



ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council AGM and business meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 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, S Pledger, P Harrison, J Pledger

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.

R Rudman (illness), P Illes (holiday) M Pitchford (holiday) the Clerk also informed that she had received the resignation of Sandra Kirkland

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 Medlyn declared an interest in item 19070

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 8 members of the public present, no questions were asked.

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

Cllr Pate informed members that he would be attending the Jessup appeal hearing to oppose this development in the village. He also welcomed the ‘pothole trialling’ that will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks, this was a new way of working and he hoped it would be successful. Cllr Pate said he was heartened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s speech where monies had been promised to local authorities for education, adult social care and children’s services.

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

Cllr Woodman informed members that he on behalf of Albrighton Parish Council together with the Chairman of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council had presented a certificate to Mr & Mrs Pickard for 54 years’ service to the village with their Nursery school.

19065. Minutes of previous meetings:

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2019 (**enclosed**).

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Albrighton Parish Council minutes of the 3rd July 2019 were true and accurate records.

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 stated that the work in the Foyer was nearly completed and this was going to be a very useful addition to the Parish Councils working area. She explained that one of the consequences of this was the lack of room for some of the old chairs and she would like council’s permission to dispose of them. The Clerk suggested giving them to the Red House or the Melville Club, but Cllr Medlyn informed council that neither organisation wanted them. The Clerk then asked if she was able to dispose of them.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk could dispose of any surplus chairs within the Parish Council building.

Action - Clerk

19067. Planning:

Planning applications:

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)

Applicant: Defence Infrastructure Organisation (Fao: Mr A Martin, Swales Pavilion, RAF Wyton, Wyton, Cambs, PE28 2EA)

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

Action - Clerk

Planning decisions:

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)

Applicant: Mr Fletcher (86 High Street, Albrighton, WV7 3JT)

Reference: 19/02864/FUL (validated: 15/07/2019)

Address: Beamish Farmhouse, Beamish Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3AG

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and plant room (amended description).

Decision: Grant Permission

Planning decisions were noted

Planning enforcement:

Date Received: 04/07/2019

Reference: 19/06655/ENF

Status: Pending Consideration

Address: 46 Loak Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3HS

Description of Issue: Alleged breach of Planning Control in relation to the erection of a play house and high raised decking

The Planning enforcement was noted

19068. Finance & Personnel:

- a) **To receive a report by the Chairman of Finance & Personnel Committee to also include receipts and payments up to 31st July 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 consider income & expenditure in July 2019 details below:**

Date	Cheque	To Whom Payable	Reason	Amount
05/08/19	004502	Keith Gibson	Petrol for mower – July 2019	24.00
05/08/19	004503	TFM	Shears and refuse sacks	33.90
05/08/19	004504	BG Maintenance	3*Patshull mowing – July 2019	210.00
05/08/19	004505	Exotic Zoo	Show and handling experience 08/08/19	90.00
05/08/19	004506	Exotic Zoo	Show and handling experience 29/08/19	90.00

Income Received:

Date	Payment Type	Payer	Reason	Amount
05/08/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 30/7-2/8/19	123.50
05/08/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 29/7-3/8/19	48.18
12/08/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 6-9 August	144.00
12/08/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 5-10 August	58.30
12/08/19	Cheque	Albrighton Parish Council	LAH Invoice	176.00
12/08/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer trip 24/8/19	49.50
22/08/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 13-16 August	147.50
22/08/19	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Library cash 12-17 August	59.30

The Clerk invited questions on the income and expenditure figures, Cllr S Pledger asked why we were paying two invoices for the Exotic Zoo when the Red House had been given money by the Parish Council to pay for the Summer activities. The Clerk reminded councillors that they had agreed to finance the summer activities but had asked that all invoices would come to the Parish Council for payment to the limit of funds agreed.

19069 To consider quote from tree surgeon for Loak Road allotments (enclosure)

The Clerk informed councillors that she had now obtained quotes for the work on the trees at Loak Road a copy of the quotation had previously been circulated. She explained that it would be more cost effective if all the trees which needed work were done at once as the greatest part of the cost was the hire of the cherry picker. **Details of the costs for just the willow tree were given together with the costs of work on all six trees which needed attention.**

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that council recommend that the work should be carried out on all the trees and the second quotation be approved. Action - Clerk

19070 To consider continuance of bus pass reduction on Flyer (Cllr Smith)

Cllr Medlyn left the room for this item.

