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| <p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 15th October 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House</p> |
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Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council business meeting held on Thursday 15th October 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

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

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

PRESENTATION BY CHRIS EDWARDS OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL ON THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES IT IS FACING, HOW THIS AFFECTS ALBRIGHTON AND THE PROPOSAL THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL ESTABLISHES A JOINT WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT OF ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY AS PART OF A DEVELOPING COMMUNITY HUB.

Mr Chris Edwards from Shropshire Council provided a handout for all Councillors containing key messages and results from the Community Consultation held on 30th July. He went through the document stressing that Shropshire Council needed to make additional major savings, that services such as libraries would need to be devolved to local councils, a suggestion that was supported in the consultation evening and at the Civic Society AGM.

Questions were asked about the size of the cuts to the unitary authority, the need for specialist advice, the size of the group responding to the consultation and long term funding issues. Cllr. M Pate stated that the library must be retained and the changing situation meant that the takeover of the library by the Parish Council was the preferred option. Cllr. Beechey said that funding could be obtained from outside sources and advice might be obtained from national associations. Cllr. Woodman asked for more flexibility with regard to the transformation grant spending as the funding had already been paid to Shropshire Council.

Council noted that trustees of the Red House and employees of the Red House would have a conflict of interest in any decision on the proposed library transfer and should refrain from voting.

PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public were present but did not wish to comment or ask any questions.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cllrs. C Hassall (holiday), S Pledger (holiday), A Robinson (holiday).

Each apology was accepted by Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Minutes of the Parish Council business meeting held on 17th September 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House:**

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

- **Minutes of the Parish Council planning meeting held on 1st 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. M Pate and unanimously agreed by Council.

3. MATTERS ARISING.

Cllr. S Pate asked about the Council decision to give money for insurance to a local breakfast club without reference to the Grants Committee and Cllr. M Pate stated that he wished to retract his earlier comments about the MOT certification of the Albrighton Flyer and it was clear that he had been wrongly informed.

Cllr. Griffin said that he would continue to work on proposals to attract funding for local initiatives from Belectric.

4. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT:

Cllr. Pate said that many of the issues had been covered in the earlier debate regarding Mr Edwards' presentation and the only extra item concerned extra funding that was being made available to schools throughout the county.

5. RAF COSFORD REPORT:

Cllr. Kirkland reported on behalf of Sqn Ldr Wilson.

There was to be a photography exhibition at Shrewsbury Museum on 19th October and the air show corporate launch would take place shortly. There was to be a bonfire on 5th November and the Pensioners' Christmas Party would take place in December and nearly all of the places had now been filled. There was to be a Community Fayre and Carol Service on 15th December.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS.

There were no reports from Councillors.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Playscheme Committee:**

Cllr. Kirkland's report had already been distributed and she asked for Council's approval to apply for grants. Cllr. Roseby proposed that such permission be given which was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and unanimously agreed by Council. Cllr. Griffin proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr. Kirkland and the Clerk for their hard work on behalf of the playscheme.

8. FINANCE:

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

Cllr. Beechey proposed that the cheques should be authorised for payment which was seconded by Cllr. M Pate and unanimously agreed by Council

| Cheque no. | Date | Payee | Amount | VAT |
|------------|----------|---|---------|--------|
| 4042 | 05.10.15 | Donington PC grant for pool management | 500.00 | |
| 4043 | | Destroyed | | |
| 4044 | 05.10.15 | Flyer drive, bus pass refund | 205.20 | |
| 4045 | 07.10.15 | Clerk, travel expenses | 5.40 | |
| 4046 | 12.10.15 | 2 nd Flyer driver, bus pass refund | 60.00 | |
| 4047 | 12.10.15 | Cash, for petty cash playscheme float refund | 60.00 | |
| 4048 | 14.10.15 | BG Grounds Maint. 2 mows of Patshull Green | 168.00 | 28.00 |
| 4049 | 14.10.15 | Turnock, repairs to Christmas lights | 1281.60 | 213.60 |
| 4050 | 15.10.15 | Keith Gibson Cars, Flyer fuel | 239.86 | 39.98 |
| 4051 | 19.10.15 | Cleaner, four weeks cleaning to 16.10.15 | 40.00 | |
| 4052 | 20.10.15 | Blackfriars Group, insurance, breakfast club | 99.00 | |
| 4053 | 20.10.15 | 2 nd Flyer driver, bus pass refund | 60.00 | |

