



AUSTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Austrey Village Hall on
Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm

1. **Present:** Neil Hayward, chair (NH), Tristan Fraser (TF), Heather Swan (HS), Sam Goldney (SG), Terry Webb (TW), Richard Nield (RN) and parish clerk Lynsey Treadwell (LT). Apologies received from Elaine Horton (EH). No members of the public attended.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:** Nothing arising.
3. **Minutes:** the minutes of the last Austrey Parish Council (APC) meeting which took place on 13th August 2025 were approved by the council as a true record as signed by the chair.
4. **Open Forum:** WCC Cllr Shaw provided the council with an update on the aims of the council for the area.
5. **Clerk's Update:** With the NDP drawing to an end, the council discussed reducing the clerk's hours from 10 to 9 per week, at the clerk's suggestion. It was agreed to trial this for 6 months: proposed by SG, seconded by HS and all agreed in favour of trialling this. LT is confident that the work can be carried out in 9 hours per week.
6. **Discussions & updates on recent or regular items:**
 - i. **Adoption of APC IT Policy:** The clerk has now taken part in a briefing on GDPR, and it doesn't change anything in the policy, therefore TF proposed that we formally adopt the policy. This was seconded by RN and agreed upon unanimously. Clerk to add the policy to the website.
 - ii. **AusFest 2026:** This idea is still in the early days of planning, but a committee of PC members and residents has been formed, and the next step is to produce a flyer to go out asking for ideas on what the festival will look like. We are looking at holding it around May/June next year.
 - iii. **Christmas 2025:** LT to send a road closure request to NWBC, and approach Atherstone Sleigh/Amington Band about their availability. TF will approach the school about joining us for carol singing.
 - iv. **Church clock:** EH & NH have been successful in securing almost the full amount needed to repair the clock through grant funding: £1500 from WCC councillors fund, £2000 from NWBC and £1500 £200 from Pilgrim Trust. Works are due to start in early October.
 - v. **Litter picking event:** A village litter pick is being held on 20th September. LT to send posters to HS, request litter picking equipment from NWBC & also create an event on Facebook.
 - vi. **Neighbourhood Plan:** NWBC now have all of the required information for our NDP to be presented to Board.
 - vii. **Village maintenance:** There have been reported incidents of people not 'Scooping the Poop' around the village lately. SG to put a post on social media. *NWBC have sent over a play area inspection report, which highlighted exposed foundations on one piece of equipment. TF reported that he has ordered replacement bark for the play area, which will resolve this issue. A working party will be organised to lay it asap.

7. **a: No new planning applications since the last meeting.**

b: Applications determined since the last meeting:

- PAP/2025/0081 - Stables at Land South of Flavel Farm Warton Lane – Refused

*Re application PAP/2024/0142 on Norton Hill, TF is still trying to arrange a site visit with planning at NWBC as the council is concerned that the works do not match the application that was granted.

8. **Financial & insurance matters:**

a: 6 payments made since the last meeting:

- Clerk's salary – September 2025
- HMRC PAYE – September 2025
- Lloyds Bank - £4.25 - service charges
- Smith of Derby - £2658.24 – 40% deposit for church clock repairs
- NWBC – playground inspection fee - £54.71
- N. Hayward – orchard expenses - £43.98

b: Payments received since the last meeting:

- £1500 – WCC County Fund - grant for church clock repairs
- £2000 – NWBC - grant for church clock repairs

9. **Councillors matters & items for the next agenda:** Christmas 2025 & funding to be added to the next agenda. *SG & HS have attended a recent 2-day course at the village hall and are now trained mental health first aiders. Details will be shared on social media/our website soon.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 8th October 2025.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed _____ Date_____

Produced by Lynsey Treadwell September 2025