Cllr Smith presented the report of the Flyer Working Party which had been previously circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Smith said that Olivia Neal had gathered the data from the driver's weekly sheets and made an analysis of the Day Service. He outlined the main findings, usage of the Flyer it is only currently used regularly by about 3 dozen residents. All of these passengers have a bus pass, but the Parish Council is no longer receiving reimbursement for the bus pass subsidy. He also gave details of the Flyer's usage explaining that 90% of the trips are in Albrighton (85%) or within 4 miles (5%), and that no one is paying the "standard non bus pass fare" and so it is proposed that there be a single set of fares with a proposed increase of £1 for trips within 4 miles and slightly more for those beyond as shown in the Report. It was agreed that the recommended pricing structure suggested by the Flyer Working Party be adopted.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that there would have only one price structure for fares, which will apply to all passengers irrespective of whether they have a bus pass or not. The new fares to be effective from 1st October 2019.

Cllr Smith also explained that the Council needed to clarify the definition of a carer using the Flyer free of charge; it had been proposed by the Working Party that this should be in line with DWP definition. Issues around the definition of a 'carer' were discussed, it was felt that without a stated proper definition it was difficult to 'police' and the DWP definition should be used. It was agreed that the driver should have some degree of flexibility in dealing with this point. It was noted that 'carers' provided by a LA can sometimes be a family member so our definition should reflect that.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a Carer is defined as a person provided by a local authority or similar who needs to accompany the passenger on every occasion to facilitate their transportation.

19071 To consider David Austin memorial (Cllr Woodman)

The Chairman outlined the proposal of a rose memorial garden for the late David Austin. He explained that this was a joint project, and if necessary, the Red House will seek approval from Shropshire Council for use of land. David Austin's family have been approached and they are delighted and have offered to provide and plant the roses. The Clerk confirmed she had received the necessary 8 signatures asking for this to be reconsidered by Council within 6 months in line with our Standing Orders, all members approved of this and said it was a good idea.

19072 To consider complaint against Chairman, Cllr Woodman (enclosure)

The Chairman explained that he had circulated the complaint, his response and the outcome of the complaint from the Monitoring Officer, all these documents had been redacted to comply with GDPR guidance. He then went on to explain that the complaint was against the Chairman and the running of the council, he felt this was a complaint against the council itself and it was only right that Councillors were informed.

Cllrs S Pledger and Cllr Beechey both said that this topic should be dealt with at the end of the meeting in confidential session as names were on the documents. Cllr Pate said that he disagreed and that the public have a right to know what has happened and that names had been redacted from the documents. Cllr Pate said that other Cllrs were also named in the complaint but these Cllrs had agreed that their names should be shown.

Cllr Beechey proposed that this matter to be discussed in private session, but Cllr Pate said he disagreed, he felt it should be in public session as it was a matter of public record, Cllr Medlyn stated that some of the contents of the report had been said in public in front of some of the residents here in the room tonight as they were present at the incident (on 15th August 2018) in the Crown Public House and therefore she felt the reply should also be in public. The proposal by Cllr Beechey for the discussion to be held in private session was seconded by Cllr S Pledger and put to the vote. Cllr Pate asked under Standing Order 3s, to move a recorded vote this was then agreed by a majority vote.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the matter should not be discussed at the end of the meeting in private session. 6 FOR (PW, RS, BH, TM, MP, MM), 4 AGAINST (SP, JP, DB, PH), and 1 abstention (AS)

Cllr Harrison expressed his concern why council was discussing this matter at full council, Cllr Woodman asked if the complaint had been upheld would Council feel they should know? He felt he would have failed in his public duty had he not brought this matter to the attention of the full council; this was accepted.

Cllr Pate also commented that other councillors and the Clerk were mentioned in the complaint and also it was stated within it that one councillor was 'behaving in a drunken manner' which he felt was untrue and a disgraceful comment.

Cllr Pate then asked if the complainant was Cllr James Pledger and Cllr J Pledger replied that the Chairman could answer that. The Chairman asked Cllr J Pledger to answer Cllr Pate's question. Cllr James Pledger confirmed that he was the complainant.

Cllr Maguire said that the complaint was very long and that most of the events in it go back a long way, it was an awful waste of time and he felt it would be nice if this was it and the slate wiped clean so that council can get on with their correct business of being a good council.

Cllr Pate asked under the Standing Order 10a xv, to move a motion which was not on the council agenda. Cllr Pate stated that this was an obnoxious complaint to the Monitoring Officer and this was also a repeat of Cllr J Pledger's previous complaint which was not upheld.

