

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING of the Parish Council held at Audley Pensioners Hall, on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 7pm

Present:

Chairman: Mr N Hayes (NH)

Councillors: Mr P Cole (PC), Mr P Maddock (PM), Mr S Johnson (SJ), Mrs M Toft (MT), Mr C Griffiths (CG), Mr J Moore (JM), Mr N Ginnis (NG), Mr P Johnson (PJ), Mr T Cork (TC), Parish Clerk

Borough Cllr Harrison

No members of public

Parish Council Meeting

1.	To receive apologies – IR, KC, AH, DJ, Cllr Machin, SW	
2.	To consider approving and signing the Full Council meeting minutes on 18 June 2026 RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed at the meeting by the Chair.	
3.	Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda <i>Dispensation granted for Parish Councillor Ian Rowley, Michelle Toft, Stephen Johnson, Sarah Williams (Audley Allotment Tenants)</i> None.	
4.	Public Participation: None.	
5.	Police, Borough, County Council and MP update (if available) - Police update – circulated as attached. - County Councillor Machin Update – Highways consultation Old Road/Peggys Bank one way – A written update had been circulated and was noted. - Borough Councillor Update - Request from Cllr Gullis and Cllr Tift to attend Sept PC meeting. RESOLVED to invite Cllr Gullis and Cllr Tift to discuss and to start the meeting at 6.30pm. Cllr Harrison stated that there have been meetings recently regarding the Local Government Reorganisation. The Stoke City Council debt is unknown. Cllr Machin has produced a report which has been circulated. - MP Update – None received.	Sept Clerk
6.	To receive a report back from Sir Thomas Boughey Academy students (Standing item) - To update on the bus shelter painting project from the school (materials supplied) Following the last meeting it was agreed that the materials will be funded. The cost of the paint is approx £160. The boards are expected to be completed next week, but if the material is not dry to be installed in Sept. - To receive an update on the community projects within the Parish It was noted that Mr Warriner finishes at STBH at the end of the school term. TC to send a card to both Mr Taylor and Mr Warriner from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk to write to the head to ask for a locally based teacher to be involved in the projects going forward. SEND provision to also be considered.	Clerk TC Clerk
7.	Local Plan update NBC Local Plan adoption – latest update is here https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-examination/2 To note that the Local Plan was adopted on 8th July 2026. As a result the Green Belt has now been amended to exclude AB2 from the Green Belt from 8th July onwards. This area is now designated Employment land and is allocated in line with the Policy AB2 requirements.	

	Any person aggrieved by the adoption of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan (2020-2040) may make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) on the grounds that: • the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan (2020-2040) is not within the appropriate power; and/or • a procedural requirement has not been complied with. Any such application must be made promptly and, in any event, before the end of the period of six weeks beginning with the day after the date of the adoption of the Plan. NH remains concerned that the Green Belt cannot be unmade without Exceptional Circumstances and in his opinion there isn't any. 2. To consider feasibility and quotes to assess the traffic data to be submitted as part of the Planning Application 25/00346/OUT (AB2 Local Plan allocation) - see Appendix A (Closed agenda) It was agreed to hold an EOM meeting to consider working arrangements with the local campaign group in response to the traffic management and the modelling of the traffic impacts on the village and surrounding area. It was also agreed to hold an EOM to consider appointing a consultant to work with the Parish Council with regards to the planning application. (Budgeted £15k available for the Planning Application). Clerk to ask BCllrs what their officers are doing to review the traffic modelling both at County level and Borough level. Also to ask if we can redraw the boundary of the Green Belt if the Local Plan is redrawn. A separate meeting has been requested with Cllr Machin. It was also noted that Peacock Hays is still undelivered. To accept a donation towards the cost of the consultant. Letter to be sent to National Highways copied to NBC and AJ requesting update on traffic modelling. RESOLVED to support. PC concerned re size of site (22ha) and how it will open up access for further development and other sites. RESOLVED to agree in principle to share costs with the group to appoint a traffic consultant. RESOLVED to take the decision to the next EOM meeting regarding appointments.	Clerk Clerk Clerk Next Agenda
8.	To review and approve Policies: 1. Data Protection/UK GDPR Privacy policies x 3 and removable media - see Appendix A RESOLVED to approve.	
9.	Planning – To consider any planning applications received, including:- 1. To agree delegated authority to Chair/Vice Chair and Clerk for comments on planning applications where the deadline falls before the next meeting – Agreed. 2. FYI Only - <u>Replace approximately 300m of existing open wire overhead conductor with new bunched ABC conductor and 8 wooded poles with new wooden poles</u> Land Off Hougher Wall Road Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 26/00437/OHL RESOLVED to note. 3. FYI only - <u>Works to Trees</u> 135 High Street Alsagers Bank Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8BQ Ref. No: 26/00457/TWA RESOLVED to note. 4. FYI ONLY <u>Development of up to 220,000m2 GIA of storage and distribution units (B8), general industrial units (B2) and industrial units (E(g)(iii)); training and education (F1(a)) and occupier support services accommodation; service yards and parking areas; new main vehicular access off the A500 and emergency</u>	

