

# MINUTES OF THE AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM

at the Cedar Centre, Castor

Present were Councillors: Mr S Langston Jones, Mr R Moon, Mrs A Perkins (Chairman), Mrs J Pickett (Vice Chairman) and Mr M Stalley and Mr M Samways. Clerk Miss J Rice

Members of the public present: 7 – 6 for a planning application and Mr John Hodder (Neighbourhood Plan and Joint Parish Liaison Group)

<b>23/116</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive and record apologies sent to the Clerk.</b> The Clerk received apologies from Cllr Ellershaw. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and Councillors introduced themselves.	
<b>23/117</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
	<b>To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (Members should disclose any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business). There were no declarations made.</b>	
<b>23/118</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>	
	<b>Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting and a maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda.</b> A resident explained that a planning application they have submitted has been amended due to issues raised and will be uploaded to the planning portal. Residents made representations about other aspects of the application and Councillors asked some questions and raised some issues which were discussed. The Chairman explained that residents are welcome to stay until the Council make a decision about their response to the application later in the meeting.	
<b>23/119</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated) and matters arising</b>	
	<b>To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Chairman to sign, previously circulated.</b> The minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.	
<b>23/120</b>	<b>FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND TRAINING</b>	
	<b>120.1</b>	<b>To receive and note the current finance position for any monetary decisions, herewith.</b> The Clerk went through the current financial position as at the end of November. Basic budget being 64% spent at 67% through the year so no concerns. The receipts figures are skewed by the grant for the play area (32k) and CIL monies (19k) received. The bank balance is £33k as it still includes the 19k CIL. And earmarked reserves of 10k. A higher-than-normal VAT reclaim is due, and cash reserves are likely to be around 50% of the precept at the end of the year. A query was raised about the burial ground payment and a breakdown will be requested. <b>Action Clerk</b>
	<b>120.2</b>	<b>To receive and note the budget versions and precept for 24/25 following the discussions and agreement at the last meeting.</b> The budget versions were received and the Clerk explained how a small change to figures can change the percentage increase by quite a lot. It was noted that less rental amounts could affect the income going forward. It was agreed that a steady increase in precept is best as a concept and once calculations for income and costs are forecast, then the precept should be agreed, not the other way around. It was agreed to set the precept at £15552, including the grants from the Peterborough City Council for burial ground and recreation ground maintenance. The Parish net precept would be £8547. <b>Action Clerk to submit</b>
	<b>120.3</b>	<b>To note training opportunities and agree any new bookings, circulated. Cllr Perkins attended Action Plans.</b> Cllr Perkins attended the Action Plan training and fed back. No new bookings were needed.
<b>23/121</b>	<b>PLAY AREA</b>	
	<b>121.1</b>	<b>C/F To receive and note risk assessment for play area/equipment and check/agree, herewith.</b> A risk assessment for the water harvester is needed and a blank form will be sent. The play area one will be checked for the January meeting. <b>Action Clerk/Cllr Stalley.</b>
<b>23/122</b>	<b>ALLOTMENTS, PARISH LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP PLMG (Cllr Ellershaw, Cllr Samways, Cllr Moon, Cllr Pickett and Cllr Stalley) and NATURE RECOVERY GROUP</b>	
	<b>122.1</b>	<b>To clarify members of all groups and terms of reference and any changes needed on process.</b>

