



**AUDLEM**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk: Carol Bell**

Foxes Field  
Sheppenhall Lane  
Aston  
CW5 8DT

Phone: 07783580406

e-mail: parishcouncil@audlemc.co.uk.

### **Minutes of meeting of Audlem Parish Council held in the Methodist Church, Shropshire St. Audlem on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors Stephen Hopkins, Vice-Chair (SH), Lynette Hopkins (LH) Steve Elliott (SE), George McLaren-Brown (GMB), Keith Nord (KN), Ryan Jones (RJ), Dave Siddorns (DS)

In attendance: Carol Bell (Clerk to APC) Rachel Bailey (Ward Councillor)

#### **Part A**

SH opened the meeting at 7 pm and advised that in the absence of a Chair he would begin the meeting and that the meeting was being recorded.

Members of public in attendance: 29

**24/84**     **Apologies for absence**  
Councillor Kate Down and Councillor Carl Dovey

**24/85**     **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllrs SH, LH RJ and Ward Cllr RB declared an interest in item 24/90 (i)

**24/86**     **Requests for Dispensation**  
No request for dispensations received

**24/87**     **Election of Chair**  
Deferred to the September APC meeting

**24/88**     **Public participation**

A MOP from ADAS stated the committee would not be asking for any financial contribution from APC toward the costs of the fete.

A MOP read out a statement regarding the signing of the FIT deed.

A MOP asked why there was a duplication of item 24/94 (iii) from the police website.  
The Clerk replied that the Council received an update from PCSO Nick Jarvis regarding the Crime Data to publish for the public to be made aware of as not everyone looks at the police website.

A MOP queried the approval of further costs for solicitor fees and asked when the Council were hoping this situation would be resolved  
SH replied that the council were hoping to have been able to give an update tonight but unfortunately a reply had not yet been received from the previous landowner's solicitor.  
The Clerk responded to advise that the Council had received an e-mail that day from the previous landowner stating that a reply will be sent to Freeths (APC's solicitor) as soon as is practically and mutually possible.  
SH stated that the Council had written to the previous landowner to apologise for past events and to thank her for attending last week's APC meeting.

A MOP asked if expenditure against budget could be added to the website.  
The Clerk advised that an up to date statement would be added

A MOP queried what response was sent to the previous landowner when she sent her e-mail in July 2023 and if no response was sent then all Councillors at that time were equally culpable of not sending that response.  
SH advised that the Council had been told a response had been sent by the then Chair but it later became clear that a response had not been sent.

**24/89**     **Confirmation of Minutes**  
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the meetings held on **29<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.  
Proposed GMB, seconded RJ, 4 in favour, one abstention

Prior to Councillors agreeing to resolve the minutes of the last meeting SE asked if he could read out a statement as statements given and recorded in the previous minutes do not reflect what he believes happened in the situation. SE asked if he would be given an opportunity to discuss his comments. The Clerk advised that Councillors needed to approve the minutes first before SE made any comments. After the minutes were approved RJ asked Ward Councillor Bailey can a Councillor make a statement or does it need to be on the agenda. RB advised that it is up to the Clerk and Proper Officer but the agenda item states that item 24/89 states that it is for Councillors to resolve the minutes from the previous meeting. You have an option later in the meeting to ask for a future agenda item where you can read out your statement. SH then stated that the item needed to be put on the next agenda. At that point SE resigned from the Council.

#### 24/90 Planning Matters

24/90 (i) **24/1255N – Parcel of agricultural land off Green Lane, opposite Swanbach Grange, Audlem** – two agricultural buildings to store forage and machinery along with associated track and alterations to existing access.

Cllrs LH, SH, RJ and Ward Cllr RB left the meeting for this item due to their declaration of interest. Cllr GMB took over as Chair for this item only. This item was read out but no decision made. APC had submitted previous comments on this agenda item that will still stand for this application.

Councillors **NOTED** the following planning appeal

24/90 (ii) **24/1239N – Pheasants Rise, Damson Lane, Cox Bank, Audlem** – proposed bungalow – an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State in respect of the above planning application. The appeal is to be dealt with by means of Written Evidence and a site visit by an Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate.

#### 24/91 Financial Matters

24/91 (i) **Due to a statement read out by a member of ADAS earlier in the meeting** Councillors were not required to **RESOLVE** costs relating to summer fete.