	<u>access off Barthomley Road; lorry parking and ancillary driver amenity facilities; with associated landscaping, earthworks, drainage and attenuation features and other associated works (outline, all matters reserved except for the principal means of vehicular access to the Site)</u> Land South East Adjacent Junction 16 M6 At Cheshire Boundary Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 25/00346/OUT – Ongoing RESOLVED to note that further information is awaited at present. 5. To consider a request to support Checkley Parish Council's resolution to : - Formally oppose any provision within the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 which removes or significantly restricts the right of elected District and Borough Councillors to call planning applications before a Planning Committee. - Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing the Council's concerns regarding the democratic implications of these proposals. - Write to the local Member of Parliament requesting that they oppose any measures which diminish local democratic oversight of planning decisions – see Appendix B RESOLVED to approve.	Clerk
10.	To consider Grant applications (£1224 remaining overall/£300 per application, constituted parish groups) • Audley Library Community Group grant application – external socket £300 – application to follow – see Appendix C to follow – no application for the meeting • Audley Library Community Group grant application – xmas lights £300 – application to follow – see Appendix C1 – no application for the meeting.	
11.	Footpaths (Budget £1,133.00/£611 remaining) 1. To note the working party held on 24th June to complete FP48- This was noted. 2. To agree a new date – RESOLVED to arrange this outside of the meeting for the next available Thursday. Footpath to be strimmed between Corbetts Cottage and Station Road. Other footpaths to include the footpath by Cherry Tree and Wedgwood Ave – ends at Tom Fields.	All Clerk
12.	Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas/Car park/Assets inc (£48k budget/£40k committed/£3k remaining (plus £3k contingency) 1. To consider the Play Area, Margarets Gardens and Car Park Monthly Inspections for June (Appendix D1 and D2) and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority Water new tree by Hougherwall, removal of weeds Rileys, bolts on see saw, painting of bus shelter Scot Hay (6 hours), trip rail painting Alsager Road – this was noted and agreed. The Clerk noted that there had been a smashed lamp on Queen Street on the toddler play equipment, which is on CCTV. This has been reported to the police for them to identify and request the footage. Other work has included racking out and flattening of mole hills and the removal of litter prior to grass cut. This was agreed. To also note the approved play area information sign (as required by ROSPA) to be installed at Queen Street. Contractor to be appointed to do so. RESOLVED to install the new sign. 2. To install new safety matting at Bignall End Road basket swing – Appendix D3 RESOLVED to appoint HAGS to install the grass mats using turf in accordance with their quote. 3. To consider a request to carry out metal detecting on the periphery of Albert Street play area	Clerk Clerk

