

**ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

17TH November 2016 at 7.15 pm in the council meeting room

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2016 at 7.15 pm in the council meeting room.

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

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

PRESENTATION BY MR PAUL SUTTON OF THE SHROPSHIRE HOUSING GROUP ON LATEST HOUSING ISSUES IN SHROPSHIRE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO HOUSING IN ALBRIGHTON.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Sutton to the meeting and thanked him for his attendance. Mr Sutton distributed notes of his presentation to councillors and stated that he represented the Shropshire Housing Group who had taken over the south and the north housing groups and all of its housing stock consisting of 4,500 homes. The group bought and sold properties and had a turnover of £30m with a profit of £4.4m. The group also managed properties for rent, conducted repair and maintenance, ran a refuge and accommodation for young people.

Albrighton was designated to see an increase of 250 homes by 2026 and currently 98 people were registered for affordable homes with 40 additional affordable houses proposed over the next four years. Mr Sutton introduced the possibility of a Community Led Housing scheme in which an agreed site was identified and then an established partner such as Shropshire Housing would work through nine steps leading to new homes on the site. Cllr. Beechey outlined the background and the proposals for council land at the end of Worthington Drive and Mr Sutton agreed to investigate this and any other sites that might be identified which could then be put to a public meeting and then taken forward if local people gave a scheme their support. Members agreed that if any proposal was formulated it should be taken forward by the new council after elections in May 2017 and no commitment to Shropshire Housing or any other group should be given by members of the current council.

Mr Sutton was thanked for his contribution to an interesting and potentially rewarding discussion and he promised to investigate matters that had arisen and keep in touch with the council.

PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllrs. S Kirkland (illness), C Roseby (work commitments).

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. Beechey declared an interest in agenda item 13 and Cllr. Medlyn declared an Interest in agenda item 11.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting 20th October 2016:**

Cllr. Hassall asked that an addition be made to agenda item 15 concerning the solar farm north of Albrighton. She said that the minutes should record that no notices concerning cabling to connect the solar farm to the national grid had been issued and that local landowners had not been contacted. The minutes should also record that battery storage also required cabling.

Cllr. Illes asked that item 17 should record that a suggested footpath had already been proposed at the edge of the housing development behind Shaw Lane from Beamish Lane.

Members agreed to both of these amendments.

With these two additions Cllr. Woodman proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and agreed by council 6 – 0.

- **Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting 3rd November 2016:**

Cllr. Woodman asked that one additional sentence should be added to the item concerning planning application 16/04356/FUL concerning his contact with Shropshire Council. After discussion of the sentence "Cllr. Woodman disagreed stating that it was perfectly reasonable for a Councillor to consult the planners as experts so as to formulate an advised report to enable to the council to reach its decision" members agreed to add it to the minutes.

With this one addition Cllr. Beechey proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Griffin and agreed by council 5 – 1.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

5. TO REVIEW ACTION POINTS ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 20TH OCTOBER AND 3RD NOVEMBER 2016.

Members agreed that the action points resulting from the meetings held on 20th October and 3rd November had all been satisfactorily completed.

6. RAF COSFORD REPORT.

Sqn Ldr Wilson tendered his apologies and there was no report for council to consider.

7. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT.

Cllr. Pate reported that Shropshire Council had now developed a corporate plan and was developing an industrial strategy. The budget for the next four years had been agreed and signed off with the government and generally the financial situation had improved when compared to the previous year. The major problem still concerned the provision of elderly services and despite retaining the business rate in the near future the county still needed to attract more industry in order to maximise revenue. Contacts were developing with a range of organisations including the West Midlands authority and the new university but uncertainty over Brexit made forecasting and planning for the future difficult.

8. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

Cllr Beechey had attended the Albrighton Traders' meeting who were working hard organising the Extravaganza on 1st December. The traders had public liability insurance and a range of entertainers had been engaged. The money from the sale of programmes would be given to the local food bank.

Cllr. Illes had attended a Melville Club meeting and informed councillors that the facilities at the club were in need of improvement and capital expenditure was needed to enhance the toilets and kitchen equipment.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Transport Committee;**

Cllr. Illes said that a recent meeting had discussed a possible Flyer replacement vehicle which could be bought or leased. A full report would be sent to a meeting of the council for consideration in the near future.

