



ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Wednesday 6th November at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

Present

Cllrs. D Beechey, B Hickson, T Maguire, M Medlyn, R Smith, A Straney, P Woodman, P Harrison, J Pledger*, R Rudman, P Illes, M Pitchford, S Pledger

In attendance:

S Reynolds Clerk to Albrighton Parish Council.

19076. Apologies

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Members are asked to give their apologies direct to the Clerk.

Cllr M Pate (holiday)

19077. 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. Members must fill out the declarations of Interests Forms for submission. Where a member indicates that they have a prejudicial interest but wish to make representation regarding the item before leaving the meeting, they must do so under item 4(D) of Public Participation.

None disclosed.

*Cllr J Pledger arrived.

19078. Public Participation

Members of the public are invited to ask questions, make representations or submit comments on any item on the agenda. This is **LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON** – at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

There were eight members of the public present, no questions were asked.

19079. Report by the Shropshire Council member, Cllr. M Pate, with regard to items of business likely to affect the community.

None received Cllr Pate on holiday

19080. Parish Councillors' reports with regard to any items of council business they have recently conducted likely to affect the community.

Cllr Illes had attended a meeting regarding the Nature Reserve and the issue of clearing the silt from Donington Pool had been discussed, this had been cleared recently by volunteers and it was noted that during the last episode of heavy rain the flooding was less of an issue due to this work. Cllr Illes reported that DBPC were seeking to employ a member of staff in order that this type of work could be ongoing. Cllr Illes informed members that the rambler's group had applied for a grant via the CCIL fund under the walking for health criteria. It was hoped this would encourage ramblers to visit Albrighton by train and to enjoy the walks in our area.

Cllr Smith informed members that he and the Chairman had met with John Harris of West Midland Trains regarding the pedestrian footway ramp. John Harris had asked if Albrighton Parish Council would help to distribute over 1,000 questionnaires, the importance of completing the survey was explained, especially in regarding to the parking issues around the station. Cllr Smith asked for volunteers from APC to help with the delivery of the survey to residents, Cllrs Pitchford, Maguire, Illes, Beechey, Straney, Medlyn and Woodman all offered to help. Cllr Smith also informed members that the Clerk had submitted the CCIL grant application and he had been informed by John Harris that this had now progressed to the second round of scrutiny and he was hopeful we would be successful with this application.

19081. Minutes of previous meetings:

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2019

Cllr Illes asked for additional wording to be included on item 19064, all members were in agreement with this.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Albrighton Parish Council minutes of the 2nd October 2019 were true and accurate records.

19082. Matters arising

To consider any issues arising from the minutes that are not included on the agenda. Meeting actions points to be noted where appropriate.

Cllr Harrison commented that it was nice to see the improvement in the usage of mobile devices at tonight meeting and that it would be great to see this at 100%

Cllr S Pledger queried what honour boards were, the Clerk informed her that currently the names of previous Chairman only starts at 1945, Albrighton Parish Council has been in existence for many years prior to this, and it was hoped that these boards would be used to enable the names of all previous Chairmen to be displayed, thus providing a full history of Chairman of the Parish Council.

19083. Planning:

Planning applications:

Reference: 19/04661/FUL (validated: 21/10/2019)

Address: 4 Mayfield Road, Albrighton, WV7 3JY

Proposal: Erection of single storey extensions

Applicant: Mr. And Mrs. Fletcher

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that council recommend this application for approval.

Action - Clerk

Reference: 19/04847/TPO (validated: 01/11/2019)

Address: 24 Delaware Avenue, Albrighton, WV7 3BW

Proposal: Pruning back canopy by approximately 60% of 1no Beech protected by the Shropshire Council (Land at and to the West of Church Lane, Albrighton) TPO 2010 (Ref: SC/00020/10)

Applicant: Mr. Craig Smith (24, Delaware Avenue, Albrighton, WV7 3BW)

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that council recommend this application for approval.

