

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 21st January 2016 at 7.00 pm in the Red House.</p>

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

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

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

PRESENTATION ON THE BIG CONVERSATION BY MR CLIVE WRIGHT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Clive Wright to the meeting and members watched the video The Big Conversation before going on to discuss the details.

Mr Wright said that consultations with the public were going on at the present on a low cost basis and more than 200 people had responded so far. The council budget of £220m had been reduced to £180m and after statutory services had been funded only £25m would be left for other areas in a few years' time. This would mean real cuts and could not be achieved through increases in efficiency. The results of the survey so far indicated that vulnerable children and education topped the list with regard to protection followed by older people and vulnerable adults, the environment, transport, health and finally births, deaths and marriages. 53% of responders thought that the county should invest in IT and 77% felt that the county should combine with other authorities. 62% said that some services should be cut back while others were protected and 61% felt that volunteers should do more. 72% of responders said that communities should be enabled to take on more themselves but only 32% said that they would be able to contribute directly. 49% of those taking part in the survey to date said that Council Tax would need to be increased. The research would need to be triangulated to provide rigorous data which could include the use of focus groups and individuals.

Mr Wright said that other services that might be passed down to Town and Parish Councils included parks, leisure facilities and highway repairs. Questions followed relating to business rates and unitary authority benefits. It was agreed that rural authorities were every badly hit in this period of austerity when compared to urban areas, particularly in the south east. Everyone agreed that local government was in a period of transition and that the culture was changing. The role of Town and Parish Councils would change significantly in the next few years and members would need to be prepared to take on new responsibilities on behalf of their communities.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES:

P Griffin (work commitments), S Kirkland (illness), S Pate (ill health), P Woodman (holiday).

Each apology was accepted by 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.

Cllr. Pate declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 relating to the Red House.

Cllr. Pate declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Shropshire Pension Fund.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on 17th December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House:**

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

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting held on 7th January 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House enclosed:**

Cllr. Illes proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Roseby and agreed by Council 7 - 0. Cllrs. Robinson and Roseby abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

5. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate reported that he had been elected leader of Shropshire Council in December 2015 and received the congratulations of the parish council. He stated that there were five new cabinet members and he had called for a review of IP&E. The Council would be staying at Shirehall and solar panels would be placed on the roof. He had reinstated the former backbench meetings and was seeking a much closer engagement with Town and Parish Councils.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

Cllr. Straney said that there had been difficulties with the traffic lights at Cosford causing traffic delays but no other feedback had been received.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance Committee report:**

The Finance Committee was moved for discussion after agenda item 16.

- **Personnel Committee report:**

The Personnel Committee report was move for discussion after agenda item 16.

8. FINANCE

- **To consider and approve the draft budget for 2016/17:**

The final version of the draft budget was presented to Council for approval following amendments as directed by Council at their meeting on 7th January 2016. Cllr. Beechey moved that the budget should be accepted by Council which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by members.

- **To consider and approve the precept for 2016/17.**

The precept included as budget head 1176 was £97,373 in the draft budget already approved. It was noted that there could be some small adjustments when the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee reports were discussed together with agenda item 16.

Members agreed that an article on the budget should be placed in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

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

Cllr. Illes proposed that the cheques for January 2016 should be approved for payment which was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council.

Cheque No.	Date	Payee	Amount	VAT
4081	06.01.16	Keith Gibson Cars, fuel, repairs, service	1048.50	174.75
4082	07.01.16	Viking, paper, folders	138.64	23.11
4083	11.01.16	TFM, telescopic anvil lopper	26.15	4.36
4084	11.01.16	E.ON, repair to street light	87.80	14.63
4085	13.01.16	Npower, street lighting charge	755.07	126.84
4086	20.01.16	Cleaner, 4 weeks cleaning to 08.01.16	40.00	
4087	21.01.16	NALC, 'Local Councils Explained'	54.99	

4088	25.01.16	Cash, cash for petty cash	100.00	
4089	25.01.16	Printerland, laser cartridges Samsung printer	296.35	49.39
4090	28.01.16	Mh-p Internet, website development	108.00	18.00

9. TO UPDATE MEMBERS REGARDING THE LOAN MADE TO THE RED HOUSE IN 2005/06 AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RED HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES.

The Chairman informed members that a meeting with Red House representatives to discuss the outstanding loan made by the Parish Council had been arranged for 4th February at 2.00 pm.

