

**ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday 18th February 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House**

Minutes of the business meeting of Albrighton Parish Council held on Thursday 18th February 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

PRESENT: Cllrs. S Pledger (Chairman), D Beechey, P Griffin, P Harrison, C Hassall, P Illes, S Kirkland, M Pate, A Straney, P Woodman.

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

One member of the public was present but did not wish to comment or ask any questions.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllrs. S Pate (ill health), K Pledger (hospital appointment), A Robinson (work commitments), C Roseby (work commitments).

Each apology was accepted by the council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To receive declarations under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN OF ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr. Pate proposed Cllr. Hassall should be elected Vice Chairman of the council which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by council.

Cllr. Hassall said that she would be pleased to perform the role only until the May annual general meeting of the council.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on 21st January 2016 at 7.00 pm in the Red House:**

Cllr. Hassall said that she had reservations concerning item 10 relating to the need to follow agreed procedures at all times. Cllr. Pate agreed that this was important and that there had been lapses and it was imperative that all Councillors made themselves familiar with council standing orders and abided by them. It was agreed that revisions would be made to this section of the minutes.

With this one proviso Cllr. Pate proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed by council 7 – 0 with 3 abstentions.

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting held on 4th February 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House:**

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Harrison and agreed by council 7 – 0 with 3 abstentions.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

6. RAF COSFORD REPORT:

Sqn Ldr Wilson drew members' attention to three events that were due to take place in the next few weeks:

- The press launch for the 2016 air show was due to take place on 23rd March;
- A large number of cadets would be taking part in a road marching event in the area on 23/24th April;
- The bike for life festival would take place on 8th May involving a large number of motorcyclists.

7. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate reported that the IP & E Company was being closed down and staff transferred back to the council. The council budget had been approved with a 3.99% increase in Council Tax. There had been some increase in funding from the Government but it had been consumed by the elderly care budget which was being reviewed at a central level next year.

There had been a good meeting with town and parish councils with most ready to take on new responsibilities. Discussions about what else might be delegated were ongoing.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

Cllr. Illes reported that members of the Footpaths Group were concerned about the proposal to direct water from the new development at Kingswood Road into Pebble Brook and feared that it might lead to flooding in the area.

Cllr. Hassall reported that Belectric had been back to the landowner involved in the successful solar farm planning application to tell him that nothing was being done for the next 18 months and that there would then be a review of the situation. Other solar farms also seem to have been put on hold because of funding reductions at Government level.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Playleadership Committee:**

Thanks were extended to Cllr. Kirkland for all of her hard work regarding the playscheme of 2015. Cllr. Harrison went through the report which contained a number of recommendations including a name change, his recommendation as the new Chairman and a revised list of charges.

Cllr. Harrison proposed that all of the recommendations should be adopted by the council which was seconded by Cllr. Pate and agreed 9 – 1 by council.

- **Grants Committee:**

Because there had not been enough members of the committee able to attend the meeting the funding applications were heard in full council.

- Nature Reserve. Because no accounts had been provided the appeal was dismissed.
- Melville Club. Because no accounts had been provided the appeal was dismissed.
- Crucial Crew. Accounts had not yet been received but subject to them being satisfactory Cllr. Beechey proposed that the grant should be paid in full which was seconded by Cllr. Pate and agreed 9 – 1 by council.
- Albrighton Football Club. Cllr. Pledger proposed that they should receive £800 for pitch maintenance which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed 6 – 3 with one abstention.
- Albrighton Civic Society. Cllr. Pledger reminded council that there had been an agreement that they would buy the planters and the Civic Society would maintain them. Cllr. Illes suggested that the council should contribute £75 but Cllr. Pate proposed that a contribution from the Council's planters fund should be made to include the payment of bills up to the value of £150. Cllr. Griffin proposed that the council should accept the request but there was no seconder for the motion. After further discussion Cllr. Pate proposed that £150 should be made available from the planters' budget which was seconded by Cllr. Straney which resulted in a vote 3 for, 3 against and three abstentions. The Chairman made a casting vote against the motion and members finally agreed to pay bills up to the value of £150 for one year only.

- **Finance Committee:**

Cllr. Pate declared a personal interest in this agenda item.

Members noted the content of the discussion between the Red House Committee and the council Finance Committee and the agreement to repay the outstanding loan which would be used for a major item of expenditure with suitable acknowledgement of the role of the Red House. The Clerk reported that he would be writing to the Treasurer of the Red House Committee confirming the agreement and he expected to receive a cheque shortly.

10. FINANCE :

- **To consider and approve cheques for February 2016:**

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the cheques should be approved for payment which was seconded by Cllr. Kirkland and approved by council 10 – 0.

