……Signed ……..Dated

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the Parish Council held at Audley Pensioners Hall, on Thursday 17th September 2026 at 6.30pm

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 A Howell (AH), Mr K Chell (KC), Mr N Ginnis (NG), Mr P Cole (PC), Mr T Cork (TC), Mr P Johnson (PJ)

Miss Chadwick STBH

3 members of public

Parish Council Meeting

1.	**Introduction and to discuss issues with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council – see Appendix A** It was noted that Cllr Gullis and Cllr Tift had been called to attend another Borough Council meeting and had sent their apologies. Date to be rearranged.	**TBC**
2.	**Public Participation:** A member of public wish to note that there were conflicts of interest declared by Cllr Gullis with respect to housing developers and the AB2 developer. It was stated that any matters of concern would need to be raised with the Monitoring Officer at Newcastle Borough Council.	
3.	**To receive apologies –** Cllr Gullis, Cllr Tift, Cllr J Moore, Cllr P Maddock (PM), Cllr Machin, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Sein-Reiner, Cllr S Williams	
4.	**To consider approving and signing the Full Council meeting minutes on 20 August 2026** **RESOLVED** to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed at the meeting by the Chair.	
5.	**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)* *IR and SJ - Item 13 Leddys Field Grant application*	
6.	**Police, Borough, County Council and MP update (if available)** • Police update – Update to be circulated after the meeting. • County Councillor Machin – Update to be circulated after the meeting. • Borough Councillor – Update to be circulated after the meeting. • MP Update – None.	
7.	**To receive a report back from Sir Thomas Boughey Academy students (Standing item)** Miss Chadwick introduced herself following taking up the new position on Friday as the new representative from the school. Pupil reps to be included in future meetings. Miss Chadwick noted that she is keen to pick the previous projects back up again with Leddys Field and Minnie Pit. IR to meet with Ms Chadwick. 1. To update on the bus shelter painting project from the school (materials supplied) The artwork will be installed early next week. 2. To receive an update on the community projects within the Parish As noted, Miss Chadwick has now been confirmed at the lead for the school. Potential projects to be agreed.	**IR**
8.	**To start to consider a budget for 2027/28 and to agree to hold a budget working party to draft a budget** To hold a meeting to review the draft budget and agree priorities for next year. **RESOLVED** to hold a meeting to discuss the draft budget. Clerk to contact all to arrange.	**Clerk**

9.	**To review and approve Policies – October meeting** Clerk to circulate the H&S policy to all for comments in advance of the meeting.	**Clerk**
10.	**To consider approving comments on the AB2 planning application - Land South East Adjacent Junction 16 M6 At Cheshire Boundary Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire Ref. No: 25/00346/OUT** AMENDED PLANS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED 13.08.2026 in relation to bus, cycle routes, flooding/SUDS and bunding, reduced size of lorry park 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 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) – see **Appendix B and B1** The draft representations were circulated. **RESOLVED** to submit as drafted. Discussion took place around future representations and the focus of these. **RESOLVED** to approve a public message to update the community on the work being undertaken to address the concerns of traffic safety. **RESOLVED** to send the final report and findings of the traffic consultant's report to Staffordshire Highways, Cheshire East Highways and National Highways, and the two MPs etc to raise concerns. **To consider a quote for traffic survey – budget to be agreed** **RESOLVED** to conduct a traffic survey on the A500 bridges to monitor queue lengths for a 2 week period. Costs are expected to be around £1.75k, costs to be confirmed which will be jointly funded through a donation. Three cameras are to be located at Mill End Lane bridge and A500 Alsager Road bridge in both directions to monitor the queue length at various times. **To consider a quote for planning consultant as required – budget to be agreed** It was noted that there is no representation on Newcastle under Lyme's Planning Cttee from Audley and Halmer End ward. At this stage input from a planning consultant was not required, however it may be required in the future if a change of focus is needed.	
11.	**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. **26/00579/FUL** - Small UPVC canopy above front door (Retrospective application) 12 Nantwich Road Audley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8DH – Conservation area **RESOLVED** to support. 3. **26/00574/TCA** Cut back the tree at the front of Audley Health Centre to give 1.5m clearance from the building and reduce the crown to proposed line to balance the canopy.- Audley Health Centre Church Street Audley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST7 8EW – Conservation area/ Audley NDP Policy ANP3/Delegated **RESOLVED** to support. 4. **The provision of a matching and mirrored pair of 36.576 x 15.240m general purpose agricultural storage sheds** Moss Lea Farm Knowlbank Road Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8DT Ref. No: 26/00552/AGR – Green Belt/Delegated **RESOLVED** to support. 5. **Conversion and extension of existing garage into a 2 bed house for parents.** Peggys Bank Cottage Peggys Bank Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST7 8RH Ref. No: 26/00618/FUL – Green Belt/Delegated - There was some concern that the application form used wasn't correct, in that it was a change of use rather than householder application. It was also noted that work is already underway, so	