Action - Clerk

The Clerk informed members that she had obtained details of the TPO orders within the village from Shropshire Council, Cllrs Pitchford and Illes both said they had information regarding these and the Clerk asked them both to provide her with copies in order that a comprehensive TPO file could be created.

Planning decisions:

Reference: 19/04185/FUL (validated: 19/09/2019)

Address: 34 Grange Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3LD

Proposal: Erection of two storey extensions to side and rear following demolition of existing utility; single storey extension and canopy to front

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 19/03156/FUL (validated: 17/07/2019)

Address: Land to The South East of The Hawthorns, Newport Road, Albrighton, Shropshire

Proposal: Use of land for the stationing of caravan for residential purposes for 1No. gypsy pitch

Decision: Grant Permission

Cllr Straney queried whether council had been informed of this application, the Clerk informed members that this application had been circulated to all councils in July. Cllr Straney was concerned that we hadn't been consulted fully, the Clerk said she would investigate this and forward a copy of the planning application notice to members which would confirm the date they were informed.

Action - Clerk

Reference: 18/05554/FUL (validated: 26/09/2019)

Address: Land on The North Side Of, Harriots Hayes Lane, Albrighton, Shropshire

Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of building for storage of feed and WC and two covered equine shelters, chicken coop, water tower and electricity box and change of use of land to equestrian (Retrospective). Installation of a septic tank.

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 19/03539/FUL (validated: 08/08/2019)

Address: Pizza Palace, 87 High Street, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3JT

Proposal: Conversion of former restaurant building to one dwelling including some demolition (previously approved)

Decision: Withdrawn

Appeal Ref: APP/L3245/W/18/3217667

Address: Development Land East of Shaw Lane, Albrighton WV7 3DS

Proposal: The development proposed is construction of 74 extra care apartments and associated facilities, 6 bungalows and 58 houses.

Decision: The appeal is dismissed

The Chairman informed members that this was good news for residents and thanked all the partners that had been involved including ADAG, AFLAG, Civic Society and other residents. He explained that the collective working and the diligence of the Inspector had all played their part in this appeal being dismissed. He explained that Jessups only choice now was a Judicial Review, this was not only costly but they would also need to show that something was wrong in law with the process.

Cllr Smith informed members that it was also too late for Jessups to lodge an appeal on the second application for the site, that was now out of time.

Planning enforcement:

19084. Finance & Personnel:

- a) To receive a report by the Chairman of Finance & Personnel Committee to also include receipts and payments up to 30th September 2019, (enclosed)**

Cllr Maguire informed members that during the recent Finance & Personnel meeting the figures to 30th September 2019 were agreed and are reproduced with the papers in front of you. Cllr Maguire also confirmed that a number of spot checks and reconciliations were carried out to ensure the accurate and comprehensive recording of all financial transactions. Cllr Maguire then asked members if there were any questions on the month end figures, none were asked.

Cllr Maguire then explained that the committee had also spent some time in preparation of the councils 2020/2021 budget and in readiness for the worst-case scenario (ie. The withdrawal of subsidy support for the library and the Albrighton Flyer from Shropshire Council) something in the region of 30% increase in Precept would be required. He explained that in the near future a cap of circa 3% on all precept applications is likely to be introduced by the government, the committee realise there is quite a bit more work to be done but Cllr Maguire anticipated that the Finance & Personnel Committee would be proposing a slimmed down budget at the Councils next meeting in December.

Cllr Illes raised concerns regarding the reduction of both the library and Flyer subsidy, he reminded members that the lease for the Flyer vehicle was up for renewal next year. Cllr Beechey commented that he hadn't heard about the potential cap on precept, but Cllr Harrison after researching a local government financial website confirmed that this was announced on the 1st October 2019.

