MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the Parish Council held at Audley Pensioners Hall, on Thursday 15 October 2026 at 7pm

Present:

Chairman: Mr N Hayes (NH)

Councillors: Mr D Jervis (DJ), Mr S Johnson (SJ), Mrs M Toft (MT), Mr C Griffiths (CG), Mr I Rowley (IR), Mr K Chell (KC), Mr N Ginnis (NG), Mr P Cole (PC), Mr T Cork (TC), Mr P Johnson (PJ), Mr J Moore (JM), Mr P Maddock (PM)

Miss Chadwick STBH

No members of public

Parish Council Meeting

1.	**To receive apologies – AH, SW, students of STBH**	
2.	**Public Participation:** None	
3.	**To consider approving and signing the Full Council meeting minutes on 17 Sept 2026** **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chair at the meeting.	
4.	**Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda** (Note member should notify Monitoring officer within 28 days if not already. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships) *Dispensation granted for Parish Councillor Ian Rowley, Michelle Toft, Stephen Johnson, Sarah Williams (Audley Allotment Tenants)* *None*	
5.	**Police, Borough, County Council and MP update (if available)** • Police update – Update as circulated below. A response had been received from PCC Ben Adams and T/Insp Caldwell with regards to the police resources of the LPT. The Clerk had looked over the last year stats and it was noted that there was an increase in crime overall, however August this year had not increased. PJ noted that there had been 2 occasions of criminal damage involving cars being damaged near to Ravensmead School and also one on Alsagers Bank, with concerns being raised from the local school Head Teacher. Whilst not yet confirmed it was stated that a further PC is being posted as they have not met the government targets. Currently this still leaves 2 part time PCSOs and 1 PC covering the whole rural patch. It was also noted that there is no proactive presence in the village with limited ability to investigate. **RESOLVED** to send a further response to Mr Adam Jogee MP regarding the increase in crime stats, lack of proactive policing and to request further action is taken. • County Councillor Machin –Update to be circulated after the meeting if received. • Borough Councillor – Update to be circulated after the meeting if received. • MP Update – None.	**Clerk**
6.	**To receive a report back from Sir Thomas Boughey Academy students (Standing item)** 1. To receive an update on the community projects within the Parish Miss Chadwick attended the meeting and gave apologies from Yr 11 pupils who were unable to attend due to parents evening. The next Aspire day will be held over the next week or so at Leddys Field and Minnie pit working. It was agreed to sponsor the awards evening in December for £50 for the Respectful award. Discussion took place regarding the increase in vandalism and criminal damage in the parks recently, especially Queen Street. It was discussed that two Councillors could go to a school assembly with photos of issues. CCTV images to be viewed by police and shared with school to identify the suspects. Clerk to ask the data protection officer regarding the sharing images internally when it relates to parish owned assets. Clerk to report the recent damage to the police and for the local police team to follow up with school.	**Clerk** **Clerk** **Clerk** **Clerk**

