

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.</p>

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on 15th January 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

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

In attendance: Mr M Ward, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Five members of the public were present. Mr Sandhu stated that he ran an off licence in the village and there had been an application to open another off licence. There were a total of six shops selling alcohol locally and if another opened it could mean closures in the future.

Three applicants for the vacancy to be filled by co-option spoke to members giving a brief overview of their reasons for wishing to join the Council and all were happy to let the Council decide on its choice after giving due consideration to their written submissions and any particular skills that were needed.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllr. S Pate (ill health), K Pledger (work commitments).

Each apology was accepted by Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 18th December 2014:**

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Pate and agreed 10-0 by Council with one abstention.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Cllr. Griffin stated that he had information on the possible use of a defibrillator and contacts who would be pleased to brief members at some date in the future if required. Cllr. Beechey had also provided details of contacts who could make a presentation to Council.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Transport Committee report:**

Cllr. Harrison reported that the transport committee had met on 7th January 2015 to further discuss the proposal to merge with Friendlybus and agree questions for a meeting for representatives and Friendlybus at Broseley on 21st January 2015. There would be a follow up meeting on 26th January 2015 to receive an update on the progress made.

Cllr. Pate stated that members should be aware that further cuts from Shropshire Council could affect the Flyer.

- **Finance Committee report:**

Cllr. Pledger reported that the finance committee met on the 14th January in order to agree the draft budget to be presented to Council later in the agenda.

5. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate said that there would be no increase in council tax in 2015/16 but a further cut of £40m could see services reduced or in some case passed on to other organisations.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

Cllr. Illes reported that the Albrighton Fayre committee had decided that the date of the 2015 Fayre would be 11th July 2015.

7. PLANNING

Planning applications:

Reference: 14/05482/TPO (validated: 08/12/2014)

Address: Albrighton Railway Station, Station Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3DR

Proposal: Removal of two trees protected by Shropshire Council (Land off Shaw Lane and Kingswood Road, Albrighton) TPO 2010

Applicant: Mr Allun Edge (Birmingham MDV, Bromford Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands, England, B707JD)

This application had already been approved by Shropshire Council

Reference: 14/05456/REM (validated: 05/12/2014)

Address: Development Land East To The Of Shaw Lane Off, Kingswood Road, Albrighton, Shropshire

Proposal: Reserved Matters pursuant of planning application reference BR/APP/OUT/08/0907 for residential development to include appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and other access

Applicant: Boningale Homes Ltd. (C/o Agent)

Councillors made a number of points regarding the reserved matters submitted including the need for an overview of the whole development and avoiding piecemeal building, the need to keep the access to the station at the forefront of discussions and approval for the car park which would ease congestion at the top of Shaw Lane. Members noted that the maintenance of the playing fields still had to be decided and noted that the preservation of existing trees and the removal of surface water had been issues of concern to the public. Cllr. Pledger suggested that some kind of sensory garden would be a useful addition to the development.

At the end of the discussion Cllr. Kirkland proposed that the reserved matters should be approved by the Council which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed.

Reference: 14/05526/FUL (validated: 10/12/2014)

Address: 10 - 11 Cross Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3BJ

Proposal: Erection of detached double garage (following demolition of outbuildings) and two porches to side elevation

Applicant: Elm Green Ltd (Grey Timbers, Wolverhampton Road, Pattingham, Staffordshire, WV6 7AF)

Cllr. Pate spoke against the proposed development and application 14/05525/FUL on the grounds that it was in the green belt. Members noted that the applicant had addressed this matter in the accompanying statement and the Clerk read through each reason submitted as to why an exception to green belt development should be granted in this case. Cllr. Pate stated that in his opinion none of the reasons submitted justified an exception to the rule and proposed that the application should be rejected. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by Council.

Reference: 14/05525/FUL (validated: 14/01/2015)

Address: 10 - 11 Cross Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3BJ

Proposal: Erection of four detached dwellings (following demolition of outbuildings); creation of three additional vehicular accesses and parking areas; removal of some trees

Applicant: Elm Green Ltd (Grey Timbers, Wolverhampton Road, Pattingham, Staffordshire, WV6 7AF)

Application duly considered as part of the discussion on planning application 14/05526/FUL and rejected by Council as development within the green belt.

8. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTIONS TO THE COUNCIL CAUSED BY THE RESIGNATION OF MR ALEX JOYNSON:

- **Letter from Mr Melvyn Jones:**
- **Letter from Mr Chris Roseby:**
- **Letter from Mr Peter Woodman:**

Cllr. Pate moved that this item should be discussed in confidential session which was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and agreed by Council.

