



## **ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Station Road

Albrighton

Wolverhampton

WV7 3QH

Email: [clerk@albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Minutes of meeting**

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council AGM and business meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

### **Present**

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

In attendance:

S Reynolds Clerk to Albrighton Parish Council.

#### **19060. Apologies**

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

S Pledger (holiday)

#### **19061. 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.

Cllr Pate declared an interest in item 19073

#### **19062. 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 18 members of the public present. Resident Val Kirton stated she noted with concern the Minutes and the article in the Parish magazine, she had been present at the meeting on 15/8/18 and then subsequently at the Crown public house. She stated that Cllr J Pledger had come into the Crown and had lambasted and harassed the Clerk and she and others had asked him to leave. When pressed by the Chairman what her question was, she said that people in the village were asking who was Cllr J Pledger saying was drunk? Mrs Kirton said she was present and that only 1 drink had been

purchased by those present and therefore she asked Cllr J Pledger to name who he was saying was drunk.

Cllr J Pledger thanked Mrs Kirton for being straight and said he was happy to discuss this in private. Mrs Kirton replied that she didn't want to discuss it with him and Cllr J Pledger should tell everyone. Cllr J Pledger stated that the matter around the fractious meeting had been addressed several times and it was a confidential process and he didn't want it in the public sphere. Mrs Kirton said this is already in the public domain and we have a right to know. Cllr J Pledger declined to answer and said he would discuss it but not in public. Cllr P Woodman said that in Cllr J Pledgers report it stated Cllrs were behaving in a drunken manner, and asked if he denied this. Cllr J Pledger said it was not fair to name them in public. Cllr Medlyn then said that the statement was sent to the Monitoring Officer at Shropshire Council, if you make a complaint then he should have the decency to name the councillor. Cllr P Woodman replied that the behaviour of all parties had been suggested as an issue and that Cllr J Pledger had said he was not harassing the Clerk when Mrs Kirton and others had said he was harassing the Clerk. He again asked Cllr J Pledger if he was going to answer the question. Cllr Medlyn said that it stated in the public domain that a Councillor was behaving in a drunken manner and only some councillors were named and the residents were asking who it was. Mrs Kirton stated it was impossible for anyone to be drunk as only one drink had been purchased, it was a lie that anyone was drunk and that councillors should not behave in the way that Cllr J Pledger is doing and that she was totally disillusioned by his poor behaviour. Another resident, Richard Woodman, said that people have come to the meeting tonight and want to know which Councillor it is that Cllr J Pledger is saying is drunk.

The Chairman asked Cllr Smith to comment on the *Notes from the Chair* articles in the parish magazine. Cllr Smith then explained that before the 2017 villagers had said they wanted to know more about what the Council was doing for the village and in a timelier way. In discussion with the previous Clerk it was decided to put informal notes of the Chair and Vice Chairman in the Parish magazine based on the council's meetings and minutes. He continued to say that for 2 years no one has ever adversely commented on these notes before, indeed we have had compliments. Usually we have an edited brief version but for this sensitive issue it was felt that a summary of the meeting would be criticised for not containing all the information so these notes were based very closely on the draft minutes, but there are clear notes on the article which state that the article is not the official minutes.

Cllr J Pledger replying to Cllr P Woodman said that he regretted it has become public; the complaint was to the Monitoring Officer at Shropshire Council and not a public slur of another councillor. Cllr P Woodman said but you have slurred another councillor, Richard Woodman then commented that he was present at the meeting on 15/8/18 when Cllr J Pledger had also slurred the conduct of other residents himself included. Cllr Straney then stated he couldn't disagree with him on that point but felt that this situation had dragged on and on since 15/8/18 instead of the council being able to do anything else, the Monitoring officer has clearly stated that the Chairman is not at fault.

A second resident, Linda Banks, outlined the planning permission request she had been granted on her land, but explained that she was unhappy with the planning condition which had been imposed by Shropshire Council. She informed councillors she had applied to Shropshire Council to have this condition removed and asked Councillors to support this application.

**19063. Report by the Shropshire Council member, Cllr. M Pate, with regard to items of business likely to affect the community.**

Cllr Pate informed councillors that he had attended the Jessup's hearing with the Chairman Cllr Woodman. He stated he was disappointed with the performance of Shropshire Council planners, against whom Jessup argued their case very well. He said that fellow residents and representatives

from Albrighton represented themselves well so now it was a wait and see situation as the result could go either way.

