

**ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Thursday 20th November 2014 at 7.15 pm in the Red House

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 20th November 2014 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

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

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

Two members of the public were present but did not wish to make a statement or ask any question.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllr. S Pate (ill health), Cllr. S Jarvis (work commitments).

Each apology was accepted by Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 16th October 2014:**

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

The confidential minute was discussed in private session at the end of the meeting and Cllr. Pate moved that the minute was a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed by Council with two abstentions.

- **Minutes of Parish Council planning meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2014:**

Cllr. Pate moved that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Harrison and agreed by Council with three abstentions.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee report was received and noted.

- **Grants Committee:**

Cllr. Hassall asked whether the report to Council had asked for a donation to the proposed works at St. Mary's Churchyard. Members agreed that it had asked for a grant. Cllr. Kirkland asked that a Napoleonic headstone should be preserved in the upright position when the works commenced.

Cllr. Pate proposed that a grant of £1,000 should be confirmed as suggested by the Grants Committee but should be withheld until the work commenced. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kirkland and unanimously agreed by Council.

The other recommendations of the Grants Committee were endorsed by Council.

Cllr. Hassall asked that the notes circulated to committee members from the LJC should be made available to all Councillors.

- **Playscheme Committee:**

The Playscheme Committee report was received and noted.

5. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate reported that the controversial highway alterations at Cosford had been reversed and two lanes were now available for traffic moving from Cosford towards Wolverhampton.

Albrighton and district had been given no funding for youth provision in the recent re-distribution and the LJC had been given responsibility for the management of youth provision in the area. There was also a view that the highways budget should be top sliced and the funding given to the LJC.

A map of the street lighting arrangements for Albrighton which showed which lights were kept on all night and which were switched off at midnight had been given to the Clerk for future reference.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

Cllr. S Pledger reported that there had been an exploratory meeting with the Civic Society to examine future cooperative projects which had proved useful. A further meeting had been

agreed which would take place in January 2015 when representatives from Tong and Boningale Parish Councils would be invited.

7. TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION REGARDING THE FORMER PUBLIC TOILETS IN THE CROWN CAR PARK AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THEIR FUTURE USE:

Because neither the Parish Council nor Shropshire Council owned the public toilets in the Crown car park this item was passed over.

8. UPDATE ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE SWITCHING ON OF THE LIGHTS FOR THE ALBRIGHTON TRADER'S CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA:

Members agreed that there would be no formal switch on of the Christmas lights in 2014 and the full Christmas lights display would be active at the Christmas Extravaganza on 27th November.

The Chair informed members that there was only one company (Albright Electrical) which had quoted for the business of erecting and dismantling the Christmas lights and because of the shortage of time there had been no opportunity to seek further quotations from other companies as outlined in the Council's Financial Regulations. Members agreed that the process needed to start earlier in 2015. Cllr. Beechey proposed that Albright Electrical should be awarded the contract which was seconded by Cllr. Kirkland and agreed by Council.

The Clerk outlined expenditure on Christmas lights in 2013 and the extent of the lights in the centre of the village this Christmas. Cllr, Hassall asked about the maintenance of the lights over the holiday period and there was some concern that the lights would go off when the street lights were switched off at midnight. Because more LED bulbs were needed to replace those that had failed last year Cllr. Medlyn proposed that a further supply should be bought which was seconded by Cllr. K Pledger and agreed by Council with Cllr. Hassall abstaining.

9. TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE USE OF THE CCLA PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT FOR COUNCIL RESERVES IN LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS FROM THE INTERNAL AUDITOR 2014:

The auditor's comments regarding the current CCLA Public Sector Deposit Account were read out to members and the interest received over the first six months of the present financial year was itemised.

Cllr. Pate proposed that the account should be closed once members had had the opportunity to investigate alternatives and decide on a new banking arrangement. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by Council. The Clerk was asked to investigate alternative accounts and for this item to be placed on the agenda of the next business meeting on 18th December, 2014.

10. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON PLANS FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2014 REGARDING POSSIBLE REVISION TO THE ALBRIGHTON AND DISTRICT PLACE PLAN:

Cllr. Beechey explained that a new pro-forma had been designed which had gone to the LJC and to the Albrighton Traders. A copy of the form had been placed in the Parish Magazine ahead of the public consultation which was due to take place on 3rd December at 7.00 pm in the Red House. Posters had been placed around the village advertising the event.

Members expressed their thanks to Cllr. Beechey for his work with regard to this task.

11. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF PLANTING BOXES TO BE PLACED AT THE FOUR ENTRANCES TO THE VILLAGE AT THE ALBRIGHTON SIGNS:

Cllr. S Pledger outlined a possible scheme for the use of planting boxes at each of the four village entrance signs. She had contacted the business that had produced the planters in Shifnal at their town signs and they had provided details and outline costs. Cllr. Medlyn supported the idea and said that this year's hanging baskets had not been a success and it would be better to use the money for a different project such as the one outlined. Cllr. Hassall was concerned that the entrance signs could be moved to take account of new building which could make the proposal difficult and expensive.

