

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 17th March 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House</p>
--

Minutes of meeting of Albrighton Parish Council held on 17th March 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllrs. P Griffin (work commitments), S Pate (ill health), A Robinson (work commitments), C Roseby (work commitments), P Woodman (family event).

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. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2016 at 7.15 pm:**

Cllr. Hassall asked that the word 'only' be added to the reference in agenda item 3 relating to her time as Vice Chairman of the Council to read: 'Cllr. Hassall said that she would be pleased to perform the role only until the May annual general meeting of the council'.

With this one alteration Cllr. Beechey proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Harrison and unanimously agreed by council.

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting held on Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 7.15 pm:**

Cllr. Illes proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Kirkland and agreed by council 6 – 0 with three abstentions.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

Cllr. Beechey asked if there was anyone replacing Mr John Bulmer as tree warden.

5. RAF COSFORD REPORT:

Sqn Ldr Wilson informed members that there were three months to go before the air show with a press conference on 23rd March with a possible increase in plane noise. At Easter there were Air Training Corps camps and 633 volunteer gliding is to be closed down although there could be one or two more light aircraft in the next two years. On 23 and 24th April there were twenty-mile route marches in the area and on the 13th April community link instructors from Telford College are to meet possible recruits in jewellery making, textiles, manicures and digital photography.

6. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate reported that discussions were under way with representatives from Staffordshire and Telford to try and sort out financial difficulties facing the various authorities. Further cuts are to follow particularly in the 2018/19 budgets and possible devolution is also under discussion with other neighbouring counties. Albrighton PC had done well in helping to meet the challenges and generally there had been good cooperation from parish and town councils. A major drain on the county budget was the expenditure on elderly care services.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- **Ratification of pay issues – Cllr. Illes.**

Cllr. Illes went through the paper's details about modifications to pay scales for the clerk and the appointment of an Admin Assistant to the staffing with the former having a phased elevation to point 30 of the NJC – LC2 scale with effect from 01.04.16.

Cllr. Kirkland asked for support in a project for 14-19 year olds who would interview regarding the interactions between Cosford and the community of Albrighton. Cllr. Pledger proposed that this initiative should proceed which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and unanimously agreed by council.

Cllr. Medlyn asked about a possible application for an annual grant for the Melville Club. It was agreed that an annual grant could only apply from 2017/18 as the 2016/17 budget had already been agreed but there was nothing to prevent the club applying for a one off grant during the course of the current financial year. Cllr. Kirkland reported that there had not been a response from the Melville Club regarding her grants initiative.

Cllr. Hassall proposed that the WW1 posters should now be taken down which was seconded by Cllr. Kirkland and agreed by council 8 – 0 with one abstention.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Holiday Club committee report – Cllr Harrison.**

There was no written report as the meeting had taken place the previous afternoon. Cllr. Harrison reported that there had been a good response to the staffing pledged to return for 2016 and the committee proposed that the salaries should remain unchanged. Grant applications had been discussed and the position with regard to Donington with Boscobel Parish Council whose clerk had declined to get involved with the 2016 scheme. It was suggested that the clerk should write a carefully judged letter regretting the lack of involvement.

9. FINANCE:

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

Cllr. Kirkland proposed that the cheques for March 2016 should be approved which was seconded by Cllr. Hassall and unanimously agreed by council.

10. TO CONSIDER FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER OF ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY TO ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL:

- **The heads of terms and the lease of the building;**

The Clerk reported that the heads of terms for the lease had been agreed by the Council solicitors and they were now in discussion with the county legal department regarding the lease.

- **The SLA between Shropshire Council and Albrighton Parish Council;**

The SLA had been forwarded to James Sage of Manby Bowdler for his consideration and the council was waiting to receive his comments.

- **Arrangements for the transfer of library staff to the payroll of Albrighton Parish Council;**

A meeting had been arranged to consider the TUPE arrangements for existing library staff with members of HR from Shropshire Council which had proceeded well with no major difficulties encountered. HR were handling the internal issues regarding the transfer of staff to Albrighton Parish Council.

- **Building update with regard to the refurbishment of the library;**

The building refurbishment was on time and proceeding without any difficulty. An assessment for insurance purposes conducted by TSR had been completed and discussions

had been initiated with the council's insurance company regarding necessary amendments to the existing policy.

