed by the chair.

4 – Parish Councillor vacancy: Heather Swan (HSw) has previously approached the council with a view to joining and attended this meeting to express her interest again. HH nominated Heather for co-option onto the council and this was seconded by TF. All members voted in agreement so the Parish Council welcomed Heather onboard.

5 - Open Forum: Nothing arising.

6 – Clerk’s Update: The order placed in November for a dog waste bin and a litter bin was never processed by Broxap, so delivery is now expected at the end of February. *The model of defibrillator we have has been discontinued so finding replacement pads has been a struggle, and the cost has risen considerably. The clerk is to research the prices of a replacement defibrillator. The question was raised by HH as to whether a second one could be purchased for the other end of the village. This will depend on the cost, but HSw has a contact who may be able to offer help or a discount. *The clerk is keen to apply for the Local Council Award Scheme. The details were emailed to the PC last month and members are happy for this to go ahead. Clerk is to register our interest with a view to completing the Foundation level.

7 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:

- **Neighbourhood Plan & Housing Needs Survey:** The PC recently promoted a housing needs survey to residents and the results have been compiled, analysed and sent back to us. This is with a view to updating Austrey’s Neighbourhood Plan, which first commenced almost 7 years ago.
- **Playing Fields:** The PC have now decided on which benches to purchase for the playing fields and the clerk is to order them asap. *Councillors are still working to lay new bark on the play area, weather permitting. *TF proposed a spend of £550 to clear the ditches at the playing field. This is maintenance which needs to be completed every couple of years or so. HS seconded this and all councillors voted in agreement, so the motion was carried. TF to organise the works.
- **Training Updates:** HS has attended a new councillor briefing as well as some planning training and found them to be very useful. HH also attended the planning training & the clerk has been on 3 training courses & briefings in recent months. HSw to be booked on to new councillor training asap.

- **Village Maintenance:** Whilst a section of the B4593 is closed for works at Mercia Park, locals are using Appleby Hill rather than the suggested diversion, as it is much more direct. As a result, the road and verges are in a bad state of disrepair. The Chair has been liaising with Mercia Park with a view to them repairing the damage, but they seem unwilling to be drawn into such a dialogue. The Chair has contacted our local MP. *It was also reported that the bottom of Norton Hill is in a poor state of repair due to recent snow and wet weather, and water running off the fields and collecting at the bottom of the hill. TT to contact Highways.

8 – Planning: 1 application as per the appendix. This was discussed by the PC who can't see any issue with it. *The clerk has asked NWBC about 2 outstanding applications from summer last year which are still 'pending', but has not yet had a response.

9 - Correspondence: as per the appendix

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

11 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda: The council agree that dog waste has become a real problem lately and asked that it be put on the next agenda. *One of the dog waste bins in Bishops Field is damaged so TT will see if it can be repaired. *The council has been asked if there is any progress on the replacement gates in Bishops Field as this matter has been 'in progress' for quite some time. SG to liaise with Mr Walker who manages the fields.

12 – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 10th March 2021.

Meeting closed at 8.12pm

Signed _____ Date _____