	the application is retrospective. After some deliberation and counter proposals, it was **RESOLVED** to support. 6. **To consider entries for the Newcastle under Lyme BC Local List – deadline 2nd October** **RESOLVED** that the Clerk work with IR to submit the suggested schemes and any others felt worthing of inclusion.	**IR Clerk**
12.	**Leddys Field update** **RESOLVED** to bring this forward. IR provided an update on the pond/dam work. Staffs CC have up to 2 months to decide the application. IR has met with a contractor who can do the repairs over one day. Materials to be used will include recycled heavy duty plastic. The overall work is expected to be £1057 net of VAT. Leddys Support have paid £50 application fee. PC to order the work, with the donation from Leddys £752 (grant app and own funds) – and it was **RESOLVED** to fund the shortfall of £300 from Leddys Field budget.	**Clerk**
13.	**To consider Grant applications (£976 remaining up to end Sept T1/£300 per application, constituted parish groups)** SJ and IR left the meeting. Leddys Field grant application - £300* towards dam repairs **RESOLVED** to approve. SJ and IR returned.	**Clerk**
14.	**Footpaths (Budget £1,133.00/£611 remaining)** 1. To note the working party to be held on 17th Sept – FP 64 and FP 87 issues were addressed. A return visit to be agreed to address FP 88, FP 87 (tree), FP 110 and also the fence down at Cow Lane. New date to be agreed. 2. To agree a new date and to include work to planters in Halmer End (and agree a budget) – This can be arranged with the Ward Cllrs of Halmer End to coincide with the delivery of the daffodil bulbs etc. It was agreed to use the budget allocated (£1000 planters) for the working parties. There will be 2 arranged – Audley and Bignall End and also Halmer End.	**Clerk** **Clerk**
15.	**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 September **(Appendix D1 and D2)** and approval of any action required or taken under Delegated Authority – noted the action taken as per the report. Car park extra clean up Butchers Arms, Wet pour repairs x 2, cut back gate entrance at Halmer End, hedge cutting to take place – Albert Street, Queen St, Alsager Road, Bignall End Road, Queen St picnic bench and glue removal, repair of gate at Queen Street. It was noted that the leg of the cradle swing at Queen Street has been replaced but that they will need to return to complete the job. The storage container has now been installed at Halmer End. Grass mats were expected to be installed at Bignall End Road next week. Also the new fence ends at Rileys Field is expected next week, date to be confirmed. IR noted that a new leaf blower will be purchased at Leddys Field. 2. Leddys field – National Grid pole replacement on Sat 26th Sept and Sunday 27th Sept. Noted and agreed. There may be some work required on Friday which will not impact on the public. Access will be via the Doctors surgery car park. RAMs have been supplied and the area will be cordoned off. 3. To receive an update on the Tree Management plan and next steps – This has been circulated. The next steps are for a meeting with the Forestry Commission and to agree a spec for quotes. A potential rare Black Popular tree has been identified at	

