

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 18th December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House</p>

Minutes of Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on 18th December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

PRESENT: Cllrs. S Pledger (Chair), P Harrison, (Vice Chair), D Beechey, P Griffin, C Hassall, S Jarvis, P Illes, M Medlyn, M Pate.

In attendance; Mr M Ward, Clerk to Council.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No members of the public were present.

The Chair thanked Councillors for the flowers that had been sent to her during her recent illness.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs. S Kirkland (illness), S Pate (ill health), K Pledger (work commitments).

Each apology was accepted by the Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- **Minutes of Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 20th November 2014:**

Cllr. Pate proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed by Council 8 – 0 with 1 abstention.

- **Minutes of Parish Council planning meeting held on Thursday 4th December 2014:**

Cllr. Illes asked that a reference to the access to the railway station should be added to the section on the presentation by Mr D Thompson.

With this addition Cllr. Beechey proposed that the meeting was a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and agreed by Council 8 – 0 with 1 abstention.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response from the county with regard to the planning application concerning the weighbridge in Shaw Lane.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Transport Committee:**

Cllr Harrison gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 3rd December 2014 concerned with the possibility of a contractual arrangement for the management of the Albrighton Flyer with Friendlybus of Broseley. There would be further discussion of the issues arising from the exploratory meeting on 7th January 2015. Cllr. Pate stated that he would not support a contract for the management of the Flyer by an outside body.

Cllr. Harrison informed members that a DBS check for the current driver of the Flyer had been received. Council agreed to pay him £300 for the week he worked with the former contractor and discussions began on whether to extend the current contract for 3 months to 31st March and on the content of the DBS form.

Given the confidential nature of this discussion Cllr. Pate suggested that the Council should move to confidential session which was agreed by members.

At the end of the discussion Council moved to open session for the remainder of the agenda.

- **Finance Committee:**

The Clerk suggested that the present CCLA account holding Council reserves should be moved to a Nationwide Business Saver account. Cllr. Pate proposed that the Clerk's suggestion should be adopted which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and unanimously agreed by Council.

A number of items relating to the forthcoming budget were raised including the reclaiming of utility costs from Shropshire Council, discussion on the cost of the CCTV room rent and the possible appointment of an Assistant Clerk which was opposed by Cllr. Pate and Cllr. Beechey. Cllr. Medlyn also said that she would oppose any reduction in the rent for the CCTV room. Cllr. Pate declared an interest in the swimming club when it was discussed together with other items from the current budget.

The Chair welcomed the comments and explained that a finance committee would examine a draft budget prepared by the Clerk on 14th January and a suitably amended version would be brought to full Council on 15th January for members' consideration.

- **Personnel Committee – Report by Cllr. S Pledger:**

Cllr. S Pledger proposed that the Village Warden and the Litter Warden should be paid on the minimum wage which was seconded by Cllr. Pate and unanimously agreed by Council.

The possible appointment of an Assistant Clerk was discussed and the Clerk outlined the issues surrounding the proposed appointment which had been referred to SALC for their opinion. Cllr Pate spoke of the need for the Council to keep administrative costs to a minimum in order that there could be maximum benefit to the community and he felt that this was a counter-productive move. He proposed that there should be not be an appointment of Assistant Clerk which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey. Cllr. Hassall proposed an amendment that this item should be deferred for one meeting to the January business meeting which was seconded by Cllr. Illes. Council voted 3 – 3 with 2 abstentions on the amendment and the Chair used her casting vote to support a deferment to January 2015. Cllr. Jarvis commented that it was disappointing that more Councillors could not be present when important decisions of this kind were being debated.

The Chair stated that she wished to review the working hours of the Clerk in relation to the Clerk's existing contract. Members agreed to defer this item to the January meeting as it was not on the present agenda.

5. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr Pate reported on the proposal by Shropshire Council to remove the Council Tax Support Grant from parish and town councils which would mean a reduction in the Council's budget of £7,879 in 2015/16. He said that there had been some instances of profligacy by parish and town councils and there was considerable pressure on the county budget. A final decision would be made in February 2015.

This matter would be further debated under agenda item 11.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no reports from Councillors.

7. PLANNING:

Planning applications:

Reference: 14/05142/FUL (validated: 05/12/2014)

Address: 4 Beamish Farm Barns, Beamish Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3AG

Proposal: Erection of a detached garage

Applicant: Mr John Mosedale (4 Beamish Farm Barns, Beamish Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3AG)

The Council agreed to raise no objections to the application on a majority vote of 6 – 0 with 3 abstentions.

Reference: 14/05403/FUL (validated: 02/12/2014)
Address: 88 High Street, Albrighton, Shropshire, WV7 3JT
Proposal: Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for erection of extension to shop front (retrospective)
Applicant: Mrs C Fletcher (C/o Agent)

The Council agreed to raise no objections to the application on a majority vote of 7 – 0 with 2 abstentions.

8. TO REVIEW THE ALBRIGHTON AND DISTRICT PLACE PLAN FOLLOWING THE LJC MEETING WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO:

- **The inclusion of an entry into the preamble of the plan on housing density;**

Cllr. Pate moved that there should be no reference to housing density in the Place Plan which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and unanimously agreed by Council.