Cheque No.	Date	Payee	Amount	VAT
4091	01.02.16	Mh-p Internet, website services	72.00	12.00
4092	01.02.16	Cartwrights florists, flowers for Civic Service	40.00	
4093	04.02.16	Acute Pest Control, moles at Clockmills	100.00	
4094	04.02.16	T.F.M., high vis jackets, mower repairs	394.6	41.33
4095	08.02.16	Severn Trent Water, allotments water bill	124.63	
4096	08.02.16	Ace Computers, computer for Admin Assist.	756.00	126.00
4097	15.02.16	Keith Gibson Cars, Flyer safety check	58.80	9.80
4098	18.02.16	Alb. Vill. Halls Trust, office rent to 31.02.16	700.00	
4099	18.02.16	Cleaner, 4 weeks cleaning to 06.02.16	40.00	
4100	24.02.16	Shropshire Tourism, web site maintenance	252.00	42.00
4101	25.02.16	Ace Computers, setting up new computer	288.00	48.00
4102	25.02.16	Printerland, cartridges for HP printer	67.22	11.20
4103	29.02.16	CummuniCorp, subs Clerks & Councils Direct	72.00	
4104	29.02.16	Viking, office supplies	224.82	37.47

11. TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN REPORT ON THE ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY ROOF FROM MR CHRIS HEDLEY OF TOWLER SHAW ROBERTS:

The contents of Mr Hedley’s report were noted and concern was expressed that the roof of the library was in need of repair at a cost of £3,800 within the next three years. Councillors felt that Shropshire Council should either make the repair before handing over the building to the parish council or undertake to bear the cost of the repair when it became necessary. Cllr. Illes felt that Shropshire Council should indemnify the parish council for any fault that emerged with the roof whether it be the skylights, felt or drainage, a view that was endorsed by Cllrs. Beechey and Woodman. Cllr. Pate asked whether there was a “plan B” in case funding from Shropshire Council was not available and Cllr. Griffin said that the council would need to use its sinking fund in order to ensure that the roof was in good condition if no other finance was available. Cllr. Beechey proposed that the Clerk should talk to Chris

Edwards of Shropshire Council about the concerns regarding the roof of the library and possible funding from Shropshire. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Illes and agreed by council 9 – 0 with Cllr. Pate abstaining.

12. TO AGREE THE HEADS OF TERMS FOR THE LEASE RELATING TO ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY AFTER RECEIVING COMMENT FROM THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND FURTHER AMENDMENT BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL:

Cllr. Woodman stated that Heads of Terms had been improved following discussions with the Chairman of Council and the Clerk but there were still a small number of items that needed further discussion. He suggested a meeting with the council's solicitor would be in order involving a small number of council representatives.

Cllr. Griffin said that he was pleased with the report and he proposed that the council should approve the Heads of Terms in principle and that Cllrs. Pledger and Woodman, together with the Clerk, should be delegated to take this matter forward on behalf of the council. Cllr. Beechey seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by council.

13. UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED RAMP AT ALBRIGHTON STATION FOLLOWING A MEETING ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2016:

The Chairman informed members that the original scheme had now received approval, a risk assessment would be undertaken by Shropshire Council shortly and legal drafts would be put into place as soon as possible. The public consultation had confirmed that the ramp was needed but there were concerns over the costs and the effects of parking in the area of the station.

14. TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE THE USE OF SPEED LIMIT SIGNS FOR USE IN APPROVED SITES IN ALBRIGHTON:

Cllr. Beechey reported that Alice Dilley had said that she would try and locate a lighter, more portable speed limit sign which could be moved around the village. Cllr, Pate said that he would look into this matter and report back to council.

15. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE SWIMMING POOL AT ALBRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE HEADTEACHER:

Cllr. Pate declared a personal interest in this agenda item.

Members were informed that there was to be an open day in late February organised by the swimming club in order to try and recruit more support and there would an AGM in April which could see a proposal to establish some king of community trust to manage the facility on a long term basis.

Cllr. Pate suggested that this matter be deferred to the next business meeting when the open day would have taken place which was agreed by council.

16. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO INITIATE A COUNCIL CELEBRATION OF THE QUEENS 90TH BIRTHDAY ON 21ST APRIL 2016:

Members agreed to place this item on the agenda of the next business meeting when Councillors had had time to think about possible initiatives.

17. TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTION REGARDING THE DISUSED FORMER BARCLAYS BANK BUILDING IN STATION ROAD, ALBRIGHTON.

Cllr. Woodman informed members that the company owning the former Barclays Bank building had become bankrupt and the ownership had passed to the parent company. He had had many conversations with the owners but had not succeeded in getting any improvements to the site. He proposed that he liaise with the Clerk who would write to the company complaining on the council's behalf which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by council.

18. POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTION REGARDING THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR TWO SOLAR FARMS IN THE AREA:

Cllr. Hassall confirmed that with the pause on current developments in place there was little point in asking either of the two companies involved with solar farm planning applications in the area for any community funding.

19. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 17TH MARCH 2016:

Members agreed that the next business meeting would need to be essentially concerned with the impending move of the council office to the library and the takeover of the facility on 1st April. Other items already agreed concerned the swimming pool and the Queens 90th birthday celebrations.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

For information:

- **SALC – Fundamentals for Councillors training 20th April 2016:**

Cllr. Woodman agreed to attend the training on 20th April, 2016.

21. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **HR meeting to discuss TUPE arrangements for library staff Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 11.00 am in the library.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting Thursday 17th March 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

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

Chairman