

**ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Thursday 19th November 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 19th November 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House

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

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

PUBLIC SESSION

One member of the public was present but did not wish to ask a question or make a comment.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllrs. L Pledger (work commitments), S Pate (ill health).

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 recorded a personal interest in the business of the Finance Committee.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of the Parish Council business meeting held on 15th October 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. Illes and agreed by Council 9 - 0 with three abstentions.

- **Minutes of the Parish Council planning meeting held on 5th November 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House:**

With regard to agenda item 5 Cllr. Illes asked for the addition of a sentence saying that the Council would be seeking a community grant and asked for the addition of the phrase

“during which it was clarified that the new lights were required for the three trees outside the Red House, not the Christmas tree,” to the fourth sentence.

The two suggested alterations were agreed by Council and with these amendments Cllr. Woodman proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Harrison and agreed by Council 10 – 0 with two abstentions.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

With regard to the meeting on 15th October Cllr. Hassall stressed the need to receive documentation in accordance with regulations and standing orders in order for Councillors to be able to give due consideration to the contents. The Clerk explained that there had been a problem with the office computer which had necessitated it being sent for repair which had caused the delay.

With regard to the meeting on 5th November the Clerk was asked to write to Donington Parish Council thanking them for their generous donation of £1,200 towards the Christmas lights and Cllr. Hassall referred to the use of the word ‘local’ by the solar farm applicants at County Lane, Albrighton. She stated that their use of this word referred to their business base in Somerset and did not refer to the Albrighton area.

5. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate reported on the latest initiative by Shropshire Council to seek the views of people in a county wide consultation called the Big Conversation. The county had already saved £147m and needed to further reduce its budget by £40m with further grants threatened with removal by the government. The reorganisation of the county was now completed but the money to sustain current services would not be available in the future.

Cllr. Beechey stressed that Shropshire had particular problems being a rural county with a limited industrial or business base and Cllr. Woodman said he was sceptical about the value of the Big Conversation which could be little more than a euphemism. What was needed was a rigorous discussion, a view which was supported by Cllr. Griffin who suggested that an appropriate officer from Shropshire Council should be invited to come and discuss the issues with the Council at the earliest opportunity. Cllr. Harrison proposed that the Clerk contact Shropshire Council and arrange for an officer to attend a future Council meeting as soon as possible which was seconded by Cllr. Robinson and unanimously agreed by Council.

6. RAF COSFORD REPORT:

Cllr. Kirkland reported in place of Sqn Ldr Wilson and stated that the date of the Air Show in 2016 was the 19th June. The 2015 air show had won the event of the year in a competition organised by the Shropshire Star and tickets for the 2016 event were now available on-line.

The Cosford engineers had entered a competition in Birmingham and were hoping to do well.

Members offered their congratulations to RAF Cosford for winning the Shropshire Star event of the year competition and the Clerk was asked to write and congratulate everyone who contributed to the event.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

Cllr. Beechey reported that Donington with Boscobel Parish Council had discussed the proposal that Albrighton should take over the management of the Albrighton library and move its office into the building and gave their approval to the proposal. Donington Councillors would be considering making a financial contribution to ensure that the development was appropriately funded.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Personnel Committee:**

The minutes of the latest Personnel Committee had been circulated to all members.

- **Finance Committee:**

Cllr. Medlyn stated that the minutes of the latest Finance Committee meeting were not accurate with regard to the issue of a loan made by the Parish Council to the Red House and the minutes needed to be corrected. The loan was not made with regard to the installation of the lift and Cllr. Pate asked for a report on committee business and not the minutes of a meeting in the future when committee reports were considered. Cllr. Medlyn and Cllr. Pate explained that the Red House had been acquired from Bridgnorth District Council for £5,000 but it needed £55,000 of repairs to the building. In 2005 Albrighton Parish Council made a loan of £9,878.77 to help with repairs and the development of the facility and the local community had raised a further £80,000. In addition, the Parish Council had given an unconditional sum of £30,000 for the installation of the lift. When the Council left the Old School in Station Road which it had rented from the Village Halls Trust there had been no insistence on dilapidation payments for repairs to the roof which would have cost up to £20,000 but because the recent extensions to the Red House had cost more than originally estimated a legal document was drawn up by solicitor Geoffrey Milne in 2013 in which the Red House would repay the outstanding loan made by the Council over a period of time by providing facilities for Council meetings free of charge for 23 Council meetings a year.

Cllr. Woodman said that the issues were complex and further discussion would be needed with appropriate documentation to hand. Cllr. Pledger agreed and proposed that this item should be deferred to the next Council meeting for further discussion which was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and unanimously agreed by Council.