	RESOLVED to provided we have an agreement for sharing of finds. Also Clerk to confirm that this is acceptable with our Insurance. The individual must stay within 2 meters of the boundary. 4. To consider quotes to clear and tidy up the entrance to Rileys Field MUGA – Appendix D4 quotes to follow Only one quote has been received. Clerk to obtain others for the next meeting. 5. To consider a quote from Play Dale to replace rotten swing supports at Queen Street – Appendix D5 (reserves to be used) To install new legs to the cradle swing at Queen Street – due to rotten parts and to include new bushes and shackles as picked up in the ROSPA report. RESOLVED to approve the quote from Play Dale as circulated. To purchase new chains for the team swing at Queen Street due to worn parts – at a cost of £567 plus installation.. RESOLVED to approve. RESOLVED to also replace the rotten leg on the 3 bay swing (Sutcliffe) parts to cost of £258 and installation to be agreed.	Clerk Next Meeting Clerk Clerk Clerk
13.	Civic Pride Day 26 August 2026 – Borough Council Event for Audley – Civic Pride 2025 – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Lead councillors and volunteers required for this event Projects suggested included the bus shelters being cleaned up which belong to NBC, eg Vernon Avenue. Also the bus shelter on Meadowside which belongs to Aspire. Weeding across the parish – by Ravensmead school. All to think of other projects and notify the Clerk to pass onto NBC.	All Clerk
14.	Parish Seats and Bus shelters (£4.1k budget/£400 remaining) To consider a quote for a new seat at Wereton Road/Station Road using recycled materials plus installation – see Appendix E RESOLVED to trial this seat at an approx cost of £522 plus installation and fixings required. To consider a repair for the seat on Alsagers Bank- cost to follow – Next meeting. Clerk to speak to PM regarding other materials to be considered. To consider a request to install a memorial plaque at the end of Megacre by a local resident (in memory of the person's father) RESOLVED to support and to ask for the cost towards the installation.	Clerk Next meeting Clerk
15.	Christmas 2026 – Highways application deadline July 2026 (budget £10,000 committed) 1. To consider a quote for 4 new sockets to be installed on columns near High Street/Heathcote Road at a cost of £600-£800 - Appendix F The Clerk circulated 2 quotes which were higher than expected. RESOLVED to ask Eon if we can use PME to install the sockets. If not then to proceed with Eon's quote. Once a decision has been given, residents to also be asked if they are happy with the install. 2. To consider a quote for the annual electrical test on the 11 columns in Church Street/Nantwich Road and 7 in Ravens Lane, plus one in Halmer End - quote awaited 3. To consider purchasing icicles for Audley Library (41m) – to apply for County Cllr grant for £250 towards the lights. RESOLVED to apply for a grant from Cllr Machin.	Next meeting Clerk
16.	Audley Bowling Club (Budget £2k) (note lease legal fees funded by reserves £3.5k) To note the inspection report and agree actions – to be circulated Appendix G Report has not been received as yet.	Next agenda

