

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 19th February 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House</p>

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 19th February 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

PRESENT: Cllr. S Pledger (Chair), P Harrison (Vice Chair), D Beechey, P Griffin, C Hassall, P Illes, S Jarvis, S Kirkland, M Medlyn, M Pate, S Pate, A Robinson, C Roseby.

In attendance: Mr M Ward, Clerk to Albrighton Parish Council.

Cllr. Pledger welcomed Sqn Ldr Chris Wilson from RAF Cosford to his first meeting of the Council.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. S Hall.

Cllr. Hall's apologies were accepted by the Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on 15th January 2015:**

Cllr. Pate proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council.

- **Minutes of Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting held on 5th February 2015:**

Cllr. Illes proposed that the second bullet point of agenda item 4, Transport Report, should read:

“The implications of reaching these two contrasting business models could be problematic”.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and unanimously agreed by Council.

With this one alteration Cllr. Pate proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed by Council 11–0 with Cllrs. Hassall and S Pate abstaining.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. RAF Cosford Report – Sqn Ldr Chris Wilson.

Sqn Ldr Wilson asked members for their views regarding the future content of his reports.

Cllr. M Pate stated that the Council should be kept informed of future developments regarding the station and Cllr. Griffin said, after expressing his pleasure at having a representative to report to Council, that members needed to know how they could strengthen links for the future.

Sqn Ldr Wilson said that officially the base was due to transfer to Lyneham in Wiltshire although other options were still being explored and he would be pleased to invite Councillors to a tour of the base once the election was passed in May 2015. Members spoke of a community engagement award that had been granted in the past, a covenant scheme and representation on school governing bodies by Cosford members. Cllr Illes also spoke of local footpaths which had been partly maintained by RAF cadets and recently an auxiliary air force squadron had moved on to the base.

The Chair thanked Sqn Ldr Wilson for his attendance and looked forward to receiving his reports in the future.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Transport Committee report:**

Cllr. Pledger reported that the committee was pleased with the present contractor and there was no obligation to advertise the post after his current contract expires on 31st March 2015. The Transport Committee recommended to Council that the current contractor should be given a further twelve month extension to his contract starting on 1st April 2015 and Cllr. Pate proposed that the committee's recommendation should be accepted by Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and approved by Council 10 – 1 with one abstention.

The Chair reported that the contractor will be instructed to get a second driver and there was discussion regarding the purchase of high visibility jackets and other possible items of uniform. Cllr. M Pate proposed that suitable high visibility jackets should be purchased which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by Council.

Cllr. Hassall raised the question of the price of fuel being supplied by the local garage and suggested considerable savings could be made by purchasing diesel elsewhere. Members agreed to refer this matter back to the Transport Committee for further investigation.

- **Playscheme Committee report:**

Cllr. Kirkland referred to the report submitted following discussion at the last committee meeting. She confirmed that all staffing appointments would be made by members of the committee after interview and if necessary the advice of the council's personnel committee would be obtained to help with the process.

- **Personnel Committee:**

Cllr. Pledger stated that there were no further staffing problems to resolve at present and the Clerk was taking time off in lieu of extra hours worked. Cllr. M Pate stated that he was still concerned about the number of people visiting the office for no good reason and the time that was wasted as a consequence.

- **Grants Committee report:**

Cllr. S Pate said that the Grants Committee had met earlier that evening and considered four grant requests. The recommendations of the committee were that the Crucial Crew should be given a match funded grant for the 64 Albrighton children attending this summer's event totalling £448, the Cosford Youth Club should not receive a grant as the committee could not support such a large request and pay staffing costs, the Sports and Social Club should not receive a grant as their car park problem was not relevant to the parish council and the Live at Home scheme should receive £300 for first aid training of two new staff.

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the recommendations of the Grants Committee should be supported by Council which was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and approved by Council 12 – 1.

6. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. M Pate reported that there would be a Shropshire Council budget meeting later in the month and there was a need to find a further £4m of savings. There would need to be changes to the way services were managed in the future while maintaining current standards of provision.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Beechey reported that St. Cuthberts field at the nature reserve had been registered with Centenary Fields which would mean that no building could take place there in perpetuity.

Members were informed of a forthcoming quiz on 27th February and asked to consider the formation of a Council team.