7.	**To consider the draft budget for 2027/28** Update from the working group held to consider Budget for next year and priorities and consideration of a special budget setting meeting in prior to start of usual meeting in November – **see Appendix A** The draft budget was discussed. It was noted that next year there could be costs associated with replacing the Audley Bowling Club roof, which are currently unknown but expected to be a large cost. The CCTV upgrade project cost is also unknown currently, but quotes are being obtained. Since the last meeting it has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that there may be a need to fund the war memorial repairs for damage to the letters at Audley and Alsager Bank new pointing for wall (estimated at £14k previously due to listed building). It was also noted that general costs are increasing for everyone, and the precept may need to increase accordingly due to the large amount of assets that require maintenance. The discussion will continue at the next meeting. Agreed to hold a session at the start to allow the public to ask specific questions about the budget.	**Next agenda**
8.	**To review and approve Policies –** To consider reviewing and adopting the Draft Health and Safety Policy and to include a standing item to review upcoming H&S matters on the agenda – **see Appendix B** The policy was considered and it was agreed to further review it. Also agreed to have H&S as a standing item on the agenda to review any considerations for future actions to be taken. It was agreed to appoint Cllr Griffiths as the lead councillor for H&S matters. A fire risk assessment may be needed at the bowling club – KC to speak to NS Fire contacts to ask. Clerk to also look into quotes.	**Next agenda**
9.	**Planning – To consider any planning applications received, including:-** 1. To note delegated authority to Chair/Vice Chair and Clerk for comments on planning applications where the deadline falls before the next meeting (Standing item) 2. Proposed single storey extension to side, replacement portico to front, conversion of existing cellar, together with external works and landscaping White House Miles Green Road Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8LQ Ref. No: 26/00651/FUL Green Belt/Delegated **RESOLVED** to approve. 3. Land At Shraley Brook Road Halmerend Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire Ref. No: 26/00586/FUL (Within development boundary/Open Countryside/Delegated – ANP1 Residential) **RESOLVED** to support as brownfield site. 4. To note the finalised traffic assessment report (as circulated) and submissions to Staffs County Council, National Highways and Cheshire East Highways (plus NBC Planning) ref Land South East Adjacent Junction 16 M6 At Cheshire Boundary Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 25/00346/OUT **RESOLVED** to approve and note. It was also noted that the traffic survey will be conducted after half term week.	
10.	**To consider Grant applications (£2000 remaining up to end March T2/£300 per application, constituted parish groups)** • Audley Library - Front garden maintenance project - No application as yet. • Ravensmead School – grant application towards parking buddies – No application as yet. • Audley St James churchyard – grant application towards lawn mower – No application as yet.	
11.	**Footpaths (Budget £1,133.00/£611 remaining) and other working parties (£1000 committed misc)** 1. To note the working party to be held on 8th October – Audley FP 110 stile was replaced with a new one. Further work planned for the next visit. 2. To agree the date for work to the planters in Halmer End, Miles Green, Audley and Bignall End – awaiting the daffodils to be delivered from NBC. The delivery is expected to be in November, so date to be arranged once received.	

	It was also noted that the planter at Halmer End by the Railway Inn had some damage to the brickwork and the metal posts. A quote was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to go ahead at a cost of £150 plus materials. The contractor is also asked to remove the saplings that are growing out of the brickwork at the same time.	**Clerk**
12.	**Playing Fields/Wildlife Areas/Car park/Assets inc (£48k budget/£43k committed/£3k remaining)** 1. To consider the Play Area, Margarets Gardens and Car Park Monthly Inspections for October **(Appendix D1 and D2)** and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – Rileys Field clean up, Bluebell branch/tree removal, clean off grass cuttings Albert Street and purchase new anti-tamper nuts for toddler equipment, clean signs Queen Street and removal of zipwire seat due to dog, new swing chains and seat Miles Green, repairs to dog waste bins Leddys and Alsager Road, clean-up of Rileys Field due to completion of fencing work and car park area. **RESOLVED** to agree. 2. To consider a quote to install a sign at Queen Street (large AO on posts) and replace the leg on the 4 bay swing – see **Appendix D3** Quotes had been obtained and circulated for consideration. **RESOLVED** to appoint contractor at a cost of £240 which included the repair to the leg on the 4 bay swing. 3. To note the removal of the zip wire seat due to dog damage, plus potential cost for rewire and adjuster It was noted that a quote was being obtained from Play Dale as there is a fault with the adjuster and a new wire is required. Clerk to ask the DPO if the footage can be shared internally. 4. To receive an update on Leddys Field dam project and tree management report – IR IR updated to say the watercourse application had been approved. Delivery of the materials will arrive on Friday. The RAMS were circulated and comments approved – CG to approve on behalf of the council. STBH to make a visit for Apsire Day. A leaf of the potential black poplar tree has been sent to Edinburgh University for identification. We are also awaiting DNA sample for the great crested newts. 5. To note the update for the 3 picnic benches at Queen Street and request for NBC ward funding The Clerk has liaised with Cllr Machin regarding the ward funding and is awaiting the outcome before progressing further. 6. To approve a quote from ROSPA (https://www.rospa.com/play-safety)for the annual play inspection in Feb 27 – at a cost of £851.40 + VAT (last year was £821.70 net). **RESOLVED** to approve. 7. To approve the quote to cut the hedges at Albert Street £120, Queen street £180, Alsager Rd /Allots £50, Hougher Wall (unadopted) £50, Bignall End Road £75 **RESOLVED** to approve. 8. To approve a quote to crown reduce and lift the 2 trees at Margarets Garden using approved tree surgeon - £350 net **RESOLVED** to approve.	**Clerk** **Next agenda** **Clerk** **Clerk** **Clerk** **Clerk**
13.	**To consider a request from AMGT for the annual grant of £2k – see Appendix E** Noted that a request had been received for the annual maintenance grant which counts towards the grass cutting, use of contractors to maintain the green and insurances. **RESOLVED** to approve.	

