

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD
ON 4 MAY 2021
REMOTE MEETING**

Presiding: Councillor G Foster (Chair of the Parish Council)

Parish Councillors Present: Councillors I Jones, C Fitzsimons and C Cope

Registered Electors: There were no members of the public

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Parish Councillors were invited to make any declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 7 May 2019 be approved as a correct record.

3. ACCOUNTS – 2020-21

Copies of the audited accounts were tabled at the meeting.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Councillor Gin Foster's report made specific reference to the following:

- There was no Annual Parish meeting last year because of Covid-19. She hoped that by this time next year, the restrictions will have been lifted and that the Parish Council will be able to meet in person. In the meantime, the report was for the past two years.
- Firstly, we were saddened by the sudden death of Tony Lee, who had been a Parish Councillor for nearly ten years. He took a major part in the original Village Plan, the current Neighbourhood Plan and in efforts to revitalise and re-instate the White Lion. He is sorely missed in village life. This left a vacancy on the Parish Council, and Chris Cope was welcomed as a replacement.
- On a more general note, thanks were given to all the people who help keep the community spirit going. A lot of people had offered help and friendship during lockdown – shopping for neighbours, keeping in contact with people in isolation, keeping an eye on the more vulnerable residents. Community events had not been able to take place, but the feeling of community was still very much alive. A

special mention was made to the organisers and volunteers of ADCA, who had done much in the way of day-to-day support of the elderly, vulnerable and lonely.

- Thanks were given to those who helped to keep the village looking beautiful and welcoming: those who cared for the green, filled the village planters, kept the village tidy by picking up litter. Considering the number of dog-walkers in the village now the Chair stated that it was very lucky that, on the whole, the bins had been used responsibly.
- In her last report, two years ago, the Chair had advised that the village website had been taken over by John Durrant. She thanked him for his efforts in extending the website to include up-to-date information about traffic news, events in Audlem, and local natural history news.
- The Neighbourhood Plan committee had worked hard over the last two years, and the villagers had their chance to say whether or not they want Cheshire East to use the plan when considering future planning applications. The Committee were thanked for getting the plan to this point.
- A lot of new people have moved into the village over the last couple of years – the Chair hoped that as the restrictions get gradually lifted the new residents will be welcomed into the village community and join in village life.

5. REPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Since there was no Parish Meeting last year, these are the stages through which the plan has gone since May 2019.

- 1) At the last Parish Meeting in May 2019 the plan was still being finalised. We were waiting for a report by a Government-appointed consultant called AECOM on the various sites which had been proposed by landowners during the Call for Site exercise. This report – the Site Options and Assessment (SOA) report was published in June 2019, and this enabled us to complete the plan.
- 2) The completed plan was then published for what is called the Pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultation. This consultation took place over a six-week period from October 7th to November 6th 2019, and 81 comments were received.
- 3) We modified the plan where necessary as a result of these comments, and the plan was then submitted to Cheshire East. As well as submitting the plan we were required to write a Consultation Statement which listed all the comments received and how we had dealt with them. We also had to prepare a Basic Conditions statement which set out how the plan complied with the basic requirements of planning policies. These documents are available to view on the Cheshire East Neighbourhood Plans website.

- 4) The documents were submitted during December 2019, to allow the official Submitted Plan (Regulation 16) Consultation to take place. This consultation started on January 6th 2020 and should have proceeded for 6 weeks, however part way through a complaint was received from Mr. Thelwell concerning the way the SOA report had dealt with his Call for Sites proposals. We were advised that we should temporarily withdraw the plan while the SOA report was updated.
- 5) Due to the Covid pandemic, it took a while for AECOM to revise their report, and the revised version was finally received in September 2020. The plan did not require any significant changes as a result, and it was re-submitted at the end of September.
- 6) The Submitted Plan Consultation was restarted and ran from September 30th to November 11th. The plan then proceeded to the Examination stage (Regulation 17 and 18).
- 7) An independent Examiner was appointed, and he reviewed the plan and the comments received during the Regulation 16 consultation, submitting his report on February 22nd this year. He recommended some changes to improve the plan and ensure compliance with the requirements, and recommended that the plan should proceed to the referendum once his recommended changes were made.
- 8) The required changes were made by Cheshire East, and the final Referendum Version of the plan was published in March. The referendum will take place on this coming Thursday, May 6th – please vote!

Acknowledgements:- As well as acknowledging the efforts of the NP steering group members over the years, the considerable help and support given by Tom Evans and Greg Wooldridge of Cheshire East, and by Lucy Hughes of Cheshire Community Action was acknowledged. Their help has been invaluable.

6 MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY REGISTERED ELECTORS

There were no matters raised by registered electors.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 7.55pm

..... Chair