8. TO UPDATE THE COUNCIL ON MEETINGS WITH THE SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE AND THE RELOCATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE:

Cllrs. Medlyn and M Pate and S Pate declared a personal interest in this agenda item.

The Chair updated members regarding a meeting with the County Librarian on 16th February and he would be attending the Council planning meeting on 5th March to make a formal presentation regarding a possible council office move to the Albrighton library. The presentation would also be attended by members of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council. In addition there would be a presentation by Mr Stuart Clowes on the proposed purchase of a defibrillator and a presentation by Cllrs. S Pate and M Pate about moving the parish council office to the Red House.

Cllr. M Pate said that he had persuaded Shropshire Council to remove Albrighton library from the list of community transfers and he had received assurances that there was no risk of the library closing. The parish council was not responding to a desperate situation and it needed to look at the long term implications of assuming responsibility for the service. Cllr. Robinson asked for a full overview and was told that this would be made clear at the meeting on 5th March. Following a full outline of the possible implications of each of the available options members would be able to reach a decision on the council office location at its meeting on 19th March. Councillors agreed that even with a 25% reduction of the joint rent offered by the current landlord staying at the present location in the High Street was not a viable option.

9. TO CONSIDER FUTURE POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE PROVISION OF A PUBLIC TOILET IN ALBRIGHTON NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2015 ALBRIGHTON AND DISTRICT PLACE PLAN.

Cllr Robinson reminded members that the Council had already decided not to get involved with the public toilets on the Crown car park but Cllr. M Pate said that following the discussions on the 2014/15 Place Plan this item had been included on the list of priorities and needed to be further considered. The Civic Society had agreed with Marstons for them not to remove the building and was anxious that a facility was available to the community if finance could be made available. A number of members expressed the difficulty of planning for a building that the Council did not own from a budget that had no provision for a public toilet. Cllr. Jarvis proposed that the Council should not take the matter forward at present and not debate a possible public toilet for at least six months. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and agreed by Council 10-3.

10. TO CONSIDER FUTURE POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE 2015 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND THE FUTURE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING PARTY.

Cllr. Illes agreed to arrange a meeting date for the Christmas Lights Working Party. It was agreed that the Working Party should only discuss matters that could be accommodated within the £6,000 budget.

11. TO REINSTATE THE ALBRIGHTON/DONINGTON LIAISON MEETING AND AGREE THE ALBRIGHTON MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Chair informed Councillors that Donington with Boscobel Parish Council had three members available to sit on the proposed liaison committee and three members should be available from Albrighton. Cllr. Pate said that in the past it had had been the Chair of Council, the Vice Chair and the former Chair. Cllr. Beechey proposed that this formulation should be confirmed which was seconded by Cllr. S Pate and agreed by Council 9-4. Cllr. Beechey proposed that Cllr. M Pate should be the third member in this case as he was attending on behalf of Donington Parish Council which was seconded by Cllr. Medlyn and agreed by Council 10-2.

12. TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 14TH MAY 2015.

Cllr. Pledger informed Council that the room had been booked in the Red House for 14th May at 7.00 pm and her report would be shared with Councillors before going to the Parish Magazine for publication. Star Housing would be making a presentation on housing issues and Sqn Ldr Wilson was asked if RAF Cosford would also make a presentation on latest developments and links with the community.

13. ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING ON 19TH MARCH 2015.

The following items were agreed for inclusion on the agenda of the business meeting on 19th March:

- Decision on the location of the parish office;
- The painting of double yellow lines to the bridge at Albrighton station;
- The condition of local roads;
- Future management of the Council website.
- Petty cash.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

For information:

- **Cllr. Beechey – report of SALC AGM and conference:**

Received and noted.

- **SALC – Information bulletin, 16th February 2015:**

Received and noted.

- **SALC – Special bulletin, 16th February 2015:**

Received and noted.

- **SALC – Conference paper, Helen Ball:**

Received and noted.

- **SALC – Report to Conference, 9th February 2015:**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **Shropshire Council – proposal to continue the management of the payroll service in 2015/16:**

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the Council should continue to use the services of the Shropshire Council payroll department which was seconded by Cllr. M Pate and unanimously agreed by Council.

15. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting – Thursday 5th March 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting – Thursday 19th March 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57 pm.

Signed.....Date.....

Chair

