

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Thursday 28th April 2011 at 7.30 pm</p>

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 28th April at 7.30 pm in the Red House.

PRESENT: Cllrs. D Beechey (Chairman), M Pate (Vice Chairman), G Beechey, P Illes, D Johnson, D Murray, S Pledger.

M Ward (Clerk to the Council), PC J Hindley, Dr. Perry.

Eight members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL, CLLR. DAVID BEECHEY:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting but expressed his disappointment at the low numbers who had turned out for the event. The meeting had to be held in April and it had been a very busy month but it was pleasing to see some familiar faces and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. Cllr. Beechey had been hoping to include an item on the proposed health service reforms and invitations had been issued to local and county medical staff. He was delighted that Dr. Perry had been able to find the time to attend the meeting and debate the proposed Government reforms and how they might affect the Albrighton medical practice.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs. R Blincoe (illness), S Brown (illness), N Hester (work commitments), M Holden (family commitments), P Lusk (work commitments), J MacLachlan (previous engagement), J Nelson (work commitments), S Pate (illness).

Each apology was accepted by the Council.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND APRIL 2010 AT 7.30 PM IN THE RED HOUSE:

Cllr Pate moved that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Murray and agreed by the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

A copy of the Chairman's report was circulated to all attending the meeting and the Chairman went through the items and noted that attendance at the meeting in 2010 had also been disappointing.

There were no questions related to the content of the report and Cllr. Pate moved that the report should be noted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Murray and agreed by the meeting.

5. PRESENTATION BY PC HINDLEY ON HER AND HER COLLEAGUE'S EXPERIENCES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE AFTER THEIR FIRST FEW MONTHS OF WORK IN ALBRIGHTON:

PC Hindley reported that she and her colleague PC M Morris each worked 32 hours a week in Albrighton which was a generous allocation in excess of one full time officer. Both were stationed in the village until September 2011 but it was not clear what arrangements would apply beyond that date. CSO J Fletcher would remain in the village until further notice. All officers had been involved in PACT meetings, a drop in session had been held at Wyevale garden centre on garden safety and there had been continuing involvement in the Drop-in centre based at the Methodist Church although this had now been taken over by the "Say Yes" organisation. The main concerns at present were thefts of metal, particularly catalytic converters and thefts from garden sheds. The speed camera originally purchased by Albrighton Parish Council was still being traced by Sgt. Bailey at Shifnal police station.

With regard to the future officers had noted the need for a presence at the Albrighton Fayre and the approbation ceremony in September. A new computer had been made available at the Albrighton police station and a police information point was being located at the library. PC Hindley hoped that colleagues from Shifnal would visit the village more regularly.

Cllr. Pate congratulated both officers on the splendid work that had been completed since they arrived in the village, a view that received considerable support from others present in the meeting. Cllr. Murray expressed concern regarding the number of children travelling in the front of vehicles without wearing seat belts and PC Hindley said that leaflets highlighting the dangers had been distributed at local nurseries. Cllr. Illes also asked all officers to be aware of possible under-age drinking in the summer months.

The Chairman thanked PC Hindley for her report and for the work she and her colleagues had done in the short time they had been in the community. He very much hoped that Albrighton could retain their services beyond September although he realised that such decisions were not theirs to make.

6. A PRESENTATION BY DR. PERRY ON THE RECENT PROPOSED HEALTH REFORMS AND THEIR POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE ALBRIGHTON MEDICAL PRACTICE:

The Chairman invited Dr. Perry to comment on recent Government proposals for health reform. Dr Perry said that he had not prepared a formal presentation but he was happy to engage in a discussion on current health issues if that was satisfactory. He informed the meeting that the Albrighton GPs had signed up to the new county consortium and were

committed to trying to spread best practice with maximum economy. Budgets in the near future were likely to be more limited.

Cllr. Pate asked whether the reforms would produce organisations equivalent to surrogate PCTs and in response Dr Perry outlined the historical background to the current proposals. He said that Shropshire ended up with two groupings which could not manage all of the responsibilities and they had had to merge into the present Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Trust. Recent changes had improved services although it has proved expensive and the system had become very bureaucratic and target driven.

The new GP led commissioning plan is the 4th attempt at creating such a system and there would be winners and losers regarding financial controls and the quantity of referrals. There was likely to be pressure on doctors to conform to good practice and challenge the wide disparities which exist between doctors and local surgeries. Dr. Perry believed that the essence of general practice is a doctor led service from doctors committed to the community. Managed services are based on a business model which does not relate to a particular community. He was fearful that consortia will be organised on a profits led basis and he is concerned that the role of a GP becomes akin to a job rather than a vocation.

With regard to the current surgery no funding is available for new provision even though the PCT says the present building is not fit for purpose. Cllr. Illes asked about after hours care and ShropDoc. Dr. Perry said that night calls put great strain on GPs and ShropDoc was a large organisation that offered efficient if non-personalised care. Maybe some kind of compromise might be possible but a return to former practice was most unlikely.

The Chairman reported that local focus groups were very complimentary about local practice, a view that was echoed by large numbers of residents who had first-hand experience of their local medical practice. Dr. Perry thanked people for their kind remarks and said that the practice had been lucky in being able to recruit able staff who had added to the expertise of the group.

Cllr. Beechey thanked Dr. Perry for his contribution and for the care he and his colleagues offered to the people of Albrighton and the surrounding district.

7. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE PARISH COUNCILLORS ON OTHER LOCAL MATTERS AND THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR:

Mr. P Leigh said that he wanted to make three points regarding the Parish Council's work as follows:

- The streetscene still left much to be desired and the Parish Council had failed to motivate Shropshire Council regarding highways, lighting and street furniture.
- Given that the Council had significant reserves some of the money should be made available to increase the hours of the Village Warden to improve street maintenance.

- Parking at the station was still a problem and the Parish Council should seek to improve the situation before the next Parish Meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Leigh for identifying these three issues and pointed out that Shropshire Council do have major financial problems. The Parish Council had received a grant for routine maintenance and Cllr. Pate believed that Parish Councils should be given more resources to manage things locally.

Mr R Smith echoed Mr. Leigh's comments and said that Shropshire Council had not responded to repeated letters and emails and there had been particular highway problems in Cross Road. Cllr. Murray raised the problem of the pavement at the end of Elm Road which could not be moved because of a householder's fence which crossed the footpath. Mr. Leigh expressed surprise that the Council still did not know who owned Ashfields or the village greens.

8. THANKS AND CLOSING REMARKS BY CLLR. DAVID BEECHEY:

In conclusion the Chairman thanked all those who had made comments and promised that the Parish Council would do all it could to resolve those that fell within its remit. In particular he thanked PC Hindley and Dr. Perry and everyone who had attended the meeting and contributed to its success.

There being no further questions he declared the meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

Signed.....Date.....
Chairman