17.	Car parks : 1. Car Park Audley Methodist Church (budget £85k/£25k committed/£60k remaining for works – update • Procurement update - deadline for tenders 17th July – Noted. • To hold an EOM to approve a contractor 30th July 2026 – RESOLVED to hold an EOM to consider the appointment post evaluation. • To place the order for the streetlight columns x 2 and electric on site – £6,762.82 RESOLVED to approve and place the order, once tenders are confirmed. • Signage and bin for the site 2. Bignall End Road lease progression (£50k budget 26/27 financial year) –no update 3. To consider a quote from Staffs CC legal to draft an order for the 2 car parks and to seek opinions of the 2 x landlords – quote awaited.	Clerk Clerk
18.	Highways issues (Budget £1400/£700 remaining): 1. Grit bins – donation of 2 bins and locations to be agreed with Highways (plus install costs) – Awaiting SCC to input regarding suitability and process. Other location to be agreed later in the year (first one Wood Lane school). 2. Miles Green (Heathcote Road/Station Road junction) – standing item – County Cllr update on DHP 3. Bignall Hill and nearby drains – flooding (Standing item) – to monitor future downpours (reported May 2026 for cleaning out) Remind about Boon Hill. 4. A500 from National Highways – to note 5 reported accidents since temp signs were installed (Nov, Dec, 26 Feb, 5 March, 20 March (Hullocks Pool), 30 March, 23 April) plus reported near misses, awaiting signs to be installed. Update circulated 30 th June.	
19.	Standing item – CCTV /Police 1. To note any requests for footage from Police– 2 – ASB at Queen St and threatening behaviour/glass on Church Street. 2. To receive an update on the CCTV camera Church Street – ANPR is still in progress of being commissioned.	
20.	UK GDPR (standing item) • Data breaches/Subject Access requests/Information Security – reminder of responsibilities • See emails for training opportunities	
21.	Communications and PR messages (Standing Item) To agree PR messages for the next month • Queen Street – repairs cost £5k work ordered • STBH – thank you to Mr Taylor and Mr Warriner • Civic Pride Event in August • Double parking Hall Street and bin collections • Car park closure once decision has been made	
22.	Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received not listed for next agenda	
23.	Clerks Update – Appendix H To note arrangements for annual leave – This was agreed.	
24.	Councillor Reports (for information only/further actions and decisions must be included on next agenda – (note Highways/ROW issues to be reported outside of the meeting) SJ – Leddys Field Update – The group are looking at ways to repair the pond dam as the water is leaking underneath. Clerk to provide Karl Harrison contact details for input due to Environment Agency constraints.	Clerk

	Leddys Field volunteers raised a total of £150 at the Audley Together event. SJ - Hall Street double parking on yellow lines is causing issues for bin collections. Clerk to ask Cllr Rhys Machin if the parking warden can attend prior to Friday. SJ to put out cones in advance to stop people from double parking on the double yellow lines. Official sign to be considered to say do not park on bin day. TC – Marrion Platts Way still has standing water even in the dry spell. Clerk to contact Environment Agency to inform them about the film on the water. Water tested. PJ to speak to lollipop man regarding the hedges. Clerk to ask Highways if the planter is on their highways verge as it is blocking the signs on Alsagers Bank. CG –Date for the new extended MUGA fence to go up Wood Lane – noted this is planned for early Sept 2026. NH – Review of staffing for future years to be considered.	Clerk Clerk Clerk
25.	Finance: 1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers including noting payments made by delegated authority – (Appendix I) RESOLVED to approve the payments as listed. 2. To approve bank reconciliation statement (not signatory) – (Appendix J) RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation statement.	
26.	TO RESOLVE UNDER THE 1960 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT) TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE MEETING TO BE DISCUSSED None.	

AUDLEY RURAL PARISH COUNCIL – POLICE REPORT

Total incidents reported on the Audley area – 231 (18/06/26 – 16/07/26)

Suspicious incident – 1 (added later)

ASB Community – 2

Nuisance youths in Halmerend

Smell log cannabis from neighbour property

ASB Personal – 3

Neighbour despite

Neighbours being abusive

Issues with neighbours CCTV

ASB Environmental – 1

Neighbour dispute

Burglary Dwelling – 1

Theft of metal from garden

Burglary Business / Commercial Property – 2

Audley community centre shed

Halmerend Post Office

Street Robbery – 0

Vehicle Crime – 0

Criminal Damage – 1

Smashing lamp on Queen Street Park

Community Issues identified since last meeting – E bikes. There have been several reports on Facebook in relation to youth riding E bikes through the village. One parent has been visited, and the bike is no longer there. If they have another bike this will be seized and the parents issued a CPW. CCTV required so that bikes can be identified- riders can only be identified via clothing as faces are covered most times. Assistance from public required to identify where these bikes are coming from and who is riding them.

Tickets continue to be sent out in relation to parking on zig zag lines on Church Street. This carries a penalty of 3 points and £100 fine.