24/91 (ii) Councillors **APPROVED** the following payments

Invoice Date	Invoice No.	Supplier	Goods	Amount (£)
29.07.2024	104	Audlem Methodist Church	Room hire for APC meeting 29.07.24	40.00
31.07.2024	504387	Freeths	Legal advice for Turnpike Field	1500.00 + VAT
31.07.2024	14	Martin Tree Care	Clearance and removal of willow tree from resident's garden in relation to Turnpike Field	700.00 + VAT

Proposed SH, GMB seconded, all in favour

SH advised that the bank balance currently stood at £40,637.63

#### 24/92 Correspondence

24/92 (i) The Clerk update on solicitor correspondence was given earlier in the meeting

24/92 (ii) Councillors to **CONSIDER** and **RESOLVE** offer from resident to become police contact after the current Clerk has left. The Clerk asked for this item to be deferred to the September meeting where she hoped to have an update that would allow a response to this request.

24/92 (iii) Councillors to **CONSIDER** and **RESOLVE** issuing a formal statement in relation to public abuse toward individual Councillors.

RJ advised MOPs that if any individual wanted to complain or make a statement about individual Councillors then they should be addressed through the Clerk and not individual Councillors and if the complainant was unhappy with the response from the Clerk then they could contact the Monitoring Office at Cheshire East. Councillors also agreed that they would discuss issuing a statement to that effect.

24/92 (iv) Councillors to **CONSIDER** applications for Clerk vacancy. Clerk requested this to be moved to Section B due to discussions regarding interviews held today.

24/92 (v) Clerk advised that a request had been received from a MOP to use the field for parking on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The Clerk advised that the Summer Fete may also need additional parking on this date. Clerk to contact ADAS to confirm.

#### 24/93 Turnpike Field

24/93 (i) Councillors **RESOLVED** to pay the sum of £50 +VAT for a copy of the FIT file and all related correspondence.

Proposed RJ, Seconded GMB, all in favour

24/93 (ii) Councillors deferred to **DISCUSS** the Fields in Trust application until the next meeting.

**24/94 Village Management (VMG)**

24/94 (i) LH provided an update for those residents who missed the last meeting, detailing the charges for renting the car park off CE. LH explained that the Council had asked for and had received an extension on the 28 day deadline initially set by CE for a response giving the Council more time to negotiate and review the costs. LH advised this would be further discussed in the next Village Management Committee meeting after which, a Village meeting will be scheduled, during which residents would be informed of the additional costs to their precept if the Council were to go ahead with the rental of the car park giving them an informed choice to make their decision.

24/94 (ii) A MOP asked if the Council had thought about any provision for the children in relation to the bike track that had been decimated by CE. LH advised that the Council at the moment could not commit to Turnpike Field for the use of a bike track due to the legal talks that are still underway and at this moment in time there is no other piece of land in the village available that the youth could use. RJ advised that a committee needs to be set up, a plan made and then funding could be applied for to progress a new project.

24/94 (iii) Councillors **NOTED** crime data for July

- 1/7. Violence: Mckelvey Way.
- 2/7. Suspicious Person: Whitchurch Road.
- 3/7. Highway Disruption: Audlem Road, sheep in the road.
- 5/7. Burglary Dwelling: Green Lane, residential dwelling broken into.
- 6/7. Road Related Offence. Woore Road, driver arrested for drink driving.
- 7/7. Violence: Mckelvey Way.
- 8/7. Missing Person: Lightwood Green, found safe and well.
- 8/7. Domestic Incident.
- 8/7. Violence: Mckelvey Way.
- 9/7. Missing Person: Mckelvey Way, found safe and well.
- 10/7. Burglary: Corbrook Park. Office broken into, safe taken.
- 11/7. Violence: Woore Road.
- 13/7. ASB. Audlem Road.
- 13/7. Violence: Monks Lane.
- 13/7. Theft of Motor Vehicle: Shroppe Fly, found later in the village.
- 15/7. Violence: Mckelvey Way.
- 16/7. Violence: Mckelvey Way.
- 16/7. Domestic Incident.
- 18/7. Theft: Longhill Lane.
- 26/7. RTC: Whitchurch Road, no injuries.
- 28/7. Violence: Mckelvey Way.
- 28/7. Violence: Lord Combermere.
- 29/7. Hate Crime: Mckelvey Way.
- 29/7. RTC: Shropshire Street, no injuries.
- 29/7. Road Related Offence: Cheshire Street.
- 31/7. Concern For Safety; Longhill Lane.

**24/95 Date of Next Meeting and Items for Future Agenda**

The next meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting held on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** in the **Methodist Church, Shropshire St, Audlem, Crewe CW3 0AE.**

---

**24/96** Councillors discussed the applications received for the Clerk position and were given an update from the interviews for the position. Councillors agreed that although the candidates interviewed very well, they all lacked the experience required for the position therefore all agreed the role would be re-advertised