At the end of the discussion the Council resumed in open session and the three applicants were invited back to the Council Chamber. A vote was taken by a show of hands which resulted in Cllr. Kirkland voting for Mr Jones, Cllrs. Harrison, Hassall, Illes, Jarvis and Robinson voting for Mr Roseby and Cllrs. Beechey, Griffin, Medlyn and Pate voting for Mr Woodman. Mr Jones was eliminated from the vote and Mr Roseby was elected by a majority decision 6 – 4. Mr Chris Roseby was informed that he had been the choice of members to join the Council and he duly signed the Acceptance of Office form and joined the meeting.

The Chair congratulated Mr Roseby on his success and hoped that he found his work on the Council stimulating and useful. The Clerk was asked to write to all of the candidates to thank them for their interest.

9. TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2015/16, AMEND AND APPROVE:

The Clerk went through each item of the proposed budget highlighting in particular all changes from the previous year's allocation. Cllrs agreed two changes in which the proposals for village entrance planters were rejected and the budget reduced to £500 and to reduce the budget for the RAF approbation to £2,000.

Members tendered their thanks to the finance committee and the Clerk for their preparatory work and Cllr. Pate proposed that the draft budget should be accepted. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council.

10. TO REVIEW COUNCIL OFFICE COSTS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS IN SPENDING.

Councillors were informed by Cllr. Pate that there was the distinct possibility that the Customer Services would be moved out of the present office shared with the Parish Council and perhaps move into the library. The Chair said that the Parish Council had been invited to also move into the library but an initial inspection suggested that it would be costly and there were issues of privacy and the reduction in floor area for library use. The Council were also considering a move into the Red House and the temporary office use when the current accommodation had been flooded had worked well. The matter would be further reviewed

when more details became available although Cllr. Beechey spoke in support of a possible move to the library in order to help safeguard its future.

11. TO REVIEW THE WORKING HOURS OF THE COUNCIL CLERK IN TERMS OF THE EXISTING CONTRACT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT CLERK:

Cllr. Pate spoke against any suggestion that an Assistant Clerk should be appointed and said funding should be used to support the community and not spent on additional bureaucracy. Time should be given in lieu of hours worked in excess of the contract and he also urged a review of the present committee structure which placed extra demands on the Clerk. Cllr. Griffin spoke against any downgrading of the committees which he felt were working well and making a useful addition to Council debate.

Cllr. Pate moved that there should be no appointment of an Assistant Clerk which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed by Council 5 – 4 with two abstentions.

Members agreed that the Personnel Committee would look at the general issue of the Clerk's working hours at a future meeting.

12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND AGREEMENT ON A DATE IN MAY 2015.

The Chair informed members that as the general election was due to take place on 7th May 2015 there would be no planning meeting that evening. The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 14th May at 7.00 pm in the Red House and the AGM would form part of the Council agenda for the business meeting on 21st May.

Members agreed to invite Mr Keith Barrow, leader of Shropshire Council, and a representative of Star Housing, to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.

13. TO REVIEW THE COMPOSITION OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING PARTY AND APPOINT NEW MEMBERS AS APPROPRIATE:

Members agreed that the revised Christmas Lights working party should consist of Cllrs. Illes, Kirkland, Pledger and Roseby plus a representative of the Albrighton Traders.

The date of the next meeting would be decided on 19th February 2015.

14. ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2015

Members agreed to place the following items on the agenda of the meeting on 19th February:

- Public toilets;

- The 2015 playscheme;
- Christmas lights;
- Possible Friendlybus/Flyer partnership;
- The Annual Parish Meeting.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

For information:

- **Police and Crime Commissioner – e-newsletter December 2014;**

Received and noted.

- **Arts Alive – live events in Herefordshire and Shropshire Jan – July 2015.**

Received and noted.

- **Department for Communities and Local Government – Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **SALC – Invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party on 20th May 2015:**

Cllr. Pledger was nominated to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party representing the Council.

- **SALC – Information Bulletin January 2015:**

The SALC AGM was drawn to members' attention which would be combined with the conference on the Council Tax Support Grant.

- **Albrighton Village Halls Trust – Defibrillator on the boundaries of the Red House:**

The letter from the Albrighton Village Hall Trust giving support to the installation of a defibrillator at the Red House in principle was discussed. Councillors agreed to invite a suitable expert on the subject to make a presentation to members at a future planning meeting.

- **Oil Buying Club – request to make a presentation to Council:**

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Club suggesting that they place an article in the Parish Magazine.

16. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

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