14.	**Parish Seats and Bus shelters (£4.1k budget/£Nil remaining – expected spend £6.4k)** To approve a quote £250 to repair and repaint the bench at Wereton Road (note recycled plastic wood is not suitable due to the bench size and legs) plus wood to be purchased Due to the unsuitability of plastic lumber to be used instead of hardwood, as a result of the length of the bench being 2m and the lack of middle support, a quote for hardwood had been received for £160. **RESOLVED** to approve the refurbishment of the bench at £100-150 plus installation cost of the wood.	**Clerk**
15.	**Remembrance Day Parade Sunday 8th November** **AUDLEY PARADE AND SERVICE (roads closed from 9.30am)** The Parade will meet at Maddock Street, Audley at 10 a.m- set off 10.15am to proceed along Wereton Road to Queen Street – down Meadowside Avenue – up Vernon Avenue – down Chester Road – to roundabout at Nantwich Road – up Nantwich Road (where the band will join by Castle Hill) – proceed along Church Street to the cenotaph adjacent Wilbrahams House (service to start at 10.50 a.m.) https://audleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Dutton-TMS-LB-Audley-Remembrance-Sunday-DT35081-01-01-Audley-1.pdf **ALSAGERS BANK SERVICE (High Street to remain closed from 9.30am at the junctions with The Drive and Heathcote Road)** Church Service in St Johns Church at 10.15 a.m. A service will take place at the cenotaph on Church bend, Alsagers Bank at 10.50 a.m. The main road (High Street) will be closed from the junction of Heathcote Road to the junction of The Drive between 9.30am until 12pm latest. https://audleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Dutton-TMS-LB-Audley-Remembrance-Sunday-DT35081-02-01-route-ABank.pdf RAMS to be circulated for approval.	**Clerk** **NH CG**
16.	**Christmas 2026 – Highways application deadline July 2026 (budget £10,000 committed)** 1. To consider a quote for the timer set for 11 columns in Church Street/Nantwich Road and 7 in Ravens Lane, plus one in Halmer End **quote awaited – Appendix F1 (note electric tests are all valid for 6 years up to 2030/31)** This will now be done free of charge by Eon.	
17.	**Audley Bowling Club (Budget £2k) (note lease legal fees funded by reserves £3.5k)** **To note the outcome of the meeting with the surveyor and Bowling Club regarding the roof and also 2 trees** DJ, NH and Clerk met with the bowling club rep earlier in the week plus the surveyor. DJ noted the 2 trees are an asset and well kept, and structurally the surveyor could find no issues affecting the building. The grass surrounding the 2 trees was very green and healthy which showed no signs of suffering due to the trees taking up water during the summer. The club is an asset of value to the parish. Whilst on site IBC tanks had been placed to store water following reclaim. The Club is not prepared to use the outside tap due to the cost of water. The green is in a poor state due to its construction. Currently the members pay £35 a year and £1 a match played. It has been suggested that they consider their membership fees, as there is no rent charged for the facilities by the Parish and it is a sporting hobby like many others in the parish which receive no support. Grant applications have also been sent to the club to encourage them to put in applications for support from the Parish, Borough and County Council. The building has damp inside the toilets and the roof looks it is nearing the end of its life and will soon be beyond further repair. Further repair has been carried out since initial repair. Quotes are expected to be in region of £12-15k for work to be carried out in spring. **RESOLVED** to obtain quotes and to remove lanterns. It was also agreed that due to the expected cost for a roof, there was no need to carry out any additional tree work at this stage due to their current condition and the previous tree survey findings.	

