

**MINUTES** of Astley Village Parish Council meeting held Wednesday, 6 January 2016 at Astley Village Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village.

Present Cllrs T Almond, A Bridge, R Fraser, I Handley, D Hope, C Lennox, L Lennox (Chairman), M Lynch, J McAndrew, K Robinson.  
Clerk Mrs D Platt.

266.01 Apologies - none

266.02 Declarations of Interest - none

266.03 Public Participation - none

266.04 Minutes of Meeting

RESOLVED: Minutes of the Council meeting of 4 November 2015 were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

266.05 Clerks Report

Members received the report.

Christmas feedback – very well attended, could not have predicted a three-fold increase in numbers so short on mince pies, mulled wine and song sheets.

266.06 Statutory Business

Applications – 15/01143/FUL, 15/01144/FUL, 15/01145/FUL Dutch Barn Close Chorley.

RESOLVED: Council objects to these applications as it goes against the original planning approval, the potential problems of traffic, parking and use as a through road for the village. Seek clarification about the intentions of the hospital site/developers regarding more building and if the estate is to be blocked off from the hospital site. Clerk will circulate response to all Councillors before it is submitted.

266.07 Financial Matters

i) Consider applications for payment made to the Council

RESOLVED: The following requests for payment/standing orders were approved.

£	600.00	Places For People	Garage rental for 2013-2014
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£	73.75	1st Euxton ROF Scouts	Delivery of December newsletter
£	374.00	Townsend Print (Skipton)	Printing of December newsletter
£	50.00	WI	Christmas assistance
£	125.00	Parklands	Christmas assistance
£	178.20	Employee 1	Reimbursements
£	338.38	Employee 1	Salary January 2016
£	78.00	Employee 2	Salary January 2016
£	595.29	Employee 3	Salary January 2016
£	84.60	HMRC	Tax & NI for January 2016
£	338.58	Employee 1	Salary February 2016
£	78.00	Employee 2	Salary February 2016
£	595.29	Employee 3	Salary February 2016
£	84.60	HMRC	Tax & NI for February 2016

ii) Approve financial monitoring statements

RESOLVED: Council approved the financial monitoring statements.

iii) New Audit Regime, sector led body opt-in or opt-out

RESOLVED: Council agreed to remain 'opted-in' the new system.

Item 12 was moved to be taken prior to the precept being set.

#### 266.12 Transparency Funding

It was reported that the Council was successful with its funding bid to the Transparency Fund and received £913 towards the purchase of a lap-top and a new website. Councillors considered options and quotations for purchasing a lap-top and choosing a contractor to build a new website.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to purchase a lap-top up to the value of £399 (which is what the grant provided), chose a model which had an i5 processor. Agreed to purchase Microsoft Office 365 at £59.99 per year and security software approximately £25 per year.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to the Easy-web-site contractor quotation of £500 build and £20 per month hosting fee.

Question for the contractor is where is the server kept, backup arrangements, resilience arrangements.

#### 266.07 iv) Consider budgets and set precept figure and budgets

Council considered the tax base figure and all the budgets in detail.

RESOLVED: Council agreed the figure for residents should remain at £21.16 per average band D property.

#### 266.08 Financial Risk Assessment

RESOLVED: Council adjusted and added to the assessment, and agreed the document.

#### 266.09 Review Effectiveness of Internal Audit, Auditor work, appoint Internal Auditor

RESOLVED: Council approved the documents.

RESOLVED: Council approved the appointment of Mr J Lawson as Internal Auditor for the fee of £50.

#### 266.10 Review Asset Register

RESOLVED: Council adjusted and added to the register, and agreed the document.

#### 266.11 Consultations:

LCC budget options – no comment.

LCC Withdrawal of bus subsidies notification – the Council objected to the removal of the subsidies because of the potential isolation it will cause for the village.

Chorley Council youth zone public consultation events.

Bus Services in Astley Village was discussed. Clerk to write to:

Chorley Council to ask if they are doing anything about the loss of services the withdrawal of the LCC subsidies may cause.

Stagecoach to be invited to the next meeting, asked to respond to the questions sent to them, update on their intentions following the withdrawal of LCC subsidies.

NW Traffic Commissioner and the MP to highlight the Stagecoach bus service problems in Astley Village, ask to intervene to provide a suitable service, to talk to us or offer rational solutions.

Item 12 taken earlier.

266.13 Post Office provision

The service provision at McColls/Post Office counter was discussed. The shops regional manager had been contacted and he has put in place measures to improve the situation but, he is available to be contacted about any continuing or new problems with the service levels for the post office counter.

266.14 Environment Reports

Dog bin on Derian field, request it be changed to a litter bin and resited so it can be used on both sides of the fence.

Zebra crossing needs painting.

Leaves on the steps from Ravensthorpe to the subway.

Two subway lights not working.

Judeland path problems of soil build up, missing tarmac, mud.

Leaves on path between Browns Hey to Clough Acre.

Rats had been reported being seen behind the shops and if you see one report immediately to Environmental Health. Litter around the shop had also been reported to Places for People who would deal with it.

266.15 Reports from Councillors who represent the Parish Council on Other Bodies

Neighbourhood Working – Wildflower meadow resubmitted. Councillors to let us know other projects to submit. CBC propose to build a flower bed around the base of the noticeboard at the top of Hallgate and opposite, build a stone planter to match.

Friends of Astley Park – bat box project done, 17 species of wildflower have been bought for the park, Acorn project happening, reed bed project had a hiccup but CBC will continue with it, new website being built.

PACT – low crime numbers from the 18 November meeting.

Green Team – several ward walks completed, well attended by representatives and residents and jobs noted to be carried out.

266.16 Matters for information

The Chairman declared the public part of the meeting closed.

**2016 meeting dates: 7pm Wednesdays: 2 March, 4 May, 6 July, 7 September, 2 November.**