	Leddys, one of only 7000 in the country. The only way to clarify is via DNA testing. Leddys Field Support Group will provide the testing. 4. To receive an update on Leddys Field and consider next steps for the dam to approve watercourse and consider the approving the costs associated (approx £300 less contribution from group and grant application*) – IR (Budget remaining for Leddys £1000) – **RESOLVED** to approve £300 subject to the donation. 5. To consider replacing the picnic benches (3) at Queen Street and applying for NBC and County Cllr funding to assist if so (expected cost to be £2k for the 3 for recycled materials and installation). **RESOLVED** to seek a funding application from Cllr Machin and the Borough Councillors for three benches to help with the cost.	**Clerk**
16.	**To provide comments on the proposed NBC Air Quality Management strategy - deadline is 30 September. https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/protection/air-quality-management/8 - see Appendix E** **RESOLVED** to approve the comments via Delegated Authority to the Chair and Vice Chair.	**Clerk**
17.	**To consider the insurance renewal due 1st October 2026 with Zurich (last year £3,669.47)** Zurich **-** 1 Year: £4,055.80 (including IPT), 3 Year (LTA): £3,681.02 (including IPT) (note Long Term Agreement ends Oct 2029) – see **Appendix F –** Revised schedule (like for like with minor increases) To consider alternative quotes – **Appendix F1** Two further quotes had been requested, but only one had responded. The alternative quote was considered from James Hallam for one year only £3,376.42 due to claims history. Also noted that they had only considered part of the claims history and missed out a large recent claim, so there is a chance they may amend the price. Key differences were circulated. **RESOLVED** to renew with Zurich on the long term agreement.	**Clerk**
18.	**Parish Seats and Bus shelters (£4.1k budget/£Nil remaining – expected spend £6.4k)** To consider options for the bus shelter at Ravens Lane/Chapel Street – KC It was noted that a decision had been taken to remove the remaining panels earlier in the year due to previous vandalism to two of them (which had not been replaced). Options were considered following feedback from users regarding the open sides and back of the shelter. The request to install a new one was considered against the cost to reinstate new poly carbonate. The shelter was a number of years old and it was considered to be more economical to replace rather than repair. **RESOLVED** to fund a new shelter from reserves, expected cost to be £4.5k.	**Clerk**
19.	**Remembrance Day parade** Approval of quote for first aid cover – cost £264 for 2 operatives (2 sites) **RESOLVED** to note that this order has now been placed due to urgency using Delegated authority. Agree date for install of poppies **RESOLVED** to install 29th October.	**Clerk** **ALL**
20.	**Christmas 2026 – Highways application deadline July 2026 (budget £10,000 committed)** 1. To receive an update on the 4 new sockets to be installed on columns near High Street/Heathcote Road - The use of the external approved contractor has now been approved by Eon and letters sent to the affected properties to confirm they are happy. Once this has been confirmed the work will take place in September and the lights can be ordered. 2. 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) – Quote still awaited from Eon for the timers.	**Clerk** **Next agenda**