	To consider a quote to paint the front sign, clean the railings and also to install a plaque A quote had been received to sand and paint the sign, plus clean the railings on the walkway, which was estimated at between £270 to £330. **RESOLVED** to approve. To note the action taken to clean off the leaves via Del Authority – Noted and agreed. To note the work required for a number of paving slabs to be reset – Quote to be obtained once information has been submitted.	**Clerk** **Next agenda**
18.	**Car parks :** 1. **Car Park Audley Methodist Church (budget £105k/£15k committed/£90k remaining for works –** awaiting tender responses following issue on 5th Oct (closing 9th November) – Contract award to be made at the November meeting 2. Bignall End Road lease progression (£20k budget 26/27 financial year) –no update	
19.	**Highways issues (Budget £1400/£700 remaining):** 1. Miles Green (Heathcote Road/Station Road junction) – standing item – County Cllr update on DHP 2. Bignall Hill and nearby drains – flooding (Standing item) – to monitor future downpours (reported May 2026 for cleaning out) - Cllr Mahin Bignall Hill. 3. 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	
20.	**Standing item – CCTV /Police** 1. To note any requests for footage from Police– 6 since last meeting 2. To consider a proposal for a new CCTV operating system – future meeting to be held when available. NH is awaiting the cost comparison. 3. To note a potential request for a contribution towards the Audley Community Centre CCTV repairs to assist with ASB issue in village car park Request from the Community Centre to consider a donation towards the costs. Costs are yet unknown and it has been suggested that the police input into the system and an approved contractor provides the quote in the first instance before further consideration. It was suggested that as the BT building and Borough Council benefits from the surveillance of their assets maybe they should be approached to fund the upgrade.	
21.	**UK GDPR (standing item)** • Data breaches/Subject Access requests/Information Security – reminder of responsibilities • See emails for training opportunities	
22.	**Communications and PR messages (Standing Item)** To agree PR messages for the next month • AB2/A500 Traffic Survey and report findings • Rileys Field play area fencing • Aspire day Leddys Field STBH • Queen Street zip wire dog damage • Remembrance Day	
23.	**Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received not listed for next agenda** To consider the offer of a small amount of greenspace suitable for lease to provide max 5 allotment plots on land at Shraleybrook Rd Halmer End - see **Appendix G** **RESOLVED** to refuse the offer due to the limited size.	**Clerk**
24.	**Clerks Update – Appendix H** To note the comments submitted for the NBC Air Quality Strategy Consultation as circulated – Noted. To note the Local List submissions made – Noted – Rileys may need to be removed as the building is in a state of disrepair and may need to be rebuilt.	

	Noted that a query had been received from Highways about bollards on Church Street by the Photographers and the history behind them. A response had been given and Highways have agreed to look at the wider issue regarding the problem parking on the fronts.	
25.	**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)** MT – Halmer End plot inspection November to be arranged with IR, Clerk and MT. NH – Tree at Ceder Avenue, pictures to be resent to the Clerk to send onto Aspire due to incorrect number used	**Clerk** **NH**
26.	**Finance:** 1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers including noting payments made by delegated authority **– Appendix I** **RESOLVED** to approve. 2. To agree Staffs Playing Fields Association renewal - £20 **RESOLVED** to approve	**Clerk** **Clerk**
27.	**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** 1. To note the arrangements with the current grass cutting contract for next year and quotes to be brought to November meeting	**Next agenda**

Police report 17th September -10th October

Vehicle Damage – 3
Windscreen damage
Mirror knocked off
Windscreen smashed

ASB – 9
Kids throwing glass bottle
Nuisance calls
Electric scooters
Kids climbing over residential property walls
Neighbour dispute
Drunk male
Children kicking the bin at the park
Children on the shelter at the park
Off road bikes seen in the area

Criminal damage – 3
Item thrown at residential windows and smashed
Damage to derelict building
Damage to swing (I have viewed the CCTV for this and unable to ID them, Hannah and Gaz will also take a look)

PC Robbins is now covering the area and will come to one of the future meetings.