- **To change the current level of priority for the regeneration of Sheldon Court from Key to Priority;**

Council agreed to this change of priority.

- **To remove the references to the securing of funding for basic shop front repairs and redecoration and the implementation of the signage scheme;**

Council agreed to the removal of any reference for funding to shop front repairs and decoration.

- **The possible establishment of public toilets in Albrighton;**

Council agreed to the possible establishment of public toilets.

- **To engage a consultant adviser on road and parking developments for Albrighton.**

Council felt that it was an unnecessary expense to engage a consultant adviser on road and parking developments and rejected this proposal.

Members unanimously confirmed all of the above agreements in relation to the Place Plan and instructed the Clerk to inform Shropshire Council of their views in time for the deadline of 5th January 2015.

9. REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR 2014 AND POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTION FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN 2015.

Members raised a number of issues including the need to test public opinion with regard to funding a Christmas lights display, a need to ensure that all bulbs are LED and try to fill in gaps in the display along the High Street, and the need to protect confidential information. Members agreed that they needed to work to budget and there was discussion with regard to the Albrighton Traders contributing towards the future costs of the display.

Cllr. Jarvis proposed that the public should be made aware of the costs of the Christmas lights and given a chance to make their views known with regard to future developments. Cllr. Griffin seconded the proposal. Cllr. Illes proposed an amendment that the Christmas lights working party should consider this item and take appropriate steps in good time to initiate any agreed measures which was seconded by Cllr. Hassall and unanimously agreed by Council. The substantive proposition was then unanimously agreed. Members also agreed to place the composition and membership of the Christmas lights working party on the agenda for January 2015.

10. TO CONSIDER THE TIMING OF FUTURE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Cllr. Pate argued that it was best for each committee to agree their own dates and times of meetings and proposed this motion to Council. It was seconded by Cllr. Harrison and unanimously supported by Council.

11. TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL:

Cllr. Beechey spoke strongly against the proposed retention of the Council Tax Support Grant saying that it was an appalling decision which took money from parish and town councils which was rightly theirs. Cllr. Pate pointed out that some Councils had never passed on the grant and the Shropshire had to make further savings. There was some evidence that some parish and town councils were extravagant and any savings that the County could make through this grant would go towards providing elderly care.

Cllr. Illes said that the Council needed to make its views known and Cllr. Griffin added that the parish council needed to spend carefully and avoid any hint of profligacy. Members agreed to follow the advice of SALC on this matter and contribute information on the effects of this cut at local level. Cllr. Pate abstained from the vote.

12. TO REPORT ON THE FILLING OF THE CASUAL VACANCY CAUSED BY THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR. A JOYNSON:

Cllr. Pledger outlined the situation regarding the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr. Joyson. An election was not called because not all of the ten people requesting an election were on the electoral roll and the Council had to move to co-opting a suitable candidate. A

notice had been displayed seeking volunteers interested in the vacancy and the outcome would be further considered at the meeting in January 2015.

13. TO FURTHER CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE AND ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Cllr. Jarvis stated that the Council could initiate its own Facebook page but it would need careful management and it should be accompanied by an agreed Social Media Policy. She would not be able to manage this development for approximately six months due to pressure of work. There was concern over whether the Council had sufficient resources to develop this initiative and Cllr. Medlyn stated that some Councillors were using an existing Albrighton Facebook page to make comments. Cllr. Beechey pointed out that it was the right of every Councillor to make comments as an individual but great care was needed before making an entry as an elected Councillor. Cllr. Harrison said an alternative was for the Council to tweet information or upgrade the website. Cllr Griffin proposed that the Council should seek to upgrade the website with suitable provision in the Council budget and not get involved with Facebook. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Harrison and unanimously agreed by Council.

14. TO REVIEW POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE BANK ACCOUNTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S RESERVE FUNDING FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE CCLA PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT:

This item had been covered in discussions relating to item 4 of the agenda.

15. ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING ON 15TH JANUARY 2015:

Members agreed to include the following items on the agenda of the business meeting scheduled for 15th January 2015:

- The working hours of the Clerk and the possible appointment of an Assistant Clerk;
- The composition of the Christmas lights working party;
- Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting;
- The co-option of a suitable candidate to the Council to replace Cllr. Joynson;
- The draft budget 2015/16.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

For information:

- **David Williams - feedback from Albrighton Traders:**

Received and noted.

- **Shropshire Council – Christmas recycling and waste collections:**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **Community Heartbeat - outline of issues such as governance, storage and training of community defibrillators:**

Cllr. Beechey pointed out that the information provided made it clear that there were important issues to resolve before a defibrillator was purchased and installed. He suggested that perhaps advice should be sought from a source in the medical profession and Cllr. Griffin said that he could possibly obtain a speaker from the British Heart Foundation who would be able to advise the Council.

Members noted that they were still waiting for the Red House trustees/management committee to respond about the siting of a defibrillator on the wall of the Red House.

17. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting – Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

In conclusion the Chair thanked members for their participation in the civic carol service and the Christmas dinner and wished all Councillors a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

Signed.....Date.....
Chair