

**ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7.15 pm in the Red House**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. M Pate (Chairman), D Beechey, P Griffin, S Jarvis, D Johnson, P Lusk, J MacLachlan, S Pledger.

M Ward, Clerk to the Council.

52 members of the public.

**1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL, CLLR. M PATE:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he was very pleased to see so many members of the public in attendance. He was pleased to be able to introduce Mr Bill Longmore, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, and his deputy Mr Barry Sheldon, both of whom would be speaking later in the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllrs. G Beechey, D Murray, J Nelson, S Pate.

Each apology was accepted by the meeting.

**3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012 AT 7.30 PM IN THE RED HOUSE:**

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. MacLachlan and agreed by the meeting.

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

The Chairman went through his report and highlighted a number of items. He had been Chairman for the previous year and during that time two Councillors had retired. The Council had operated for the previous six years but stood down on May 2<sup>nd</sup> when county elections were held. The new Council will meet for the first time on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. The Council had made comments on local planning applications and had been involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan Light which had been a major undertaking. It had been involved in trying to resolve some of the parking problems at Shaw Lane and had supported the Albrighton Traders with regard to promoting local business. It continued to run the Parish Council website and maintain an office at 82b High Street.

**5. PRESENTATION ON POLICING IN ALBRIGHTON AND DISTRICT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR WEST MERCIA, MR B LONGMORE, FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

Mr Longmore thanked the Chairman for his welcome and said that he was pleased to be present at the meeting. He had been elected last November and he represented the people in discussions with senior police officer including the Chief Constable. He had made 300 visits to various Councils which had given him a good oversight over policing problems in the county. A number of issues had been identified which included the visibility of police officers, the ongoing reduction in crime, the need to make reductions in police expenditure and the need to reduce the prison population and some interesting measures had been developed. There was a need for cooperative working in order to meet the challenges facing the police service so that it could develop new ways of working to match new conditions.

Mr Barry Sheldon spoke of a new crime plan which had gone out to consultation which was designed to cope with the £10m of cuts already agreed and the £21m of cuts to follow. There had been a major reduction in senior management and a liaison with Warwickshire police.

The plan contained 11 objectives the first of which concerned local policing with 11 strategic hubs across the West Mercia area. It was felt that the police spent too much time in police stations and they needed to use the new technologies to get out in the community. It was intended that response times would improve and the police would be more visible, accessible and familiar. There would be more powers for CPSO's and their hours would be extended. There were objectives around alcohol, drugs, anti-social behaviour, rural crime and business crime and road safety was given a priority. Other areas of concern featured the care of the vulnerable, sexual crime and the rehabilitation of offenders. The last objective was concerned with community engagement.

A number of questions were answered by Mr Longmore and Mr Sheldon on out of court disposals, cautions etc. not resulting in punishments, police visibility, drug abuse in the village and a poor attendance by the local police at Parish Council meetings. There was also concern over poor advice from call centres and control centres.

The Commissioner promised to follow up the concerns and to keep up the pressure to improve policing in the area.

The Chairman thanked Mr Longmore and Mr Sheldon for their attendance at the meeting, for their presentations and for answering the questions from the floor.

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

The Parish Council were asked about the problem of speeding in Cross Road, an issue that had been raised the previous year. The Chairman reported that consultations had taken place with Shropshire Council and it was proposed that there should be a 40 mph limit from

the A464 to the entrance to the village when the limit would reduce to 30 mph. Discussions were taking place with the local traffic and highways engineer and measures were in place to make this change. There was also discussion on traffic warning signs and the parking difficulties in Newhouse lane.

**7. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SAMDEV MEETINGS AND PROPOSALS FOR THE PERIOD TO 2016:**

The Chairman reported that following the survey at the end of 2012 the SAMDev committee had developed a draft plan which would be the subject of a public meeting in May/June with a summary distributed to every house prior to the meeting. The final plan would be submitted to Shropshire Council in June to become part of the county policy on site allocation and its management. Parking in the village had taken a high profile and it had been agreed that a new doctor's surgery could be located at any point around the village in green belt land on exceptional grounds.

**8. THANKS AND CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN, CLLR. M PATE:**

The Chairman thanked again the contributions made by the Police Commissioner and his Deputy and thanked all members of the public who had attended the meeting.

After ensuring that there were no further questions or comments the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

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