21.	**Audley Bowling Club (Budget £2k) (note lease legal fees funded by reserves £3.5k)** • To note the inspection report and agree actions **– Appendix G** **RESOLVED** to note and agree. Actions to be taken as per the report specifically with regards to the roof repairs. Quotes to be brought to a future meeting. • To consider a request from the Bowling Club to remove 2 trees due to structural concerns and impact on building (note conservation area) – quote and Planning approval required A quote of £2k had been received to fell the 2 trees but to leave in situ. There is no concern with the structure of the building, but the proximity is a concern for the club. A decision to be taken when the roof repair costs are received. NH and DJ to look at the surveyor with the Bowling Club rep and Clerk.	**Next agenda** **NH DJ Clerk**
22.	**Car parks :** 1. **Car Park Audley Methodist Church (budget £85k/£25k committed/£60k remaining for works – update and approval of the next steps – CLOSED AGENDA** 2. **Bignall End Road lease progression (£50k budget 26/27 financial year)** –no update	
23.	**Highways issues (Budget £1400/£700 remaining):** 1. Grit bins – donation of 2 bins and locations to be agreed with Highways (plus install costs) – **RESOLVED** to look at locating the bins at Boon Hill if possible and Wood Lane by the school. 2. Miles Green (Heathcote Road/Station Road junction) – standing item – County Cllr update on DHP – Ongoing. 3. Bignall Hill and nearby drains – flooding (Standing item) – to monitor future downpours (reported May 2026 for cleaning out) - This work has been actioned on Boon Hill – to be monitored. It was noted that following the recent work to repair the potholes in Church Street, a number located near to the fixed ones had not been included when the road closed. Clerk to write a letter to Highways and to copy to Cllr Machin. Bignall Hill drains are to be monitored. 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 **–** noted that the work was ongoing.	**Clerk**
24.	**Standing item – CCTV /Police** 1. To note any requests for footage from Police– 1 potentially for Queen Street regarding egg throwing. Clerk to put PSCO Chaplin in touch with STBH Ms Chadwick. 2. To note service carried out on 3rd and 4th Sept – Noted and awaited. NH is looking at alternatives for future CCTV configurations and will bring some options to a future meeting.	**Clerk**
25.	**UK GDPR (standing item)** • Data breaches/Subject Access requests/Information Security – reminder of responsibilities • See emails for training opportunities – as circulated. All to attend training if possible.	
26.	**Communications and PR messages (Standing Item)** To agree PR messages for the next month • Dog fouling at Leddys Field and play areas • Photos of artwork STBH bus shelter • Highways letter re poor quality potholes • Rileys Fence and play area improvements • Traffic surveys and representations regarding AB2 • Working parties actions taken	

27.	**Correspondence and circulars -To review other items received not listed for next agenda** To consider making a request for bulbs and wildflowers through NBC Planting scheme - This has been actioned.	
28.	**Clerks Update – Appendix H** To approve annual leave – Noted. Chair thanked Cllr Williams for taking the notes at the last meeting.	
29.	**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)** NG – Noted that there had been a close shave with several cars on New Road and Church Street. TC – Reported that Boughey Arms is already looking like an eyesore. Clerk to contact agent Matthew Philips Surveyors, Lichfield to ask what the intentions are for future management – Thwaites and also report to the Borough Conservation officer. KC – Suggested that the Memorial garden at St James Church could be considered as a community allotment. The Clerk noted this land is registered to the church so should be discussed with them. IR – Clerk to ask the Borough Cllrs if they can follow up the damaged tree at Nantwich Road cemetery.	**Clerk** **KC** **Clerk**
30.	**Audit of Accounts year ending March 2026 - To note the conclusion of the External Audit of the Accounts 25/26 and publication of notice – Notice and confirmation to follow Appendix I** It was noted that this had been received and circulated. The correction regarding restated asset value for last year error was noted. There were no other issues. Notice of completion to be displayed. **To consider reappointing Black Rose Ltd to be the internal auditor (£40 per hour) for Accounts year ending March 27 on the same terms as previously agreed** - **RESOLVED** to approve.	**Clerk** **Clerk**
31.	**Finance:** 1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers including noting payments made by delegated authority **– Appendix J** **RESOLVED** to approve the attached schedule. 2. To note the budget update and bank reconciliation – **Appendix K** IR confirmed the bank reconciliation statement. Budget update was discussed as circulated. Budget £224k Actual spend £79k Expected total spend £346k (£267k remaining) Reserves - £321k plus VAT reclaim of £25k - £346k (leaves £80k approx reserves after expected spend forecast deducted). 3. To note the approved national salary scales NALC/SLCC – **see Appendix L** **RESOLVED** to approve.	**Clerk**
32.	**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. Car Park Audley Methodist Church (budget £85k/£25k committed/£60k remaining for works – update and approval of the next steps – **see Appendix M** The situation was noted and it was agreed to retender the scheme with an increased budget based on the feedback due to increased costs and the complexities with the drainage scheme. 2. To note the arrangements with the current grass cutting contract for next year and for new options to be brought to next available meeting The situation was updated and quotes will be obtained over the next month or so.	**Next agenda**

Police Stats – 21st August to 17 Sept (provided after the meeting)

