

Minutes of the Maer & Aston Parish Council
Meeting held at Maer Village Hall on 18th February 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: M Kelly (Chair), R Chatburn, Pat Stanier, A Mainwaring, G Chatburn, D Lovatt, L Chesterton, G Hutton, E Sudlow,

Apologies: P Northcott

Declared Items of Interest - None

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 16th January 2020 approved, proposed Cllr R Chatburn and seconded by Cllr Stanier.

General Planning Matters

- **11/00599/FUL and 11/00601/FUL - Maerfieldgate Farm** – no further information had been received and still no response to the letter sent to NBC Planning and copied to the Chief Executive, on 28th September 2017 had been received. Despite further communication no response had been received. Further evidence of commercial activity had been witnessed. Chair and Clerk to work on new letter to new Head of Planning and new Chief Executive as Planning Dept has a statutory duty to act on enforcement matters.

Planning Policy Review/Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan – A training session had proved very successful although Councillors disappointed that onus is on Parish Councillors to prompt Planning Department. Any 'difficult' planning applications will be helped by the Steering Group.

The Joint Local Plan – Senior Policy Planning Officer, Jemma March is to run the JLP Plan Team at Stoke. JLP plans nearing the final stages. Part 1 of the draft JLP policies with Stoke has been through Scrutiny, Planning and Cabinet committees. There will be a public consultation and Part 2 – site allocations expected in the Autumn.

Planning Applications received since the last meeting

- **20/00022/FUL – Sidway Hall, Willoughbridge – Landscaping proposal** – As this work has already been completed it was thought the application had been incorrectly coded. Councillors would have preferred more ecological information and the existing gateway is not shown on the plan. Also the steel fence is not mentioned.
- **20/00043/REM – Ambleside Lodge, Aston** - Access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for an agricultural workers dwelling. Councillors had no objections however would suggest agricultural tie to the dwelling as part of conditions.
- **20/00087/COUNOT – Unit N, Slaters Craft Village** – change of use to a gym. Councillors in favour of development and quote NDP Policy HG3 and Aim 2 of the JLP to improve health and well-being.

Decisions of Planning Committee:

- **19/30860/COU Sandon Hall – Change of Use to Wedding Venue** – Councillors agreed by email that following correspondence from resident of neighbouring parish to write suggesting conditions to planning approval regarding respect for noise and disturbance of local residents. **Application approved**

On-going applications and current developments

- **19/00991/CPO, N09/05/250M - Environment Act 1995 – Periodic Review of mining sites; Trentham (Lordsley) Quarry** – Planning Approvals IDO/N/7 and N.15458. Application pursuant to paragraph 5 of schedule 14 for postponement of review date.
- **Land off Sandy Lane, Baldwins Gate** – Proposal to build 66 properties. A consultation meeting with the potential developers and Councillors on Tuesday 21st January. The Neighbourhood Development Plan will be tested in fighting this potential application. Whitmore Parish Council inviting developers to a future meeting.

Matters Arising

- **Highways Issues** - Road through Maer village to be closed between 23-25 March. Councillors surprised at strange diversion using Haddon Lane. Following Storm Dennis, the church wall bordering the road had collapsed. Cllr Mainwaring arranging quotations for repair through insurance.
- **Newcastle Rural LAP** – D Harrison had taken over as Chair with G Hutton as V Chair. Despite some concerns the number of meetings had been reduced from 6 to 4. £4225.03 remains in the LAP bank account. Fire Service will undertake smoke alarm checks for over 65s and under 5s. The mobile library service is being promoted. Police report included illegal dumping from a cannabis farm and motorcycles at the quarry again. There are 3 trained police officers serving our area. Councillors requested details for PSCO Colin Hodgkinson be sent out to them. Happy to Chat initiative discussed and 11-18 May dementia week and mental health awareness week.
- **Community Events**. Aston Village Hall quiz on 28th February. Maer Village Hall Litter pick on Saturday 4th April, VE Day celebration 8th May, AGM on 2nd March 2020. Staffordshire Wildlife 3rd April talk on Trinidad & Tobago wildlife. Whitmore & District Active Living Group now have a regular and active programme of events with growing numbers of members now over 75.
- **Broadband Connection** – Properties in Aston should be connected to ultrafast fibre from 31st March 2020.
- **HS2** – Government had agreed to project going ahead. Community enterprise and wellbeing projects can attract up to £75k per project. It was suggested that improvements to footpaths would be a good suggestion. Improvements planned at A51/A53 junctions to be discussed at future meetings.
- **Borough/County Councillor's Report** - Cllr Northcott had provided an emailed report which was to be sent to all Councillors. It was agreed to write to Cllr Northcott for help with continual and ongoing problems with unblocking drains in Maer and the incorrect camber on the road since the Severn Trent work in 2010. Further work on ditches in Aston also to be reported. Clerk to write to Cllr Northcott to see if work can be undertaken to improve the situation.
- **Rural Runabout** – Report has gone to CPS with one individual involved.
- **Website** – Digital Staffordshire progressing with website.
- **Signage** – Signage had blown over in the recent storms.

Financial Position of the Parish Council

- **Bank Account Update** – (Updated following the meeting)

Precept A/C £ 891.86
Deposit A/C £ 9,248.42

Payments/Donations – Clerk’s pay/expenses of £249.90. Cropper Grounds £180.00, Proposed Cllr R Chatburn, Seconded Cllr Mainwaring. Clerk to look at insurance quotes for next meeting.

Payee	Bank Account to be drawn on	Cost	VAT	Power	Total value of Cheque
E Sudlow	Precept	249.90	-----	111	249.90
Cropper Grounds Maintenance	Precept	180.00			180.00

Items of Business/Correspondence.

- **Footpaths** – A number of footpaths around Maer, off Bates Lane, Clayalders Bank and Haddon Lane to Hill Chorlton are in poor condition or blocked. It was agreed to look at producing a new footpath leaflet.
- **Great British Spring Clean** – Maer had recently completed a litter pick with further clean ups planned.
- **Polling Station at Aston Village Hall** – Cllr G Chatburn reported that following problems at Aston Village Hall with flooring many years ago NBC had failed to reinstate the polling station at AVH. Agreed to ask Borough/County Councillors.

To report for information only the items of Correspondence received since the last meeting not covered in agenda:-

- **Alleged Byway Open to All Traffic between A51 at Blackbrook and Public Footpath 4 Maer-** The Parish had received notification from Staffordshire County Council regarding an alleged byway and seeking comment – Wood Lane, Blackbrook. Councillors were surprised that this application had taken 22 years. Originally the Parish Council had been against making this route a public footpath however it was discussed that the new Neighbourhood Development Plan Section 3.6 Transport Network and Highways - would support this move as it would help connectivity between an existing public footpath. It was agreed to write and emphasise that any public right of way would be ‘on foot only’.
- **Annual Civic Mass** – The invitation was noted.
- **Upcoming Changes to Freeview in North West Annual Civic Mass** – Councillors to receive email.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 19th March 2020 at Aston Village Hall 7.30pm
Meeting ended at 10.30 pm