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

		This item was not covered.
	<b>122.2</b>	<b>To agree next steps for interested landowners for Station Road and possible options for New Close.</b> It was noted that an email to potential interested landowners is being sent.
	<b>122.3</b>	<b>To receive and note update from Nature Recovery Group, including the water harvester, circulated, and agree expenditure from budget.</b> Cllr Stalley stated that £650 has been spent from the grant and it was agreed to thank Travis Perkins for their donation, plus roof and pallets were donated. It was noted that bird boxes and spikes will be put up and it was further noted that positive feedback from residents has been received about the harvester.
	<b>122.4</b>	<b>To receive an update on the garden allotments site security/hedge gap from the sub group and associated correspondence from residents and resolve action.</b> Councillors had individually looked at the situation and suggested that one hole should be plugged and the other “formalised” with a gate if possible due to ongoing and increasing safety concerns with greater use and bigger gaps. It was assumed that an extension to the 20mph would not be justified. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of a gate being installed in that location with PCC. <b>Action Clerk to send photos and video.</b>
	<b>122.5</b>	<b>To note Donkey Paddock tenancy renewed for 1 year at same price.</b> This was noted.
	<b>122.6</b>	<b>To note reply from PCC re hedge cutting /shrubs and resolve action on devolvement.</b> The response re the hedge cutting in spring was noted. The option of devolving verge and hedge management to the Parish Council will be explored. <b>Action Clerk/Cllrs Perkins and Stalley</b>
	<b>122.7</b>	<b>To receive and note confirmed discontinuation of rental from tenant of New Close due to cessation of Tweentowns access and water and resolve any further action. Note: field left unrentable for grazing/crops.</b> The Clerk confirmed that the public footpath records and vehicle access history were investigated and thought to be different matters, vehicle access maybe a local, private arrangement and the situation was accepted as it is. It was agreed to investigate with PECT if they are keen to rent the field for a tree nursery too, to ensure some rent. <b>Action Cllr Stalley/PLMG</b>
	<b>122.8</b>	<b>To receive information on village pond and agree a way forward.</b> It was noted that an application for a grant had been submitted after the last meeting to meet the deadline. It was agreed that this will be investigated by the Nature Recovery Group if it is forthcoming and a proposal put to Council. <b>Action NRG</b>
<b>23/123</b>	<b>PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN</b>	
	<b>123.1</b>	<b>C/F To receive the draft action plan and discuss/agree taking into account budget ideas and CIL amount of 19k. Agree content.</b> It was agreed that this will be circulated for the January meeting, and Councillors are asked to check their suggested areas/responsibilities. <b>Action Cllr Perkins/all</b>
<b>23/124</b>	<b>VILLAGE GROUPS / UPDATES</b>	
	<b>124.1</b>	<b>To note village group donations budget remaining and consider any new requests.</b> Cllr Langston Jones will ask at preschool and others are requested to ensure groups know about the opportunity. <b>Action all</b>
	<b>124.2</b>	<b>To receive and note notice of sale of Chapel, expressions of interest deadline of 21/1/23 and agree action.</b> Cllr Perkins confirmed a subgroup meeting is to be held on 4/1/24 and that the individual previously interested is trying to be contacted. It was noted that at the village meetings held earlier in the year, it was the overall view of those attending that they were keen to keep the asset but not use Parish money to fund it. The Clerk stated that a decision needs to be made whether the Council are going to put in an expression of interest, bearing in mind they got it listed as an asset of community value. It was confirmed that this did not prevent village groups putting in a bid, but the Parish Council is reluctant to apply for finance themselves or use the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies from the recent housing development for the purchase. It was agreed to amend the poster to put round the village informing residents about the process and deadline of 21/1/24 and regular messages about it on the Facebook pages. The next meeting will allow residents and the PC time to discuss with any residents/groups who are keen to put in an expression of interest. <b>Action sub-group/Clerk</b> At this point, Cllr Samways said he had to leave and also announced his resignation due to family pressures and left the meeting, after he was thanked for his hard work and input during his years as Parish Councillor.
<b>23/125</b>	<b>PARISH LIAISON/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/JOINT MEETINGS</b>	