Criminal damage – 2 (damage to windows, damage to a wall)
ASB – 6 (off road bike, push bike causing issues, suspicious cars in the are 3 separate reports, the egging of the windows)
Theft – 1 (vehicle recovery)

Payments:

Voucher	Name	Description	Amount
260	Lloyds	Bank Charge	4.25
261	Playdale	Queen Street Cradle swing legs and bushes inc install, and team swing chains	1,162.38
262	Playdale	Playdale Cradle seat Queen St	125.10
263	PME Maintenance Ltd	CCTV urgent call out Heron Foods tripped electrics	108.00
264	Recoded Solutions	Email account KC	72.86
265	RBLI Poppy shop via PC reimbursement	Poppies Lamp posts 50 and wreaths x 2	255.85
266	Steve Hough	AM contract Play inspections, MGarden, Church Car park	330.00
267	Fenland Leisure Products Ltd t/a Online Playgrounds	Shackle for Queen Street x 4 nest swing	17.83
268	PME Maintenance Ltd	Xmas Lights - dentist trees x 2 removal and install	840.00
274	EE	EE Mobile costs Village CCTV and Office	128.64
275	O2	Mobile phone CCTV Halmer End	26.40
276	Ionos via PC	NPlan website Monthly sub	12.00
277	Audley OAP Association	Audley Pensioners Hall Room Hire 4 hours meeting	60.00
278	Audley Library	Grant App - Audley Library socket and lights	634.00
279	Fenland Leisure Products Ltd t/a Online Playgrounds	Shackles for Play dale team swing Alsagers Bank and bushes top	40.48
280	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 447 Queen street repair to gate (rose asb) and review shackles for order	25.00
281	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 448 new chains Alsagers Bank team swing 2.5 hrs and new cradle seat Queen St 1 hr	70.00
282	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 440 Bench Peel Hollow repaint	100.00
283	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 446 removal of overgrown material Halmer End gateway	50.00
284	Stuarts Gardening Services	Butchers Arms tidy up leaves ON 445 and cenotaph weeds Audley	105.00
285	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 441 Repair to picnic benches Queen St and removal of glue on entrance plus waste removal	85.00
286	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 425 bus shelter Ravens Lane paint and remove rivets etc	300.00
287	Stuarts Gardening Services	ON 433 Queen Street, Halmer end, Albert St - litter pick and mole hill rake over	40.00
288	Stuarts Gardening Services	AM Contract Sept	650.00
289	Stuarts Gardening Services	Graffiti removal Halmer End Train asb	30.00
290	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Grass cut Allotments pathway area and top section Halmer End	48.00
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……Signed ……Dated

292	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Playing field maintenance Grass Cutting contract (15 cuts a year) April to Oct	1,174.49
293	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Strimming around and up to new equip Alsager Rd, Albert St, Halmer End (grass mats) and BMX track	45.00
294	GMS Grounds & Agri Ltd	Grass Cutting Leddys Field	156.00
295	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fornightly until school holidays 26_27	72.00
296	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd	Litter bin contract - fornightly until school holidays 26_27	72.00
297	Containers Direct Ltd	Container Shed Halmer End	2,898.00
298	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Paint for benches	40.00
299	WM Riley & Sons c/o Brookside Pet Foods	Notice boards WD40	3.99
300	Rory Mack	Bowling Club Building Inspection survey Annual	360.00
301	Lesar UK Ltd	ID cards x 7 and holders	70.68

Bank Reconciliation Statement

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 10/09/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026			162,962.13
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2026 - 10/09/2026			233,162.80
				396,124.93
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2026 - 10/09/2026			74,763.27
A	**Cash in Hand 10/09/2026** (per Cash Book)			**321,361.66**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	05/04/2023	0.00	
	Lloyds Savings	10/09/2026	235,915.94	
	Lloyds Current	10/09/2026	3,675.52	
	Natwest reserves account	28/08/2026	81,845.80	
				321,437.26
	Less unpresented payments			75.60
				321,361.66
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**321,361.66**
	A = B Checks out OK			