Cllr Maguire then reported on a Personnel matter, he said he was sorry to have to report that the Finance and Personnel Committee has felt it necessary to take disciplinary action against a member of this council in order to protect the Chairman, Cllr Peter Woodman from further harassment. He informed members that as they were aware from previous meetings of the full council we have endeavoured, on a number of occasions, to draw a line under the general antagonism following the EGM in August 2018. Many members of this council have voiced their disappointment that arguments and discussions relating thereto continue to take up a large proportion of our precious time to the detriment of other council business. However, the harassment has persisted despite a conciliatory email from Cllr. Woodman who has now received a further unnecessarily lengthy and accusatory email from Cllr James Pledger. The Council adopted an 'Unreasonably Persistent and Vexatious Complaints Procedure' in 2014 which states that unreasonably persistent and vexatious complainers are those individuals who, because of the nature or frequency of their contacts with Councillors or Clerk, hinder their ability to work effectively. This policy states that the Clerk, in

conjunction with the Chairman, will make a decision as to the action to take but as the Chairman is the person subject to the harassment the Clerk has referred the matter to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Accordingly, that committee has decided unanimously to exercise its authority by the introduction of a sanction barring Cllr James Pledger from further contact including by means of email, letter, telephone or private meeting with Cllr. Woodman. This restriction is not intended to apply to, or hinder, the normal conduct of business at Council meetings and will remain in place for one year from 4th November 2019 when a letter to this effect, under Cllr Maguire's signature, was sent to Cllr. James Pledger.

b) To consider income & expenditure in October 2019 details below:

Date	Cheque	To Whom Payable	Reason	Amount
9/10/19	004533	Keith Gibson Cars Ltd	Petrol for Mower – September	7.00
9/10/19	004534	BG Ground Maintenance	2*Patshull mower 12&25/9/19	140.00
9/10/19	004535	Viking	Stamps for Flyer registration letters	17.39
9/10/19	004536	SALC	Training 4/10/19	70.00
9/10/19	004537	Amazon Payments UK	White Board/Flip Chart Stand	32.99
9/10/19	004538	Npower Ltd	Lighting Ash Grove 1/7/19-30/9/19	1186.90
9/10/19	004539	Amazon Payments UK	Samsung Toner	77.19
15/10/19	004540	Christmas Extravaganza	Albrighton Extravaganza contribution	20.00
23/10/19	004541	Information Commissioner	Data Protection annual fee	40.00
23/10/19	004542	Viking	Toilet rolls, fairy liquid & sponge	13.14
23/10/19	004543	Furrows	Replace damaged wing mirror & indicator on Flyer	94.74

Income Received:

Date	Payment Type	Payer	Reason	Amount
02/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 23-28 September	50.60
02/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 24-27 September	138.00
07/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer Booking 18/10/19 J Barnett	100.00
07/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 1-4 October	161.50
07/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 30/9-5 October	57.64
14/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 7-12 October	39.18
14/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	LAH September usage	114.00
14/10/19	Cheque	Albrighton Allotment Association	Half yearly water recharge	37.05
14/10/19	Cheque	Western Power Distribution	Wayleave XA5791	2.50
14/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 8-11 October	202.00
21/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Room booking 15/10/19 J Gold	6.50
21/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 15-18 October	183.00
21/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 14-19 October	46.05
28/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer Booking 6/12/19 B Newby	91.00
28/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 22-25 October	168.50
28/10/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 21-26 October	53.23

The Clerk invited questions on the income and expenditure figures, no questions were received regarding the payments

19085 To confirm meeting dates for 2020

The Clerk had circulated dates for next year's meetings. These have been requested by the webmaster in order that our meetings page can be updated in readiness for the new year. The Clerk informed members that the Annual Parish meeting would be 29th April, and it would be helpful if all these dates could be agreed so she could book the meeting rooms accordingly. Following discussion regarding the dates:

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the dates be set for Albrighton Parish Council meetings for 2020

19086. Casual Vacancy

To consider the co-option of a new Councillor.