**19064. Parish Councillors' reports with regard to any items of council business they have recently conducted likely to affect the community.**

- **To received West Midlands Trains Community Transport report (Cllr Beechey)**

Cllr Beechey had attended the Community Transport meeting, where various transport matters were discussed. It was felt that this issue should be passed to the Place Plan Working Party to look at in more depth. Cllr Illes commented that this really covered the issue he was going to bring up later in the agenda and he now felt that item 19070, the rerouting of the service bus via station and surgery could be discussed by Place Plan Working Party and did not need to be discussed any further.

- **To receive Community Connector Networking Meeting report (Cllr Beechey)**

Cllr Beechey had also attended a Community Connector Networking Meeting; this was to promote social prescribing and other issues.

- **To consider application for CCIF (Cllr Smith)**

Cllr Smith explained that after his discussions with West Midland Trains, Albrighton Parish Council had the opportunity to apply for CCIF funding for items/projects associated with the station but that there was a very tight deadline (7/10/19). Some ideas were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk be given delegated powers to apply for the CCIF for an additional non-slip surface on the pedestrian access ramp to Platform 1 at Albrighton Station.

**Action - Clerk**

- **To receive update on Chairman's complaint**

Cllr Woodman reported back on item 19072 as agreed at the last meeting regarding the non-completion of the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest form which Cllr J Pledger had said was a clerical error. Cllr Woodman produced documentation which clearly showed that Cllr J Pledger having purchased a new house in May 2018 and he should have updated his DPI form then but he had failed to do so. Cllr Woodman was concerned that Cllr J Pledger had ignored the many requests from the clerk to provide an updated Form for her to put on the Council's website and for her to send to Shropshire Council as was the usual practice. Cllr J Pledger had only updated his DPI on the 21/5/19 a year after the purchase of his property at Lyncroft. He was not compliant for a year and was in a breach of the Act during this time. This was not seen as a clerical error as he had been reminded to do it many times over a period of a year. For some reason he had chosen not to comply with council procedure and was also committing a criminal offence which made other Cllrs uneasy.

Cllr Harrison then asked what Cllr Woodman's action as Chairman was?

Cllr J Pledger informed councillors that he felt this was an embarrassing misunderstanding and was incorrect. Cllr Woodman stated that he had asked Cllr J Pledger for the email exchange which had been sent to the Monitoring Officer to update the DPI form but this had not been received and he reminded councillors it was a legal requirement to update the DPI and this had not been met. Cllr Woodman said he couldn't condone Cllr Pledgers behaviour saying he was a councillor and there is no one to blame for not doing it but himself. Cllr Pledger said he had not agreed to provide the exchange of emails with Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Smith then read out the extract from the previous agreed Minutes:

*'the Clerk asked Cllr J Pledger to forward the email he had sent to Shropshire Council to her with the form and if this was an error on the part of Shropshire Council, she would write to Shropshire Council*

*for clarification and ask for an apology for Cllr J Pledger. Cllr Woodman said he would follow this matter up and report back to council'.*

Cllr Pledger then said that the minutes only asked him to provide the email and that it didn't say he had agreed to do so.

Cllr Smith stated that Cllr J Pledger was asked to provide it but he had not done so.

Cllr J Pledger stated that he had brought nothing to the council, this comment was repeated by Cllr Woodman.

Cllr Pate commented that given all the problems we have had; we have work to do to make this council better and we have spent more and more time since Cllr J Pledger has been on the council in the last two years on his issues. Cllr Pate said that he felt that Cllr J Pledger should consider his position on the council.

Cllr J Pledger stated he didn't want things discussed in public and that he wanted to get on, he also stated that he couldn't attend training as he worked. Cllr Pate stated further that Cllr J Pledger doesn't accept that he is in often in the wrong and again I call on him to consider his position.

Cllr Harrison asked at that point for a point of order to be called and that council move on with the agenda. Cllr J Pledger then stated that the constant talking by Cllr Medlyn was being ignored by the Chairman and was the Chairman supporting this? Cllr Medlyn drew her point to a close when asked by the Chairman. Cllr J Pledger then said 'are you ignoring what I am saying?' Cllr Woodman replied 'no I'm not ignoring you; I have heard you'.