- **Internet connections at the Red House and at the library.**

Both BT and Mainstream Digital had been contacted regarding the internet connection and removal of the telephone line to the new council office. Both connections had been arranged for Friday 1st April.

- **Removal arrangements for council equipment on 31st March, 2016:**

A local removal company had been contracted to move the office from the Red House to the library on 31st March.

- **Re-stocking of the library in April, 2016;**

The bookcases were due to be erected in the week beginning 4th April and the books and other equipment was scheduled to be delivered in the week beginning 11th April. The likeliest date for the re-opening of the library was Monday 18th April.

- **Formal opening of the library on a date to be agreed.**

Members agreed that there should be a formal opening of the new facility with April 18th as the likeliest date. Discussions would take place with library staff and suggested arrangements would be brought back to council for approval.

11. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OR RENTAL OF A DRINKS MACHINE FOR ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY:

Members agreed that the proposed drinks machine for the library was too expensive and involved too much effort in terms of servicing and maintenance. Cllr. Pate proposed that the initiative should be cancelled which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by council.

12. UPDATE ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SWIMMING SEASON 2016 AT ALBRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SUGGESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE LONGER TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE FACILITY.

A consultation regarding the long term future of the swimming club had taken place in the Red House but it had not been well attended and the outcomes were inconclusive. The AGM was scheduled for 19th April and the Chairman would make it clear that the situation was serious and volunteers to join the committee were essential. Councillors were urged to give their support to the swimming club at its AGM in April.

13. TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

Cllr. Illes agreed to look at a possible project based on 'Clean for the Queen' and Cllr. Medlyn suggested that something could be done in association with the reopening of the library, perhaps involving children. It was agreed that Cllr. Illes and Medlyn would examine the possibilities in more detail and report back to council.

14. TO CONSIDER THE NECESSARY REMOVAL OF A DEAD OAK TREE ON COUNCIL LAND WHICH IS REPORTED TO BE CAUSING DAMAGE TO NEIGHBOURS' SHEDS AND GARDEN EQUIPMENT IN ST. CUTHBERT'S CRESCENT.

The Clerk agreed to seek help from Shropshire Council regarding specialist tree surgeons who might be able to overcome the problems with the tree's removal and prevent damage to local residents' property.

15. TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A VILLAGE AWARD SCHEME FOR SOMEONE MAKING AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY.

Cllr. Pate thought that the idea was commendable but could be divisive within the community. Cllr. Illes stated that the Civic Society has a similar scheme and perhaps it was best left to them and Cllr. Kirkland thought that a suitable alternative would be a vote of thanks at the approbation ceremony.

Cllr. Pate proposed that no further action should be taken with this suggestion which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by council.

16. TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2016 AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL.

The day of the Annual Parish Meeting was 5th May 2016 at St. Mary's Church Hall at 7.00 pm. The Chairman's report had been published and the arrangements were all in hand. Cllr. Pate agreed to ask Mr Clive Wright of Shropshire Council to speak at the meeting.

17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST APRIL 2016 AT 7.15 PM IN THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM.

The following items were agreed for the agenda of the business meeting on 21st April 2016.

- The developing traveller site on the A41,
- Shifnal Forward
- Application for a dementia project in Albrighton
- Outside trail.

18. CORRESPONDENCE:

For information:

- **John Campion - prospective conservative candidate for the position of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia;**

Received and noted.

- **Barrie Sheldon – prospective independent candidate for the position of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia:**

Received and noted

- **Peter Jewell – prospective independent candidate for the position of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia;**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **Post Office – consultation over the proposed move of the post office to Spar, 78 High Street, Albrighton;**

Members felt that the suggested new arrangements had the potential to offer a better service to the public although there could be parking difficulties in the High Street. There might be a need for a new post box outside the Spar if the project was to proceed.

19. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting Thursday 7th April 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Council Meeting Room.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting Thursday 21st April 2016 at 7.15 pm in the Council Meeting Room.**
- **Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 5th May at 7.00 pm in St. Mary's Church Hall, Albrighton.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Signed.....Dated.....
Chairman