Bank Reconciliation Statement

A	Bank Reconciliation at 09/07/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		162,962.13
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2026 - 09/07/2026		228,219.71
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2026 - 09/07/2026		391,181.84 45,493.34
	Cash in Hand 09/07/2026 (per Cash Book)		345,688.50
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 05/04/2023	0.00	
	Lloyds Savings 09/07/2026	261,532.75	
	Lloyds Current 09/07/2026	3,309.38	
	Natwest reserves account 29/05/2026	81,672.61	
			346,514.74
	Less unrepresented payments		826.24
			345,688.50
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		345,688.50
	A = B Checks out OK		

Approved Payments Schedule – July 2026

Ref	Detail	Payee	Amount £
164	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges June	4.67
165	Unibos Ltd via PC	Rakes x 2 Footpath grp	17.38
166	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Paint for seats and barriers	40.00
167	Signs of Cheshire Ltd	Replacement noticeboard perspex	198.00
168	Graham Machin Windows	Replacement window	220.00
169	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Red oxide paint	25.00
170	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Coach screw footpath sign	3.00
171	Shraleybrook Media Duncan Richardson	Stickers for grit bins and plaques for seats	197.00
172	Parish Clerk (RFO)	Postage to Elections recd del (Exp forms)	2.91
173	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Safety gloves for volunteers to use	13.48
174	SPCA	Training for cllr	48.00
175	Recoded Solutions	Email account JM	67.86
176	Hewitt and Carr Architects	Architect fees	936.00
177	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Materials for planters A Bank	66.07
178	Steve Hough	ON 370 Alsager Rd -Gate, Swing bushes, chain inspect and new bolts, Queen St - chest press new seat	175.00
179	Steve Hough	ON 422 Barrier Alsager Road	50.00
180	Steve Hough	ON 423 Bus shelter ravens lane removal of poly carb	50.00
181	Steve Hough	AM Play insp, MGarden, Church car park, pot holes and strimming of 60 benches	480.00
187	Ionos via Parish Clerk	NPlan website Monthly sub	12.00
188	Audley OAP Association	Audley Pensioners Hall Room Hire 4 hours meeting	60.00
189	EE	EE Mobile costs Village CCTV and Office	128.64
190	O2	Mobile phone CCTV Halmer End	26.40
193	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fortnightly until school holidays 26_27	72.00
194	Stuarts Gardening Services	AM contract work July	590.00
195	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 396 Bench Nantwich Rd	100.00
196	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 406 Alsager Rd and Scot Hay Barrier and trip rail repaint	360.00
197	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 424 rake over mole hills and litter collection - Queen St, Albert St, Halmer End	60.00
198	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 403 Bus shelter clean The Plough	40.00
199	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 420 Benches x 5 paint	430.00
200	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 405 Queen St repaint gates due to paint spray	60.00
201	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Plants and compost - pit tub by Gresley	13.95
202	Turnock Ltd	Xmas lights structural tests columns	1,200.00
203	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Refund from old WM Rileys acct	0.00
204	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Materials painting play equip	15.58

		Signed	Dated
205	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Paint for goal posts Miles Green	40.00
206	Evansign	Play area sign Queen St	595.00
207	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Playing field maintenance Grass Cutting contract (15 cuts a year) April to Oct	1,174.49
208	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Strimming around and up to new equip Alsager Rd, Albert St, Halmer End (grass mats) and BMX track	45.00
209	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Grass Cutting Leddys Field	156.00
210	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Grass cuts Additional Leddys for June and July	156.00
211	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Grass cut Allotments pathway area and top section Halmer End	48.00
212	Cardiac Risk in the Young	Donation toward CRY event	50.00
213	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter Bin empty Queen Street and Leddys - Weekly school holidays	28.80
214	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fortnightly (except Leddys and Queen St weekly)	72.00
215	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fortnightly (except Leddys and Queen St weekly)	72.00
216	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter Bin empty Queen Street and Leddys - Weekly school holidays	28.80