- **To consider a recommendation for a hospitality budget of £400 in the 2016/17 budget while retaining a £350 Chairman's allowance budget, deferred from the meeting on 17th September 2015.**

Cllr. M Pate felt that a further allowance as suggested was unnecessary which was supported by Cllr. S Pate. Cllr. Pledger asked why the suggestion had arisen and Cllr. Griffin said that he could not support a proposal for £400. Members discussed the possible use of petty cash for any refreshments etc. that might be needed on an occasional basis.

Cllr. M Pate proposed that the suggestion for a hospitality budget should be refused which was agreed by Council 7 – 2 with one abstention.

9. TO CONFIRM COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT THE ALBRIGHTON TRADERS' MEETINGS.

Cllr. M Pate declared a personal interest and Cllr. Beechey explained why he had been attending the Traders' meetings. He was confirmed as the Council representative for the Albrighton Traders

10. TO CONSIDER A PERMANENT AGENDA ITEM OF 'DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST' FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

Cllr. Beechey explained the meaning of pecuniary interests and Cllr. M Pate proposed that this item should be included on all future agendas. The motion was seconded by Cllr. S Pate and unanimously agreed by Council.

11. TO CONSIDER THE SUGGESTED ROTA FOR THE MONITORING OF HIGHWAYS AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS PRODUCED BY CLLR. ILLES.

Cllr. Illes reported that he had already received some feedback on highway issues from Councillors and asked for any further comments to be given to him by the next meeting. There was discussion on the issue of car parking on pavements but members agreed to leave this issue for the present time.

12. DISCUSSION ON THE PRESENTATION BY CHRIS EDWARDS OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL AND A DECISION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A JOINT WORKING GROUP TO LOOK AT THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY:

Cllr. M Pate declared a personal interest in this agenda item.

He stated that the library was not as secure as originally thought and the Council should participate in a working group which could include outside parties. He had changed his mind on this matter and felt that the Parish Council should move its office into the library and take on its management. Cllr. Beechey agreed and urged Councillors to decide in principle to move into the library. Any increase in Council Tax to support this move would be very small. Cllr. Woodman stated that the straw poll taken at the Civic Society AGM was totally supportive of the move and he felt that the Council should take due steps to acquire the facility while funding was still available for refurbishment and any necessary alterations. Cllr. Griffin also wished to support the proposed working group but wanted to understand what the risks were and both he and Cllr. Woodman supported the idea of obtaining independent advice. Cllr. Illes also gave his support to the idea and said that the Council needed to take all due steps to ensure the future viability of the library.

Cllr. M Pate proposed that the Council should participate in the proposed working group which was seconded by Cllr. Roseby and unanimously agreed by Council.

13. TO CONSIDER THE OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE ALBRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr. M Pate explained that the Albrighton Primary School had lost money from its budget and explained the background to the problem. Support for the swimming pool had been unanimous at the Civic Society AGM and another meeting was planned for early November to further discuss this problem. Figures suggested that there could be shortfall of around £8,000 to fund the pool in the future and Cllr. Woodman agreed that there would need to be a new organisation to manage the facility such as a board of trustees or the Parish Council taking over control. Cllr. M Pate said that there was a short term need to safeguard the pool for 2016 and then to work on the longer term solution. Cllr. Straney said he had doubts about the figures being quoted and had serious doubts about the long term funding of the facility but the Council needed to safeguard the pool's immediate future.

Cllr. M Pate proposed that Donington, Tong and Boningale Parish Councils should be invited to jointly fund the pool with Albrighton Parish Council next year and then set up a working group to formulate longer term working plans. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and unanimously agreed by Council.

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.15 PM IN THE RED HOUSE:

Cllr. Illes asked that the Christmas lights should be placed on the agenda for 5th November.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no items of correspondence.

16. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting Thursday 5th November 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting Thursday 19th November 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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