#### **19065. Minutes of previous meetings:**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 (**enclosed**).

Cllr J Pledger queried that the item on correspondence did not state he read out an email, the Clerk explained that correspondence in the minutes only covered the correspondence brought to the meeting by the Clerk and that all those items of correspondence had been recorded correctly. The Chairman said that the minutes did not need any amendment.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Albrighton Parish Council minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were true and accurate records. (one objection)**

#### **19066. 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.

The Clerk informed councillors that since the last meeting the surplus chairs had been disposed of and that she has sought to obtain a valuation for the mace from several auctioneers. The Clerk explained that there would be a cost for the valuation and asked council to approve this expenditure, which was likely to be £150+vat.

**Action - Clerk**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the clerk could arrange to instruct an auctioneer to value the mace (1 objection)**

#### **19067. Planning:**

##### **Planning applications:**

Reference: 19/04136/VAR (validated: 17/09/2019)

Address: 4 Holyhead Road, Albrighton, WV7 3BX

Proposal: Removal of Condition No. 7 attached to planning permission 19/02055/FUL dated 10 July 2019

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Farnell (c/o Agent)

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that council recommend this application for approval.**  
**Action - Clerk**

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

Applicant: Mr Paul Fitzpatrick

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that council recommend this application for approval.**  
**Action - Clerk**

**Planning decisions:**

Reference: 19/03100/FUL (validated: 15/07/2019)

Address: Meere Barn, Newhouse Lane, Albrighton, Shropshire, WV7 3QS

Proposal: Erection of detached garage following demolition of existing garage and store

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 19/03482/FUL (validated: 05/08/2019)

Address: 1- 58 Talbot Road, Albrighton, Shropshire

Proposal: Installation of external wall insulation and replacement of roof tiles to 58 residential properties (nos. 1-58)

Decision: Grant Permission

**Planning enforcement:**

Reference: 19/06773/ENF

Status: Pending Consideration

Address: Land Adjacent Hill View, High House Lane, Albrighton, Shropshire

Description of Issue: Alleged breach of Planning Control in relation to the permanently siting of a portable toilet

**19068. Finance & Personnel:**

- a) To receive a report by the Chairman of Finance & Personnel Committee to also include receipts and payments up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019, (enclosed) – Cllr. Maguire.**

Cllr Maguire Chairman of Finance & Personnel reported that the Receipts & Payments statement was in balance and asked members if they had any queries regarding the accounts. None received.

- b) To receive the conclusion of audit notification from the external auditors PKF Littlejohn (enclosure)**

The Clerk informed Council that she had now received the Conclusion of Audit Notification and that she was pleased that we were one of the first councils to receive this well before deadline.

Cllr Pate asked if the auditors had queried the level of the councils reserves and the Clerk explained that she had now allocated ear marked reserves correctly for future expenditure and the auditors were now satisfied with this.

The Chairman of Finance & Personnel, Cllr Maguire, thanked the Clerk for her hard work, this was supported by the Chairman Cllr Woodman. The rest of the council also congratulated the Clerk.

**c) To consider income & expenditure in August 2019 details below:**

Date	Cheque	To Whom Payable	Reason	Amount
02/09/19	004515	B G Ground Maintenance	2*Patshull mow (14&28/8/19)	140.00
02/09/19	004516	Viking	Soap, toilet rolls, paper etc.	41.58
02/09/19	004517	T F M	Repairs to mower	255.85
02/09/19	004518	Keith Gibson Cars	Ad Blue for Flyer	16.50
06/09/19	004519	Phs Group	Annual 'Duty of Care' contract	91.80
09/09/19	004520	Waterplus Ltd	Water drainage Alb Library 10.5.19-29.8.19	165.43
06/09/19	004521	M Stack	3 Honour Boards	210.00
06/09/19	004522	R Woodman	Children's classes – summer activities	400.00
06/09/19	004523	Keith Gibson Cars	August fuel for mower	14.00
10/09/19	004524	mh-p internet Ltd	Hosting 11/19-11/20 & domain 11/19-11/21	175.20
10/09/19	004525	Albrighton Parish Council	Petty Cash reimbursement	100.00
18/09/19	004526	Amazon Ltd	Hi-Vis Vests for Flyer Drivers	17.88
18/09/19	004527	AVHT	Summer activities craft resources	139.95

**Income Received:**

Date	Payment Type	Payer	Reason	Amount
03/09/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 27-30 August	121.50
03/09/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 26-31 August	46.57
10/09/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 3-6 September	133.50
10/08/19	Cash	Cllr Woodman (ATM54)	Printing	50.00
10/09/19	Cheque	Albrighton Parish Council	LAH Contract LAH/7	380.00
10/09/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer booking 12/09/19	66.00
10/09/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 2-7 September	57.42
10/09/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 9-14 September	77.71
18/09/19	Cheque	Albrighton Parish Council	LAH August usage	148.00
18/09/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 10-13 September	132.00