Cllr. Pate said that the Council would need detailed costs and agreement as to how the boxes would be maintained and it would be better if this proposal was put forward in the draft budget due to be presented to the Council by the Finance Committee. He proposed that the Finance Committee should present this suggestion as part of their draft budget for approval by full Council which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and unanimously agreed by Council.

12. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE DAMAGED TREE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN IN THE HIGH STREET:

Members considered three quotations for the removal of the storm damaged plane tree on the village green and Cllr. Pate proposed that the contract should be awarded to Heartwood. Cllr. Beechey seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed by Council.

13. TO CONSIDER A CHANGE OF POLICY WITH REGARD TO DELEGATED SPENDING TO COMMITTEES FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL'S ADOPTION OF THE REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

Cllr. Pate proposed that the Chair or Vice Chair of Council plus the Clerk should be authorised to spend up to £2,500 in the case of an emergency such as happened recently with the storm damaged tree. Cllr. Illes seconded the motion which was unanimously agreed by council.

14. TO AGREE ON A CHARGING POLICY FOR THE ALBRIGHTON ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION AND ANY FUTURE ACTIONS:

Cllr. Harrison reported that he had visited the allotments recently and he had been impressed by the allotment holders' work in maintaining the site. Cllr. Hassall said that a recent survey of allotment arrangements in the surrounding district had shown a wide variety of approaches and she suggested that a one off payment might be the best way for the Council to charge for the use of their land. The Clerk itemised recent income and expenditure for the allotments and Cllr. Pate said that the ideal arrangement would be for the Council to break even with regard to costs without making a profit from the Allotments Association.

Cllr. Illes suggested that the Allotments Association should make a one off annual payment of £250 subject to annual review and Cllr. S Pledger proposed that the Association should be charged £300 annually subject to an annual review which was seconded by Cllr. K Pledger. Council rejected this proposal by 6 – 3 and Cllr. Illes proposed that the annual charge should be £250 subject to an annual review which was seconded by Cllr. Hassall and carried by 7 – 0 with two abstentions.

Cllr. K Pledger proposed that the Council should encourage the Allotments Association to make the same allotment charge for men and women. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Illes and carried 4 – 3 with two abstentions. The Clerk was asked to contact the Allotments Association to inform them of the new charges.

15. TO AGREE PROCEDURES FOR COUNCILLORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ALBRIGHTON SALOP GROUP FOR BUSINESS AND GENERAL INFORMATION FACEBOOK PAGE AND TO CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF AN OFFICIAL ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE.

The Chair suggested that this item should be deferred to the meeting on 18th December 2014 because Cllr. Jarvis was not present. Members agreed to place this matter on the next business meeting agenda.

Cllr. Medlyn voiced her concern about members contributing to the Albrighton Salop Group Business & General Information Facebook page when it had been agreed that Councillors would not post items. Cllr. Kirkland spoke of the difficulty for Councillors who might wish to comment as an individual, not as a Councillor, and Cllrs. Pate and Beechey both agreed that there was no way of preventing members making a comment as a private citizen on any Facebook page.

Cllr. Harrison spoke of his misgivings about the Council having its own Facebook account but was happy for the issues to be explored at the next business meeting.

16. ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING ON 18TH DECEMBER 2014.

Members asked for the following items to be included on the agenda for the business meeting to be held on 18th December 2014:

- Report by the Transport Committee;
- A possible Council Facebook page;
- A review of alternative bank accounts for the placement of reserve funds;
- Draft budget for the 2015/16 financial year.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

For information:

- **Catherine Chatterley – letter of thanks for the flowers sent by Albrighton and Donington Councils:**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **BT National Consultation – proposal to remove the public telephone kiosk at Albert Road, Albrighton WV7 3QN:**

Given that only seven calls were made from the kiosk in the last year members felt that there was no case to be made for keeping the facility in Albert Road. Councillors affirmed the need to keep the telephone kiosk in the High Street open.

- **SDH Accounting- expression of interest as internal auditor 2015:**

Councillors were unanimous in their wish to use SDH Accounting for the Council's 2015 internal audit.

- **Live at Home – request for a donation for the purchase of a TV as a raffle prize:**

Members agreed to refer the appeal to the Grants Committee.

18. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Albrighton Parish Council Personnel Committee – Wednesday 26th November at 4.00 pm in the Parish Office.**
- **Albrighton Traders Christmas Extravaganza- Thursday 27th November 2014**
- **Albrighton Parish Council Transport Committee – Wednesday 3rd December at 2.00 pm in the Parish Office.**
- **Shropshire Council LJC meeting incorporating a public discussion on the Albrighton and District Place Plan – Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Red House.**

- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting – Thursday 4th December 2014 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council Christmas Dinner – Thursday 11th December at 7.00 for 7.30 pm in the Horns of Boningale.**
- **Albrighton and Donington Joint Carol Service – Sunday 14th December 2014 at 6.30 pm in St Mary’s Church.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council Business Meeting – Thursday 18th December 2014 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

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