- **Personnel Committee;**

Cllr. Pledger informed members that Shropshire HR had produced the required paperwork as requested by the parish council but it needed to be customised which was being done. The existing contract had provision for employees to receive five extra days leave entitlement after completing five year's continuous service taking the allowance from 25 days to 30 for a full-time employee. The clerk to the council had been appointed in 2008 and would qualify on a pro-rata basis if the council agreed to this provision

Cllr. Pledger outlined the process for the appointment of the second Flyer driver which had resulted in an offer to be confirmed by full council to Mr Darren Clark.

Cllr. Pledger proposed that Mr Clark be appointed to the post of Flyer driver to work on Mondays and to cover any absence by Mr West which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed by council 6 – 0 with 3 abstentions.

Formal procedures would be initiated once the customised contract and other paperwork had been agreed by council.

10. FINANCE

- **Update on council accounts and current balances;**

The clerk informed councillors that all of the agreed provisions for the council's five accounts had now been completed and the balances for each of the accounts were as follows:

- TSB current account - £17,958.31;
- Nationwide Building Society - £75,000;
- Cambridge Building Society - £75,000;
- Beverley Building Society - £16,000;
- Petty cash - £84.10

All of the accounts were now covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and all council reserves were now protected.

- **Arrangements for the presentation of a draft budget and the fixing of the precept demand for 2017/18;**

The clerk reminded members that the council had to submit its precept demand in January 2017 and a draft budget would need to be agreed in December 2016. Cllr. Pate suggested that a draft budget should be formulated by the clerk and submitted to the Finance Committee for amendment and approval. The committee's revised draft could then be submitted to the full council for final revision and approval at the council's business meeting on 15th December, 2016. Members agreed to these suggestions and asked the clerk to agree a date for the Finance Committee meeting that would support this timetable.

- **To consider and approve cheques for November 2016;**

Cllr. Hassall asked about the provision of fuel for the Flyer which was not included in the list of cheques for approval. The clerk informed members that the Flyer used an agreed Fuel Genie card which was used to buy fuel from Sainsbury's at Perton as required which was deducted from the council's current account each month by direct debit.

Cllr. Pledger proposed that the cheques for November 2016 should be approved for payment which was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and agreed by council 8 – 0 with 1 abstention.

Cheque No.	Date	Payee	Amount	VAT
4225	02.11.16	Albrighton and District Civic Society – grants for plants	55.00	
4226	09.11.16	G Birchall Ltd, repairs to boiler	168.47	28.08
4227	10.11.16	Civic Society – grant for plants	150.00	
4228	14.11.16	B.G. Grounds Maint. – 2 mows of Patshull Green	168.00	28.00
4229	14.11.16	British Legion Poppy Appeal	20.00	
4230	14.11.16	Ace Computer Support – IT support	90.00	15.00
4231	14.11.16	Albrighton PC – move of funds to Beverley BS	15,000.00	
4232	17.11.16	Village Warden – travel expenses	13.50	
4233	21.11.16	Information Commissioner – data protection renewal	35.00	
4234	24.11.16	Red House- rent for CCTV room hire	600.00	
4235	24.11.16	Ace Computers – software support	45.00	7.50
4236	24.11.16	Red House – room hire defibrillator training	30.00	

4237	30.11.16	Crime Prevention – grant for CCTV improvements	342.00	
4238	30.11.16	Shropshire Council – swimming pool expenses	2573.99	
4239	30.11.16	Printerland – black toner cartridge	84.60	14.10
4240	30.11.16	Clerk – reimbursement Christmas tree/decorations	114.71	19.16

11. TO CONSIDER FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE RED HOUSE AND HOW A GOOD WORKING PARTNERSHIP CAN BE CONSOLIDATED.

Cllr. Pate declared an interest in this agenda item. Cllr. Woodman stated that the minutes of the Civic Society recorded the importance of the Red House to the village as the major community centre and he fully supported this record. It was vital that all local institutions gave their full support to this facility and do all they could to ensure that it prospered for the benefit of residents. It was noted that the chair of the Red House committee had been invited to the council Christmas dinner but he was unable to attend.

12. ITEM ON FOOTPATHS DEFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER.

Cllr. Griffin had been concerned about the number of potholes that represented a hazard to pedestrians using local footpaths but they had now been filled in and the issue had been resolved. He had been in discussion with Cllr. Illes and the details had been clarified and there were no outstanding issues at present.

13. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ALBRIGHTON RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY.

Cllr. Beechey informed members that a vacancy on the Albrighton Relied in Need Charity committee needed filling.

Cllr Pate proposed that Cllr. Medlyn should be appointed to the position which was seconded by Cllr. Griffin and approved by council 6 – 0 with 4 abstentions.

14. TO CONSIDER ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE SWIMMING POOL AT ALBRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL.

A number of proposals and possible developments were available for discussion and approval and a date for the next meeting was under consideration and would be agreed shortly.

15. TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR FOLLOWING THE LETTER FROM THE SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL RETURNING OFFICER.

Members agreed to invite candidates for the position of a co-opted councillor at their business meeting on 15th December 2016. The clerk was asked to display the necessary notices with appropriate deadlines and ensure that as many candidates as possible would be available to discuss the vacancy.

16. TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE FORMER TOILETS IN THE CROWN CAR PARK FOR COUNCIL STORAGE.

The clerk outlined the content of a telephone call he had received from the estates manager at Marstons regarding the possible use by the council of the former public toilets for storage of equipment, given that the garages at Ashgrove were likely to be demolished. A doorway would need to be widened to provide access for the large mower but the location was ideal and no further money would need to be spent on the facility to make it useable. The representative reacted favourably to the suggestion once he was certain that the building could not be used as a toilet in the future although the rental was likely to be higher than that currently being paid for the garage. He promised to consider the proposal in detail and make a formal offer to the council in the near future providing no unforeseen obstacles were identified.

Cllr. Illes suggested that a small working group of the Chairman, Vice Chair and himself should consider any proposal from Marstons once it had been received before bringing any suggestion to full council and this was agreed by members.

17. UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED RAMP AT ALBRIGHTON STATION FOLLOWING A RECENT MEETING ON 15TH NOVEMBER.

Cllr. Harrison reported that he was now the chairman of the ramp committee and that there had been a quick and clear discussion on the way forward with regard to the ramp and that the minutes would be available shortly. The main players needed to read the heads of agreement and they would then assemble a portfolio of evidence that could then be presented to the council's insurance company. The clerk agreed to email the report of his conversation with Came & Co. to all councillors for their information.

18. REQUEST BY THE LIBRARY STAFF FOR A NEW PLANTER ON THE LIBRARY FORECOURT.

The clerk informed councillors that the library and council staff would like to position a planter outside the library building and they would undertake to water the plant and do the necessary maintenance. There was discussion on the most suitable planter and it was agreed that one similar to, or the same as, those in the High Street would be the most suitable.

Cllr. Woodman proposed that a planter should be provided for the area outside the library which was seconded by Cllr. Illes and agreed by council 5 – 0 with 3 abstentions.

19. ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING ON 15TH DECEMBER 2016.

The following items were agreed for inclusion on the agenda of the business meeting to be held on 15th December:

- The co-option of a new councillor;
- Report on the swimming pool at Albrighton Primary School;
- The use of a record of visits book or visitors book for the council office;
- Draft budget and precept for 2017/18.

20. CORRESPONDENCE:

For information:

- **Anesco – letter responding to a request for a meeting and solar panels for the library etc.**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **Albrighton Crime Prevention Panel – request for funding for CCTV cameras.**

The letter from Mr David Williams requesting funding to enhance the CCTV system was considered by councillors and Cllr. Pledger noted that memory sticks supplied to the police following an incident were usually not returned and that this proved a drain on finances.

Cllr. Illes proposed that the grant request for CCTV equipment should be made in full which was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and unanimously agreed by council

21. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **Library operational meeting – Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 10.00 am in the council meeting room.**
- **Library committee – Thursday 24th November 2016 at 10.00 am in the council meeting room.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting – Wednesday 30th November 2016 at 7.15 pm in the council meeting room.**
- **Library Network Forum – Thursday 8th December 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Severn Centre, Highley.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council Christmas dinner – Thursday 8th December 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Shrewsbury Arms.**
- **Transport committee – Thursday 15th December 2016 at 6.30 pm in the council meeting room.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting – Thursday 15th December 2016 at 7.15 pm in the council meeting room.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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