The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council had received one letter of interest for the one casual vacancy, the candidate therefore would be co-opted onto Albrighton Parish Council, the candidate Peter Collins was present at the meeting and he was invited to join the council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Albrighton Parish Council agree to co-opt Peter Collins to the Parish Council.

- **New Member's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

New Member's Declaration of Acceptance of Office Councillor P Collins read and signed this Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- **Register of Members Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor P Collins was given the Members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form and asked to return to the Clerk asap. The Clerk explained that an up to date DPI form is a legal requirement and a copy of the completed form also has to be displayed on the website.

19087 To consider response to Shropshire Council Library Strategy

The Clerk had previously circulated details to members the details regarding Shropshire Council Library Strategy consultation. All Councillors' had been asked to complete an individual response by the 8th November 2019 and the Clerk asked members if the Parish Council would agree to a collective response which she had issued to members for their consideration. Cllr Woodman agreed with the details within the report and commented on the progressive reduction on library funding which he felt needed to be challenged. It was noted that other town and parish councils which had taken over the running of the libraries had other means to help in funding them, i.e. cafes, leisure facilities etc. unfortunately, Albrighton does not have that option. Members all agreed that it would be helpful to support the campaign to lobby for more favourable funding terms.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Albrighton Parish Council agree the Library Strategy response and the Clerk would submit this on behalf of the council to Shropshire Council
Action – Clerk

19088 To consider Christmas Lights Switch on 28th November

Cllr Woodman informed members that the lights will be switched on by himself and Wing Commander Tim Mason in front of the Red House on Thursday 28th November 2019. Cllr Medlyn agreed to stand by the switch with a mobile phone to ensure the lights were powered at the correct time. Cllr Medlyn informed members that this year some traders were also supporting the Christmas Extravaganza and had asked that a couple of children help with the lights switch on, Cllr Woodman agreed that they could help on the night along with himself and the Wing Commander to switch on Albrighton Parish Councils lights. Cllr Medlyn informed members that the Red House would have tables available for hire on the night and that monies raised would be given to charity, she also informed members that traders were raising monies from a Christmas window display and all traders were being encouraged to have a stall and/or open late on the night in the village. Cllr S Pledger queried why traders were doing this, but Cllr Harrison informed members that there wasn't a trader's association. Steph French and Sally Hall have been organising an odd man out window and charged a small fee for entrance to cover admin and prizes, running this like the Fayre competition.

Cllr Smith and Cllr Illes informed members that there was an issue with the Christmas lights on the east side of the High Street north of the ex-Pizza Takeaway shop and that it may be that this section is not able to be lit up this year as it appears that the demolition contractor at the ex-Pizza Takeaway had moved a section of these lights and Turnock had questioned their safety and so the Clerk had asked Turnock to remove them as they were not able to fix them. They also informed members that the Clerk was in discussion with Turnock about improvements to the display to include Maywood Fold but this was likely to be next year.

19089 To consider OAP Xmas party Funding 21st December

Cllr Medlyn informed members that the Red House would like to run a Parish OAP Christmas party again this year, the event would take place on 21st December 2019. Cllr Medlyn asked members if they would support this with the same level of funding as last year which the Clerk confirmed was £500. The distribution of ticket was discussed and whether the event should be advertised in the parish magazine. It was felt that it would be more appropriate for Cllr Medlyn to organise the distribution of tickets to ensure the correct allocation of tickets. Cllr Medlyn asked councillors to nominate people who they felt should be invited. Cllr Woodman asked that the Parish Council be acknowledged for funding the OAP Christmas Party and Cllr Medlyn agreed, she had ensured that this had been done last year.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Albrighton Parish Council donate £500 to AVHT for the Christmas Party on 21st December 2019 Action – Clerk

19090 Correspondence

**For action: None
To note: None**

19091. Date of next meeting:

- a) Albrighton Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 7.15 pm in The Red House.

Signed.....Date.....