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>125.1</b>	<b>To agree the next Joint Parish Liaison Group (JPLG) agenda for the meeting on 18/1/24.</b> This was agreed but if any changes realised later, Mr Hodder will be informed. <b>Action Clerk</b> Mr Hodder explained the need for the consultation on both Neighbourhood Plans. It was noted that the Local Plan describes Ailsworth as a medium sized village and that it is considered that it should be small. This will be investigated. <b>Action Clerk/Cllr Moon</b>
<b>23/126</b>	<b>PARISH MAINTENANCE ISSUES</b>	
	<b>126.1</b>	<b>To receive and note feedback from any more Councillor asset checks and agree any action needed, plus discuss any new maintenance issues.</b> The Clerk stated that all the benches still need checking. Also, photos of the run down shelter are still needed. It was also raised that the tree branches overhanging the bus shelter need trimming and the PC will arrange for it to be done via the Tree Officer/process. <b>Action Cllr Perkins, Cllr Langston Jones and Clerk</b>
	<b>126.2</b>	<b>C/F To receive and note success in getting MVAS data for review. Cllr Langston Jones/Cllr Perkins.</b> Cllr Langston Jones said he managed to get the data in the end and reported that in 18 months 75,000 cars were recorded, going faster in than out, and 3 at 75mph.
	<b>126.3</b>	<b>To note new defib checks process and resolve any issues, including payment of VETS outstanding bill.</b> The new process is in place and checks in hand. The rota was changed due to Cllr Samways resigning. <b>Action Cllr Langston Jones for mid-January.</b>
<b>23/127</b>	<b>PLANNING; TO NOTE LATEST APPLICATIONS.</b> The following was noted/decided.	
	<b>127.1</b>	<b>To receive applications between issuing agenda and date of meeting and decide if can agree response.</b> There were none.
	<b>127.2</b>	<b>23/01416/CTR Fell large box Elder in front garden at 7A Maffit Road.</b> Response sent, decision awaited.
	<b>127.3</b>	<b>23/01330/LBC Replacement windows and patio door at 47 Main St.</b> Response sent, decision awaited.
	<b>127.4</b>	<b>23/01351/01354/CTR PCC tree works – permitted 10/11/23</b>
	<b>127.5</b>	<b>23/01666/HHFUL demolition of former side 1 ½ extension and construction of 2 ½ storey extension, including loft conversion, entrance porch and external works, s/s outbuilding and brickwork walls with metal railings at 11 Holme Close. Deadline 2/1/24.</b> It was decided to object to the application overall, mainly due to the height at the back, but make some points about the willingness of the applicant to amend according to issues raised, the need for families to extend their homes and the general support for development, the occurrence of uniform street scene changes in other roads ie Andrew Close, the need for subtle and sensitive material changes - however it is recognised that change will be inevitable due to new, improved, ecofriendly products and priorities of planners, but taking into account the Ailsworth Neighbourhood plan too. <b>Action Clerk</b>
	<b>127.6</b>	<b>23/01589/CTR Tree of heaven reduce crown by 35% and reduce overhanging. Decide response.</b> It was decided to support this application. <b>Action Clerk</b>
	<b>127.7</b>	<b>Local plan consultation on sites put forward, response needed by 5/1/24. (DS email refers). See also 128.</b> This was discussed and the form will be sent to Cllr Moon for draft completion and circulation for agreement. It was agreed to object to the large-scale development and references to the Neighbourhood Plans, Local Plan, housing projections etc to be noted in the comments box. <b>Action Cllr Moon/all</b>
<b>23/128</b>	<b>CLERK REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE: To receive and note correspondence and decide any actions.</b> <b>a) Correspondence regarding Local Plan terminology for small village not medium village for Ailsworth.</b> See above 125.1. <b>b) Budget consultation email circulated from PCC to note/respond 5/12/23.</b> This was circulated.	
<b>23/129</b>	<b>ORDERS FOR PAYMENT; To note and agree payments/ transfer to be made and already made as follows; TO BE PAID AND FUTURE</b> Payments were authorised as follows:	
	<b>129.1</b>	Clerk; new nationally agreed pay 26 hours pm £388.78 plus £26 home office less tax/NI plus back pay due to increment. £295.38 £60.12
	<b>129.2</b>	Clerk; Reimburse ink shared pm J Rice paid November £4.22
	<b>129.3</b>	Clerk; mileage Nov/Dec £19.80
	<b>129.4</b>	HMRC employer/ee payment for December £77.80
	<b>129.5</b>	Cedar Centre for meetings room hire £tbc
	<b>129.6</b>	Wave water bill until December 23 £11.87
	<b>129.7</b>	Viking RAJA for A4 paper share £28.68
	<b>129.8</b>	CGM invoice no. 257303 £400.37
	<b>129.9</b>	Community Heartbeat Trust VETS outstanding bills to cancelled date £150
	<b>129.10</b>	Reimburse M Stalley for Nature Recovery items and water harvester materials £37.40

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

			£632.96
<b>23/130</b>	<b>RECTS</b>	Rent received for Donkey paddock field allotment	£120
<b>23/131</b>	<b>CLERK</b>	<b>APPRAISAL – public to be excluded for reasons of confidentiality.</b>	
	To receive and note feedback from Clerk appraisal and proposal on increment to be agreed. It was agreed that the Clerk should receive one incremental performance point as per contract options, backdated to April employment anniversary date.		
<b>23/131</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> It was noted that the next meeting is proposed as the 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm to be held in the Cedar Centre, Castor.		

See notice board/website ([www.ailsworthparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.ailsworthparishcouncil.org.uk)) for dates of meetings. Any associated papers/information are available by request from the Clerk at [clerk@ailsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ailsworth-pc.gov.uk)

Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_