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

**19069 To consider transport issues within Albrighton (Cllr P Illes)**

This matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**19070 To consider becoming more environmentally friendly council, and to reduce the usage of paper. (Cllr T Maguire)**

Cllr Maguire explained he was concerned that as a council we were not very environmentally friendly, he felt that it would be a good start if Albrighton Parish Council reduced their usage of

paper and he suggested it could be an idea if Albrighton Parish Council considered using tablets in the monthly meetings which would reduce the need for papers to be printed. Cllr Maguire asked the Clerk how many papers were currently being printed for the monthly council meeting. The Clerk informed council that last month alone the meeting papers added up to 460 sheets and this month was 350, she explained that the cost was not just the paper, but costly printer cartridges and staff time in printing and collating them. Cllr Pitchford commented that not everyone was able to use a computer. Cllr Pate noted that Shropshire Council had provided all Cllrs with tablets for meetings but that many did not use them and paper copies continued to be used. Paper copies allowed members to make notes in the margins before in preparation and at meetings. Cllr Harrison said he agreed with what Cllr Maguire was saying and that his argument was strong, given the number of copies the Clerk was producing each month which was averaging 400 per month. Cllr Harrison continued to say that most councillors had a mobile device of their own they could bring to meeting and use. Cllr Maguire explained he felt that inexpensive tablets could be purchased if required. Cllr Pitchford said he was happy to bring his own laptop to meetings and encouraged other councillors to do so as well and to let the Clerk know to reduce the printing. Cllr Maguire commented that the minutes were very comprehensive, and Cllr Woodman stated that sadly with the current situation within our council the minutes needed to be detailed, councillors agreed this was the case. Cllr Harrison proposed that all Councillors who had a mobile device (iPad, Laptop, tablet etc.) to download all the documents to them and bring them to meetings and use them, this would be reviewed in six months with a possible move to all councillors progressing to this and to cease printing paper copies.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that councillors bring their own device to meetings as a trial, this would be reviewed in six months and if successful then all councillors could progress to this and to cease printing paper copies.**

**19071 To consider recording electronically all council meetings (Cllr J Pledger)**

Cllr J Pledger explained that he would like all meetings to be electronically recorded and thought it could reduce the Clerk's workload. The Clerk explained that sadly this would not be the case, a lot of time would be taken up editing the recordings to ensure they would be GDPR compliant. Cllr Pate informed councillors that Shropshire Council don't record full council and that he was opposed to this move. Cllr Illes stated that we need to remember we are not ICI but a little Parish Council and that he didn't see any need for this.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the recording of meetings was unnecessary and that Albrighton Parish Council did not approve of the recording of meetings.**

**(1 abstention)**

**19072 To consider SALC recommendation of delegated power for responses to consultations where appropriate.**

The Clerk drew Councillors attention to a request from SALC at their meeting of 16/9/19 that all Town and Parish's should consider giving delegated powers to their Clerks to reply to consultations where appropriate on the council's behalf. Cllr Beechey had attended this SALC meeting and explained the reasoning for this suggestion.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk be given delegated powers to reply on behalf of Albrighton Parish Council whenever it was necessary and appropriate and this would be reported back to council.**

**19073 Correspondence**

**For action:**

To consider email received from Albrighton Scout Group

The Clerk informed Councillors that she had received a request from 1st Albrighton Scout Group who were applying for a Lottery Heritage Grant, and in order to be successful they require letters of support from local councils and village groups.

The Chairman invited John Gill from 1st Albrighton Scouts who was in attendance to outline to the council what he was requesting. Mr Gill explained that 1st Albrighton Scouts were applying for £5000 Heritage Lottery funding to collate their 80years of archives in readiness for their anniversary and that they would appreciate a letter of support to submit with their application. Councillors all agreed that this was a very worthwhile project and agreed to support them. 1st Albrighton Scouts were asked to supply the Clerk with a draft letter for submission and she was instructed to then send the letter of support. The Chairman also suggested that they should contact Donington with Boscobel Parish Council for their support.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Council would support 1st Albrighton Scout Group's bid to document its heritage and that the Clerk provide a letter of support for their application.**

**19074. Date of next meeting:**

- a) Albrighton Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.15 pm in The Red House.

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