

<p style="text-align: center;">ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House</p>
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Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council planning meeting held on Thursday 3rd December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.

PRESENT: Cllrs. S Pledger (Chairman), P Harrison (Vice Chair), D Beechey, P Griffin, C Hassall, P Illes, C Roseby, A Straney, P Woodman.

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

PRESENTATION BY MR PAUL WOODMAN WITH REGARD TO HIS POSSIBLE ENGAGEMENT BY THE COUNCIL TO ADVISE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE ALBRIGHTON LIBRARY.

Mr Woodman was unable to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES:

S Kirkland (conflicting engagement), M Pate (holiday), S Pate (holiday).

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.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO CONSIDER THE PRESENTATION BY MR PAUL WOODMAN AND DECIDE WHETHER TO ENGAGE HIM TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL, TO ENGAGE ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE OR TO FORGO THE SERVICES OF A SOLICITOR.

Cllr. Hassall asked why Mr Woodman had been asked to consider work on behalf of the Council and it was noted that in the past the firm of Manby Bowdler had been instructed to work on the Council's behalf. Members agreed that the Council needed professional advice with regard to the proposed lease and Service Level Agreement if it was to negotiate successfully with Shropshire Council and Cllr. Griffin stated that members also needed

support in respect of due diligence. Cllr. Beechey reminded members that there was a clear deadline of 31st March 2016 when matters needed to be fully resolved.

Cllr. Griffin proposed that quotations should be obtained from Mr Woodman's firm and from Manby Bowdler and brought back to Council and representatives of both companies would be invited to speak with Councillors at 4.00 pm on 9th December after the Finance Committee meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Straney and unanimously agreed by Council.

4. PLANNING

Planning applications.

Reference: 15/04743/FUL (validated: 03/11/2015) Address: 52 High Street, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3JF

Proposal: Alteration to roof and installation of bi-fold doors to garden roof

Applicant: Mr R Cattell

Cllr. Harrison drew members' attention to the planners' concerns regarding the proposed roof joints and possible bat habitation in the existing roof area. Cllr. Harrison proposed that the application should be approved providing that both of these issues were satisfactorily resolved which was seconded by Cllr. Roseby and unanimously agreed by Council.

5. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR THE LAYOUT OF THE LIBRARY AND DECIDE ON THE MOST APPROPRIATE:

Councillors considered the three layouts for the library incorporating an office and meeting area for the Council drawn up by Shropshire Council. Cllr. Illes suggested that option E was the most suitable and Cllr. Woodman proposed that the Council should adopt option E with a folding wall at the end of the meeting area which was seconded by Cllr. Straney. Cllr. Griffin proposed an amendment that option E should have a concertina wall at the end of meeting area between the council section of the building and the main library which was seconded by Cllr. Roseby and agreed by Council 7 – 2. The main proposition was agreed by Council 8 – 1.

6. FINANCE: (deferred from the meeting on 19th November 2015)

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

The Clerk went through the bank reconciliation and his report to Council. Members agreed the contents and there were no matters requiring further attention.

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

Cllr. Woodman stressed the need for an increase in the size of the precept for 2016/17 and urged members to take note of the auditor's comments on the size of the Council's reserves, both issues that had been discussed at some length within the working group.

The Clerk informed members that the Chief Executive of Shropshire Council had agreed to address the Council meeting scheduled for 21st January 2016 regarding future financial management as part of the 'Big Conversation'.

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

Cllr. Hassall asked about the absence of any invoice from Keith Gibson Cars and the continued purchase of fuel for the Flyer from this source. The Clerk agreed to stress with the drivers the need to take advantage of cheaper fuel from a range of supermarkets using the Fuel Genie card already supplied.

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

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

Cllr. Beechey stated that the Chairman's allowance should have no restrictions placed upon it and spending was at the discretion of the Chairman. Members agreed to further discuss this item, together with a possible new hospitality budget when the draft budget was presented to Council on 7th January, 2016.

Cllr. Beechey briefed Council on the new proposals to replace the old external auditor system that were being prepared by NALC, SLCC and ADA following the abolition of the Audit Commission by the previous government.

DISCUSSION ON THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Cllr. Beechey proposed that this item be moved to the end of the agenda and discussed in a closed session. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Woodman and agreed by Council.

Cllr. Illes felt that the report did not accurately reflect the discussions in the Personnel Committee, nor the action points and subsequent developments flowing from them. He proposed that the report should be withdrawn which was seconded by Cllr. Beechey and agreed by Council.

Cllr. Woodman stated that the Council needed to undertake a fundamental review of its executive structure which was agreed by Cllr. Griffin.

Because any future discussions would be likely to impinge directly on the Clerk's role the Clerk left the meeting.

7. REPORT ON THE PROPOSED FLYER USE ON THE SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS:

The Chairman informed members that the Flyer driver, Mr K West, had been asked to run the Flyer on Saturdays before Christmas which he was prepared to do if there was Council approval. Members were concerned that this would not be viable if only a few passengers wished to avail themselves of this service. Cllr. Pledger proposed that permission for Saturday working leading up to Christmas should be given provided that a minimum of 8 passengers were available which was seconded by Cllr. Roseby and agreed by Council 8 – 1 with 1 abstention.

8. TO FURTHER CONSIDER THE LOAN MADE TO THE RED HOUSE IN 2005 AND THE AGREEMENT TO REPAY THE LOAN BY FREE RENT FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS DRAWN UP IN 2013:

Cllrs Woodman and Illes both believed that a paper trail should be organised to try and establish a definitive account of discussions and decisions relating to a loan made by Albrighton Parish Council to the Red House management in 2005. It was suggested that a small group could look through the relevant files to try and establish the details and Cllr. Illes suggested that the Finance Committee could look into the matter and report back to full Council.

Whatever the outcome, Cllr. Hassall was convinced that there many irregularities regarding this initiative which needed to be reconciled.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

For information:

- **Shropshire Council – Inspector's Report, Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan:**

Received and noted.

- **Shropshire Council – Annual review of Place Plans:**

Received and noted.

For action:

- **Headteacher of Albrighton Primary School – letter enclosed requesting funding for the swimming pool in 2016 marked as 'Agenda item10c'.**

The Clerk was asked to write to the Headteacher of Albrighton Primary School and agree to provide sufficient funding to ensure the future of the swimming facility in 2016.

10. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **Library Working Group - 9th December 2015 at 12.00 pm in the Red House.**
- **Finance Committee - 9th December 2015 at 2.30 pm in the Red House.**
- **Annual Christmas dinner – 10th December 2015 at 7.00 for 7.30 p-m in the Horns of Boningale.**
- **Civic Service – 13th December 2015 at 6.30 pm in St. Mary’s Church, Albrighton.**
- **Albrighton Parish Council business meeting – 17th December 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Red House.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

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