



# **AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.30pm

**1 – Present:** Tony Treadwell (TT) chair, Heather Hadley (HH), Tristan Fraser (TF), Sam Goldney (SG), Anne Wilde (AW), and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Apologies received from Mick Beeson (MB). 3 members of the public were in attendance. Thanks were given to HH for chairing the last meeting.

**2 – Declarations of interest:** Nothing declared.

**3 - Minutes:** the minutes of the last parish council meeting which took place on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, were approved as a true record as signed by the chair.

**4 – Parish Council Vacancy:** Helen Simpson has been liaising with the Parish Council in recent weeks with a view to becoming a member. TF proposed that Helen be co-opted on to the council. This was seconded by SG and voted upon unanimously. The PC welcomed Helen to Austrey Parish Council.

**5 – Open Forum:** The Atherstone Christmas Sleigh will be in Austrey on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December between 4-6pm.

## **6 - Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:**

- **Christmas:** The tree has been ordered, along with 2 smaller ones to be placed outside the shop and near to the crossroads. The PC really wants to encourage lighting up the village this year, in the absence of our annual Christmas event. LT is to purchase some solar lights for the tree at the crossroads from the remaining Christmas budget, and organise the decoration of the phone box. \*Initial response to the Window Display Competition has been very positive. LT to create an event on Facebook, posters for the school and the village, and organise prizes.
- **Grants:** The Village Hall has been awarded a payment from the Mercia Community Grant Scheme. This is great news as they are hoping to either improve the kitchen or install some disabled access. Borough Cllr David Humphreys is to look into additional inclusivity funding to help fund these important village projects. \*TF has been looking at updating our street furniture with the recent Business Support Grant issued to Austrey PC. He shared quotes with the PC for new park benches for the playing fields, along with a new bus shelter on Warton Lane. \*The PC has also been awarded £800 from the WCC Councillors Grant Fund, to support vulnerable residents and encourage community togetherness at Christmas, following a very testing year. LT & AW to co-ordinate how best to use this funding.
- **Playing Fields:** TF has been seeking quotes for replacement bark for the play area. This item has already been budgeted for, so he is to go ahead and order the bark. \*The height restriction barriers are now on order; we're awaiting a date for installation.
- **Village Maintenance:** The new dog waste bins are now in place around the village. The PC discussed a new litter bin to replace one recently taken down by BT on Main Road.

- **Vulnerable Residents:** Cllrs discussed the matter of vulnerable & isolated residents in light of a second COVID lockdown. It is thought that anyone under that umbrella is on our radar already, but LT is to contact the school and put a notice on Facebook & the village noticeboard asking residents to let us know if they come under this category or know anyone else that does.

**7 – Planning:** 2 applications as per the appendix. The council have issue with recent planning application PAP/2020/0492, so a letter of concern has been forwarded to NWBC.

**8 - Correspondence:** as per the appendix

**9 – Financial & insurance matters:** 4 payments as per the appendix.

**10 – Councillors matters & items for the next agenda:** TF asked that HS2 be put on the next agenda. Other items which are still pertinent are a new Housing needs Survey, a Broadband Speed Survey and updating the Village Welcome Packs. It has been noted that the verges at the top of Norton Hill are in a state of disrepair again. The PC commented that this seems to happen every winter, but TT is to report the matter to NWLBC.

Finally, the PC wanted to express their thanks to Heidi, Ellen & Heather for their tremendous efforts in making poppies to decorate the village and raise funds for The Royal British Legion. Well done!

**11 – Next meeting scheduled for** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_