

Sound & District parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 16th November 2021
at Broomhall Methodist Chapel at 7.00 pm

Present:- D. Tomlinson (Chairman), A.G. Lawrence (Clerk), L. Wright (Vice Chairman)
F. Wright, I Blakeman, R. Brassington, Ms N. Watson, Mrs R. Ruscoe,
R. Blackburn, and 3 members of the public

1. Apologies: M. Hartland & Clr Bailey
2. Community Governance Review: the meeting was presented with the proposals implicating Sound & District Parish Council, as follows:-

Sound and District Parish Group (the parishes of Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound) that have between 57 and 214 electors and 838 electors overall. The council of the grouped parishes has 15 seats, divided rather unevenly between the six parishes. The following table shows the present governance arrangements (2018 electorate figures). Parish/ Parish Group

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2018)	Ratio
Austerson	1	100	1-100
Baddiley	3	214	1-71.3
Baddington	2	102	1-51
Broomhall	3	161	1-53.7
Coole Pilate	2	57	1-28.5
Sound	4	204	1-51
Total	15	838	1-55.9

The parish of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith is a separate parish with its own parish council of nine seats and the following governance arrangements:-

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2018)	Ratio
Wrenbury-Cum-Frith	9	975	1-108.3

The parishes of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Baddiley are both in the Wrenbury borough ward, and the electors of both parishes vote together at St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrenbury-Cum-Frith. The remaining parishes of the Sound and District parish group are all in the Audlem borough ward, and the electors of all the parishes vote together at Broomhall and Sound Methodist Church. The Borough Council considers that parish governance in this area of dispersed rural dwellings with only two sizeable settlements at Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Sound could be enhanced and made more viable. At the same time, it is considered that parish governance should be aligned with the borough ward boundaries. The Borough Council proposes merging the parishes of Austerson, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound into a single parish. This parish would have an estimated 667 electors by 2025 (104 in Austerson, 119 in Baddington, 178 in Broomhall, 61 in Coole Pilate and 205 in Sound). It is proposed that there should be a council for the merged parish comprising eight seats and that there should be no separate parish warding. The proposed total number of seats would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. Furthermore, it is considered that the legal tests for creating a warding arrangement cannot be met in this instance. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the five parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Broomhall and Sound Methodist Church. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council does not consider that this test can be met, as this is predominantly an area of dispersed rural dwellings. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections. It is considered that having separate parish ward elections where the electorate is less than about 100 would be an inappropriate use of the parish's budget. The Borough Council welcomes proposals for the name of the new parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the

Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The following governance arrangements would follow from the Borough Councils proposal

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2025)	Ratio
Austerson/Baddington/Broomhall/Coole Pilate/Sound	8	667	1-83.4

The Borough Council also proposes the merger of the parishes of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Baddiley.

The Borough Council welcomes proposals for the name of the new parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The Council considers that an allocation of ten seats would be appropriate for the new parish council, reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The Borough Council is anxious to hear from electors and other interested bodies whether it would be appropriate to have a warding arrangement for the purposes of elections to the council of the new parish. Consultees are reminded of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrenbury-Cum-Frith. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and that the Baddiley area has a separate community of identity to the Wrenbury-Cum-Frith area. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The following table is provided for guidance only

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2025)	Ratio
Baddiley	2	219	1-109.5
WrenburyCumFrith	8	1087	1-135.9
Total	10	1306	1-130.6

The consultation is now live and closes on 28th Nov 2021 details can be found at

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/consultations/consultations.aspx

The Meeting was advised that the previous discussion by the Parish Council had determined, by a majority, that Sound & District Parish Council wish to see no change to the current situation. The present arrangement has worked well for many years and the Parish Council don't wish parishes to lose their identity by being amalgamated with others. If a list of specific benefits can be outlined, which the Parish Council can't see at this time, these could be considered further.

The Clerk advised of comments submitted by C. Evans of Baddiley Close and a full discussion of the matter then took place.

In light of the ensuing discussion and taking into account the previous discussion by the Parish Council, and a review of all facts, it was on the prop., D. Tomplinson, sec., R. Brassington, and unanimously agreed that Sound & District Parish Council should submit the following comments in relation to the Community Governance Review:-

Sound & District Parish Council can't see it is logical or sensible that the community of Ravensmoor is split into two Parishes. The needs of the community cannot be best served by such a situation, and as such the whole of Ravensmoor should be integrated into one Parish, and this would be best served by Burland.

If it is deemed that the boundaries are such that the community of Ravensmoor has to be split into two Parishes then it is not logical to now tag this on to the extremity of Wrenbury cum Frith, and as such the Parish of Baddiley should stay with Sound & District who have always served the needs of its parishioners.

Sound & District Parish Council strongly oppose the merging of Austerson; Baddington; Broomhall; Coole Pilate and Sound into one Parish. The ancient parishes have been well served by an elected Council for each

area, and the amalgamation could see some of these rural areas with no direct representative. The current situation has worked well and there is no justification for any change.

3. Planning Applications before the meeting

a.

Application No: **21/5558N**
Proposal: **Conversion of existing Outbuilding into Ancillary Accommodation**
Location: **ROSE COTTAGE, COOLE LANE, COOLE PILATE, CHESHIRE, CW5 8AU**
National Grid Ref: **364901.7015 346450.2817**

On the prop., R. Brassington, sec., L. Wright it was unanimously agreed to support the application.

b.

Application No: **21/5700N**
Proposal: **Part demolition, conversion and extension of barns to provide 3 no. dwellings, the separation of ancillary residential accommodation (Chestnut Cottage) from the existing dwelling (Baddiley Hall Farmhouse) to provide an additional separate dwellinghouse and ancillary works.**
Location: **Baddiley Hall Farm, BADDILEY HALL LANE, BADDILEY, CW5 8BS**
National Grid Ref: **360548.7875 350486.4212**

On the prop., R. Blackburn, sec., I. Blakeman it was unanimously agreed to support the application.

c.

Application No: **21/5282N**
Proposal: **Outline planning permission for a permanent farm workers dwelling.**
Location: **Agricultural Dairy Farm AUSTERSON FARM, COOLE LANE, AUSTERSON, CW5 8AT**
National Grid Ref: **365641.1612 348294.995**

On the prop., D. Tomlinson, sec., I. Blakeman it was unanimously agreed to support the application.

d.

Application No: **21/5146N**
Proposal: **Install a new window (redwood, manufactured by Bereco) in bedroom 4, on the 1st floor which is at the rear of the property. This is identical to the existing bedroom windows in the property.**
Location: **1, Brine Hall Barns, COOLE LANE, COOLE PILATE, CW5 8FP**
National Grid Ref: **365128.1918 346936.6486**

On the prop., D. Tomlinson, sec., L. Wright it was unanimously agreed to support the application.

e.

Application No: **21/5761N**
Proposal: **Listed building consent for the erection of single-storey garden room and removal of detached barn.**
Location: **Hawthorne Barn, FRENCH LANE, BADDINGTON, CW5 8AL**
National Grid Ref: **364901.2733 348688.7784**

On the prop., D. Tomlinson, on, sec., R. Blackburn it was unanimously agreed to support the application.

f.

Application No: **21/5760N**
Proposal: **Erection of single-storey garden room and removal of detached barn.**
Location: **Hawthorne Barn, FRENCH LANE, BADDINGTON, CW5 8AL**
National Grid Ref: **364901.2733 348688.7784**

On the prop., D. Tomlinson, on, sec., R. Blackburn it was unanimously agreed to support the application.

Meeting closed