10. TO CONSIDER THE CONDUCT OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ENSURE THAT THEY CONFORM TO STANDING ORDERS:

Cllr. Hassall stressed the need for receiving papers three clear days before a meeting in order that Councillors can be properly prepared, particularly with regard to decisions that involved finance. If deadlines were difficult an extra meeting might need to be called and Cllr. Hassall quoted discussions on the transfer of the library to the Parish Council that could have benefited from more time. Cllr. Pate supported Cllr. Hassall's concerns and stated that it was important at all time to observe the legalities. The Clerk reminded Councillors that their reference with regard to all procedural matters was the Council Standing Orders. It had sometimes been difficult to meet all deadlines in past months because of the extra pressures of work caused by recent initiatives including the library transfer and the swimming pool issue but was confident that with the extra help of the new Admin Assistant there should be no future difficulties.

11. TO DISCUSS THE APPROBATION COSTS RELATING TO THE LUNCH AND ANY ACTION REQUIRED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE FINAL INVOICE:

Cllr. Pate left the meeting for this agenda item.

Cllr. Pledger went over the costs of the approbation lunch and compared the two events in 2013 and 2015. There appeared to be extra costs in 2015 for items such as cutlery, tablecloths, tables and a £50 charge for using outside caterers. She reported that Donington PC also had reservations about the costs. Cllr. Straney had concerns with regard to the relationship with the Red House and Cllr. Illes also said that he was worried that this matter could sour the atmosphere for an event that was finished with months ago. The Clerk read out an email that had been sent by the Chair of the Red House Management Committee relating to the lunch. Cllr. Robinson proposed that the matter of the costs of the 2015 lunch should be put aside and there should be a review of the requirements for the approbation lunch in 2018 once the details were known. Cllr. Roseby seconded the motion which was agreed by Council 6 – 0 with two abstentions.

Cllr. Pate returned to the meeting at the end of the debate.

12. TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE SIGN FOR THE ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY AND AGREE ON THE TEXT.

After discussion on a number of suggestions members agreed that the wording for the transferred library above the building should read:

“Albrighton Library and Parish Council Office”.

13. TO AGREE ON A NOMINATION FOR THE ROYAL GARDEN PARTY ON 19TH MAY 2016.

Cllr Pate proposed that Cllr. Hassall should be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party on 19th May 2016 which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by Council.

14. TO UPDATE COUNCILLORS WITH REGARD TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMIN. ASSISTANT AND RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT:

Cllr. Pledger informed Council that five candidates had been interviewed for the post of Admin Assistant on 19th January and the appointing panel were unanimous in recommending Mrs Sue Turner for the position.

Cllr. Beechey proposed that Mrs Turner should be appointed to the post of Admin Assistant which was seconded by Cllr. Pate and unanimously agreed by Council.

15. TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF THE SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL GOVERNANCE REVIEW RELATING TO THE ALBRIGHTON NORTH AND SOUTH WARD:

Cllr. Beechey proposed that Albrighton Parish Council should strongly support the proposal to remove the two wards, north and south, which currently apply which was seconded by Cllr. Pate and unanimously approved by Council.

Cllr. Illes said that the Council needed to increase in size if it was to manage the sort of changes being proposed by Shropshire Council and consider entering into partnerships with other adjacent councils.

16. TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE REMUNERATION OF THE CLERK AFTER RECEIVING CLARIFICATION ON THE CILCA AWARD, THE CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION FOR ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT INTERVIEWS AND THE ANTICIPATED FUTURE WORKLOAD AND TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL.

The Clerk left the meeting for this agenda item and returned when discussions were completed.

17. TO AGREE THE BUDGET FOR 2016/17 TO INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS RELATING TO THE CLERKS EMPLOYMENT:

It was agreed that the budget, already approved under agenda item 8, should be amended by the Clerk to take account of his salary being increased to point 28 from August 2013 and a further increase to point 30 from 1st April 2016. This would mean that the precept for the 2016/17 budget would need to rise to £100,123.

18. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 18th FEBRUARY 2016.

Members agreed that the following items should be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council business meeting on 18th February 2016.

- To investigate the use of speed limit signs in the village;
- The election of a new Vice Chairman;
- Update on the swimming pool;
- Possible celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday;
- Update on the proposed ramp at Albrighton station;
- Update on the empty Barclays Bank building;
- The report on the roof of Albrighton library.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

For information:

- **SALC - Information Bulletin 13th January 2016:**

Received and noted.

- **Kate Edge – card thanking the council for its help and support at the Christmas dinner:**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **NALC – the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations:**

Deferred to the Parish Council business meeting on 18th February.

- **Sam Taylor – request from Albrighton Swimming Club for their annual grant:**

Members agreed that the swimming club should send outstanding invoices to the Parish Council for payment up to a maximum of £1,500 to 31st March 2016.

20. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting Thursday 4th February 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council play scheme meeting Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 4.00 pm in the Red House.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting Thursday 18th February 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

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