

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING Thursday 16th July 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House</p>
--

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

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

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

Two members of the public were present but neither wished to comment.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllrs. P Griffin (holiday), S Kirkland (illness), K Pledger (illness), S Pate (ill health).

Each apology was accepted by Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of Parish Council business meeting held on 18th June 2015 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 with three abstentions.

- **Minutes of the Parish Council planning meeting held on 2nd July 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House:**

Cllr. Pate proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and agreed by Council with two abstentions.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

After further discussion on the issue of VAT on the dishwasher presented to the Melville Club the Clerk was asked to write to the auditor providing a copy of the written advice from NALC which had been used to justify the procedure.

Cllr. Hassall stated that the right of way from Garridge Close could be moved but the final decision might have to be made at central government level and it could not be changed before 2025.

Cllr. Woodman again stressed that the SAMDev Local Plan should have included reference to roads in the area.

4. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate stated that he was aware that the standard of grass cutting in Ashgrove and elsewhere was poor and he was working to ensure the standard improved. The Highways budget had been top-sliced so that local people could influence the priorities established in their area.

The process of decommissioning at county level was proceeding slowly but when completed it would allow the council owned company to accept work from other authorities.

There had been a good reaction to the LJC meeting, particularly the section dealing with highways, a view that was supported by Cllr. Illes.

5. RAF COSFORD REPORT:

Sqn Ldr Wilson's written report was received and noted.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

There were no reports from Councillors.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Transport committee:**

Cllr. Harrison reported that the Transport Committee had had a meeting on 29th June and had recommended that the Council directly employ the drivers. A job description had been agreed and a contract was being supplied by Shrewsbury Dial a Ride for Council consideration. The committee had agreed to include residents of Tong within its remit which would be part of a broader service that would operate for a wider range of community groups.

Cllr. Harrison promised to provide a written report for future meetings.

- **Playscheme committee:**

Members noted the written report provided by Cllr. Kirkland and that the Playscheme was fully prepared for its opening on 20th July.

Cllr. Pledger stated that there would be confidential item concerning the playscheme for members' consideration at the end of the meeting.

8. FINANCE:

- **To review and approve cheques for July 2015:**

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the cheques should be approved for payment which was seconded by Cllr. Harrison and unanimously approved by Council.

Cheque No.	Date	Payee	Amount	VAT
3974	02.07.15	Playscheme, payment of fees to account	1000.00	
3975	02.07.15	Playscheme, Albrighton PC grant	3990.00	
3976	06.07.15	TFM, repairs to strimmer	67.84	11.31
3977	06.07.15	Flyer contractor, bus pass refund	300.00	
3978	06.07.15	Clegg Gifford & Co., Flyer insurance 2015/16	3445.08	
3979	06.07.15	A Price, tree work on village green	50.00	
3980	06.07.15	Flyer 2 nd driver, bus pass refund	60.00	
3981	06.07.15	Playscheme, payment of fees to account	100.00	
3982	08.07.15	Playscheme, payment of fees to account	160.00	
3983	13.07.15	Flyer contractor, bus pass refund	300.00	
3984		Destroyed		
3985	13.07.15	Village Warden, travel expenses	31.50	
3986	15.07.15	BG Grounds Maint., 2 mows Patshull Green	168.00	28.00
3987	15.07.15	Playscheme, payment of fees to account	100.00	
3988	16.07.15	Shropshire Youth Association, DBS check	44.00	
3989		Destroyed		
3990	20.07.15	Npower. Ashgrove street lighting	746.86	124.48
3991	20.07.15	Reimbursement of playscheme fees	370.00	
3992	20.07.15	Viking, office supplies	200.48	33.41
3993	22.07.15	Flyer contractor, bus pass refund	300.00	
3994	22.07.15	Cash, for petty cash account	100.00	
3995	22.07.15	Keith Gibson Cars, Flyer service, repairs, fuel	320.98	53.49
3996	23.07.15	Smith of Derby, repair of pillar clock	667.20	111.20
3997	23.07.15	SALC, course fee	20.00	
3998	27.07.15	Cleaner, four weeks cleaning to 24.07.15	40.00	
3999	27.07.15	Flyer contractor, bus pass refund	300.00	
4000	27.07.15	Flyer 2 nd driver, bus pass refund	60.00	
4001	27.07.15	British Heart Foundation, defibrillator	400.00	
4002	30.07.15	DVLA, Flyer tax 2015/16	165.00	
4003	30.07.15	Playscheme, payment of fees to account	35.00	

Cllr. Robinson asked about the trees on Patshull Green and the Clerk explained why there were payments to the playscheme.

- **To consider a telephone report from the external auditor Mazars regarding the 2014/15 audit.**

The Clerk reported that Mazars, the external auditors, has enquired why there had been a 5% rise in staff costs. The rise was explained by an increase in tax and N.I. payments.

9. REPORT AND UPDATE ON THE APPROBATION CEREMONY:

Cllr. Pledger reported that all of the arrangements had been made and invitations had been posted with a 27th July deadline for responses. If there was no reply the place would be offered to other residents. A dress code had been indicated, the caterers booked, road closures agreed, the bus company's informed and the roses and flowers had been arranged.

10. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A LASER COPIER TO REPLACE THE ONE REMOVED BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL:

The Clerk informed members that the printer/copier owned by Shropshire Council at the former Council office had been retained by them and there was now no facility for copying other than by an inkjet machine which was very slow and expensive. The Council agreed to purchase a laser colour printer/ copier and asked the Clerk to obtain three quotes for members to consider at their next meeting. Cllr. Pate advised that any new machine should be able to make A3 copies as well as A4.

11. TO CONSIDER THE STATE OF THE ROADS IN ALBRIGHTON AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr. Illes reminded members that there used to be a system where individual Councillors monitored a number of local roads and reported any failings to the Clerk. He suggested that this scheme worked well and should be resurrected. Cllr. Beechey wondered about the prioritising of road repairs and said that the roads at the main junction in the village were in urgent need of repair. Cllr. Pate agreed and Cllr. Woodman stated that the roads from the village towards Wolverhampton were also in a very bad state although there was a plan for scheduled repairs. Cllr. Medlyn also registered concern about the pavements in any repair schedule and was concerned that they might be overlooked.

Cllr. Illes proposed that should produce a list of urgent items for repair and then provide a reporting scheme for the on-going monitoring of local roads by individual Councillors. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council. Members asked that this item should be placed on the agenda of the meeting on 17th September.

12. UPDATE ON THE VACANCY IN THE SOUTH WARD OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr. Pledger reported that the vacancy was being advertised with a closing date of 4th August. To date there had not been a request from ten registered electors calling for an election.

13. TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON COUNCIL LAND AT THE END OF LOAK ROAD/WORTHINGTON DRIVE FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNTY PLANNING:

Cllr. Beechey reminded Council of the background to the refusal to allow affordable housing on Council owned land at the end of Loak Road which was now being reconsidered. There was a clear demand for social housing in the area, particularly for older people. Cllr. Medlyn said that any new development should be for local people. Cllr. Beechey suggested that the land should be properly valued and Cllr. Woodman agreed and said that it should not be given away. He also agreed to look at the DCLG document that related to this proposal.

Council agreed to a formal valuation by a local agent and Cllr. Beechey was authorised to continue the discussions and report back to Council at its meeting on 17th September.

14. UPDATE ON THE GRANT APPLICATION TO BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR TO BE PLACED AT THE RED HOUSE:

The Clerk reported that the grant application to the British Heart Foundation had been approved and a large parcel of ancillary equipment had already been received. The defibrillator would arrive later and he would then seek the advice of the West Midlands Ambulance Service with regard to training and the location of the machine.

Members asked that the Women's Institute should be informed of the successful bid for a grant.

15. UPDATE ON PLANS FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Cllr. Illes reported that an £800 request for funding had been made to RAF Cosford to replace the display on the side of the shoe shop. Responses for the installation of the lights will be checked on 25th July and Cllr. Illes explained the process whereby quotes were taken and a contractor approved. Council approved the use of Survey Monkey to sample local opinion with regard to the Christmas display and for the committee to proceed with plans within the delegated budget.

16. TO FURTHER CONSIDER SUITABLE PROJECTS THAT MIGHT BE FUNDED BY BELECTRIC RELATED TO THE SOLAR POWER PLANNING APPLICATION:

This item was deferred because of the absence of Cllr. Griffin.

17. TO CONSIDER THE PARISH COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROPOSED STATION RAMP TOGETHER WITH OTHER LOCAL COUNCILS:

The report provided by Cllr. Woodman was considered by Council and members were informed that Tong Parish Council did not wish to be involved in the project which left just Albrighton and Donington Parish Councils as potential owners of the ramp land and

managers of the project. The Clerk informed Council about the need for a risk assessment to meet the needs of the insurers and he was liaising with Shropshire Council in order to produce a reputable response. Cllr. Woodman said that there was now a more positive attitude towards the proposal from Network Rail and Cllr. Hassall said that it was important that any Council should only declare support in principle given that many details still needed to be agreed. Cllr. Pate recorded the Council's thanks to the Civic Society for all of their hard work in support of the ramp retention.

Cllr. Pledger proposed that the Council Consortium should proceed with the purchase of the land at an appropriate juncture which was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and agreed by Council with two members against the motion.

Council was informed that there would be a public meeting relating to this issue in the Red House at a date to be confirmed.

18. CORRESPONDENCE:

For information:

- **SALC - Information bulletin July 2015:**

Received and noted.

- **Mr John Stretton – letter of thanks and invitation to a talk on 5th October at 7.30 pm in the Red House:**

Received and noted.

- **Shropshire Housing Group – Shropshire Housing Group Corporate Plan 2015-2020:**

Received and noted.

- **Shropshire Seniors – The Forum Magazine, August 2015.**

Received and noted.

- **Shropshire Council – Shropshire Council Road Safety Policy Submissions, letter:**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **Commsco – to consider an application for Government funding to upgrade the council office IT connection system:**

Members gave their unanimous approval for this upgrade in broadband connectivity.

19. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **Parish Council planning meeting Thursday 6th August 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Parish Council planning meeting Thursday 3rd September 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Approbation ceremony Saturday 5th September at 10.00 am outside the Red House.**
- **Parish Council business meeting Thursday 17th September 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

Cllr. Beechey gave his apologies for the planning meeting in August as he was on holiday.

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the Council should go into confidential session to discuss an issue relating to the playscheme which was seconded by Cllr. Pate and unanimously agreed by Council.

At the conclusion of the confidential session there being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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