……Signed ……..Dated

Payments:

Voucher	Name	Description	Amount
291	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Grass cut Allotments pathway area and top section Halmer End	48.00
302	Zurich	Zurich renewal LTA from Oct 26 to Oct 29	3,681.02
303	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Bolts for art project	5.12
304	Reimburse PC	Stamp x 1 2nd class footpath 48	0.91
305	Sutcliffe Play	Parts for 4 bay swing Queen St	309.73
306	Wicksteeds	Cradle swing seat and chains Miles Green	346.75
307	HAGS Uk	Grass mats and turf Bignall End Road play area Basket swing	2,475.84
308	Playdale	Rest of payment for new leg at Queen Street Cradle swing	1,161.60
314	EE	EE Mobile costs Village CCTV and Office	128.64
315	Ionos via Parish Clerk	NPlan website Monthly sub	12.00
316	O2	Mobile phone CCTV Halmer End	26.40
317	Audley OAP Association	Audley Pensioners Hall Room Hire 4 hours meeting	60.00
318	PME Maintenance Ltd	New Xmas sockets x 4 Halmer End as per map	1,464.00
319	T W Heler & Sons Ltd	Rileys Field muga clean up	240.00
320	SCP Transport Ltd	Traffic Consultant AB2 Planning app	6,048.00
321	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charge Sept	4.67
322	Liniar Ltd	Leddys Field Grant app piling for dam	668.90
323	Blachere Illuminations UK Ltd	Xmas braids for columns x 4 Halmer End	637.20
324	Andrew Johnson	Repair of church car park wall and materials	297.00
325	Andrew Johnson	Storage base for container at Halmer End	328.53
326	1st for Fire & Security Ltd	CCTV services	896.40
327	Steve Hough	AM - Play area car park inspection, Blue bell woods, Podmore, 60 benches strimmed, Bus shelter Meg	490.00
328	Steve Hough	Bus Shelter project ON374	867.00
329	Steve Hough	ON 444 New plate for Albert Street step	25.00
330	Steve Hough	Queen Street Zip wire removal of seat and adjuster check	25.00
331	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Screw box x 200 Queen Street park benches	11.99
332	Sir Thomas Boughey Academy	Sir Thomas Boughey Awards sponsorship Annual contribution (Respectful)	50.00
333	Stuarts Gardening Services	AM contract work Oct	535.00
334	Basket Ball England	Basketball net Rileys	18.98
335	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Grass Cutting Leddys Field	156.00
336	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Strimming around and up to new equip Alsager Rd, Albert St, Halmer End (grass mats) and BMX track	45.00
337	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Playing field maintenance Grass Cutting contract (15 cuts a year) April to Oct	1,174.49
338	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fortnightly until school holidays 26_27	72.00
339	A & R Fencing ltd	Replacement fencing Rileys Field both ends	16,269.60
340	Stuarts Gardening Services	Alsager Rd car park adjust dog bin to close and remove soil and fix latch at Leddys	30.00

……Signed ……..Dated

341	Stuarts Gardening Services	Miles Green play area swing chains replace	60.00
342	Stuarts Gardening Services	Collection of Xmas decs from Bowling Club and drop off	60.00
343	Stuarts Gardening Services	Clean off spray paint on BMX signs on gates and a few others	30.00
344	Stuarts Gardening Services	Rileys field muga clean up and signs cleaned	60.00
345	Stuarts Gardening Services	Audley Bowling Club clean off leaves from paths and lawned area	60.00
346	Colin Bielby	Plants reimburse Wood Lane planter	25.02
347	Reimburse PC	Stamps x 50 2nd	45.50
348	LITE	Xmas lights for library icicles	760.80
		Total	**43719.82**

Receipts:

Total £	**Description**	**Customer**
62.90	Bank interest	Natwest
1170.00	Leddys Field contribution to grass cutting	Leddys Field Support Group