9. FINANCE:

- **To consider the bank reconciliation for the second quarter 2015/16 and report from the Responsible Financial Officer:**

Each of the sections comprising agenda item 9 were deferred to the next Council meeting.

- **To consider a report and recommendations from the working group regarding the 2016/17 budget and precept:**

Deferred.

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

Deferred.

- **To consider any unspent funding relating to the Chairman's Allowance and any restrictions on its use.**

Deferred.

10. TO CONSIDER THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL:

Cllr. Beechey proposed that this agenda item should be deferred to the end of the meeting and discussed in closed session. Cllr. Robinson seconded the motion which was unanimously agreed by Council.

11. UPDATE ON THE MONITORING OF LOCAL HIGHWAYS AND THE NEW REPORTING SYSTEM TO CLLR. ILLES:

Cllr. Illes asked for approval from Council for him to provide a paper on necessary highway and related repairs in Albrighton and send it to Shropshire Council, together with a request that appropriate officers should visit the village for a "walk-round" in order for them to assess the needs for themselves. Members agreed to this request with some pointing out that there were some blocked drains caused by falling leaves and potholes to the road surface near the village greens in the centre of the village.

12. FLYER UPDATE AND REPORT ON PROGRESS NOW THE DRIVERS ARE COUNCIL EMPLOYEES:

Cllr. Medlyn left the meeting for this agenda item.

Councillors were informed that the two drivers were now part of the Council payroll operated by Shropshire Council. Mr K West had joined the Council staff at the beginning of October and Mr W Harris had followed at the beginning of November. Their line manager was the Clerk of the Council who would be responsible for managing and overseeing their work.

13. UPDATE ON THE FINANCING OF THE SWIMMING POOL AT ALBRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE HEADTEACHER:

The Clerk was asked to update members with discussions on the future management of the swimming pool at Albrighton Primary School. There was general agreement that the swimming club committee needed strengthening with more volunteers participating and future funding and possible grant funding was also discussed, together with a possible management structure that brought together the school, the Parish Council and the swimming club. Cllr. Woodman stressed the need for a long term plan and Cllr. Pledger suggested that Council put £8,000 into the 2016/17 budget to provide appropriate finance for the 2016 swimming season. Cllr. Pate suggested that £10,000 would probably be more appropriate.

Members agreed that this item should be placed on the agenda of the business meeting scheduled for 17th December.

14. TO CONSIDER LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF THE ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY:

Council was informed that Cllr. Woodman was reviewing the Heads of Terms with regard to the lease of the library building and the Clerk agreed to send a copy of Schedule 1 of the Service Level Agreement to all Councillors and plans of the three designs regarding the Parish Council office would be made available to Councillors at the next Council meeting. Cllr. Illes proposed that the Clerk should contact other Councils embarked on similar projects and discuss common problems and opportunities so that best practice could be disseminated to all other Councils involved. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and agreed 10 – 1 with one abstention.

15. TO CONSIDER THE USE OF THE ALBRIGHTON SALOP GROUP FOR BUSINESS AND GENERAL INFORMATION FACEBOOK PAGE:

Cllr. Kirkland proposed that Albrighton Parish Council should contribute a page to the Albrighton Salop Group for Business & General Information Facebook site. The page would be for information only. Cllr. Griffin seconded the proposal and Council approved the motion 10 – 0 with three abstentions.

16. UPDATE ON THE CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CIVIC SERVICE SCHEDULED FOR 10TH AND 13TH DECEMBER RESPECTIVELY:

Cllr. Pledger asked for any outstanding deposits and menu choices to be given to her by the following weekend.

Cllr. Pledger also informed members that the Civic Service was scheduled for 13th December at 6.30 pm at St. Mary's Church and Albrighton Primary School would be taking part in the service. There would be refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 17TH DECEMBER 2015.

There were no additional agenda items for the meeting on 17th December in addition to those already identified.

18. CORRESPONDENCE:

For action:

- **RAF Cosford - Requests for assistance /representation:**

Members agreed that there were no events in 2016 which were likely to require a presence from RAF Cosford and the Clerk was asked to write to the appropriate office informing him of this decision.

19. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **Albrighton Traders Christmas Extravaganza Thursday 26th November 2015 at 6.00 pm.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Library working group meeting 9th December 2015 at 12.00 pm in the Red House.**
- **Finance Committee meeting 9th December at 2.30 pm in the Red House.**
- **Albrighton Council Christmas dinner Thursday 10th December at 7.00 for 7.30 pm in the Horns of Boningale.**
- **Albrighton and Donington Parish Councils' Civic Service Sunday 13th December 2015 at 6.30 pm in St. Mary's Church, Albrighton.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting Thursday 17th December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.54 pm.

Signed.....Date
Chairman