Cllr Pate said he would like to move two motions:

1. *This council resolves that having discussed issues regarding relationships and correspondence between councillors and council employees that this acrimonious behaviour now ends the matters and Councillors are to use their best endeavours to ensure that a more professional and harmonious behaviour prevails in the future, to treat each other with respect and to work positively together for the benefit of our residents.*
2. *Move to protect our clerk and the banning notice be extended for a further 12 months.*

Cllr Straney said that this was the third time such a motion was proposed.

Councillor J Pledger stated he had complained about the Chairman not the council, he had told the Chairman he would do so, it was a complaint on a matter of principle.

Cllr Smith said that within the complaint on page 4, Cllr J Pledger stated that he was insulted by a Councillor behaving in a drunken manner and then in as next sentence Cllr J Pledger went on to name four people who were present. Cllr Pate stated that these two sentences next to each other clearly was defamation. Cllr S Pledger responded 'why are you concerned; it was only sent to the Monitoring Officer. Cllr Smith replied that while this comment was only sent to the Monitoring Officer it could also be read by anyone in his department. Cllr Straney said that the Council had already gone over this months ago and yet the council was still not working together and that the council should take action.

Cllr Maguire stated that Cllr J Pledger's complaint about many people had not been upheld, but Cllr J Pledger does not accept he has been defeated and that he has made a mistake; it is now over and Cllr J Pledger should stop defending it. Cllr Pate said it was upsetting that this behaviour was still continuing as recently APC had been doing excellent work for the community and he felt that the

Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk should be thanked for this and all the time they have devoted to this work.

Cllr Pate reminded members that he had moved a motion, Cllr Beechey then seconded the motion and Cllr Pate called for a recorded vote.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that this council resolves that having discussed issues regarding relationships and correspondence between councillors and council employees that this acrimonious behaviour now ends the matters and councillors are to use their best endeavours to ensure that a more professional and harmonious behaviour prevails in the future, to treat each other with respect and to work positively together for the benefit of our residents. 8 FOR (PW, RS, BH, TM, MP, MM, DB, PH,), 3 Abstentions (SP, JP, AS)

Members then discussed Cllr Pates second motion, Cllr Maguire was asked if he would continue as a go between and he said he was prepared to carry on as the point of contact. Cllr S Pledger continued to deny she had caused a problem and Cllr Smith stated that Cllrs J & S Pledger had not recognised the situation that they had caused to the council, there was no recognition or acceptance. Cllr Medlyn asked if the Clerk had received emails from Mr P Pledger, the Clerk confirmed she had. Cllr Medlyn stated that if Cllr S Pledger hadn't sent emails her husband had.

Cllr Maguire stated that both Cllrs J & S Pledger refused to accept their behaviour had caused these problems and he then proposed that the 12-month ban remain in place for the full 12 months. He stated that the atmosphere worked against the Clerk and he felt if the council were to cease with the ban today then he felt really certain problems would begin again tomorrow, the Pledgers have not accepted the reasons for the ban and the continued ban agreed in February should remain, Cllr Maguire continued to say to Cllrs J Pledger and Cllr S Pledger, that a significant point in all this is that neither of them accept that they are causing problems. This was proposed by Cllr Pate and seconded by Cllr Maguire and put to the vote.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the ban from the 8th February 2019 remain in place and be reviewed at that time 9 FOR (PW, RS, TM, MP, MM, PH, AS, DB, BH) 2 AGAINST (SP, JP)

Cllr Smith noted that within the response from Cllr Woodman it was stated that Cllr J Pledger was in breach of the Localism Act Section 2011 Section 34 because he had not completed his Disclosure of Interests form. Cllr Pate was concerned that this was a criminal offence and if the council did not follow up on this the council would be aiding and abetting. The Clerk was asked if she had reminded Cllr J Pledger about this and she confirmed she had asked Cllr J Pledger to complete the form and return it to her as was the legal requirement, the Clerk was asked if she has asked Cllr J Pledger for the form more than once and she confirmed she had contacted Cllr J Pledger several times regarding this matter, but not received an up dated form. Cllr J Pledger said he wasn't able to send it to the Clerk because of the ban but he was reminded that the terms of the ban were for him to send anything to the clerk via Cllr Maguire but he had not done that.

Cllr J Pledger stated that it was a simple clerical error which he said he had rectified via the Monitoring Officer and that APC were wasting council time on the issue. Members felt this was an important legal issue and it needed to be followed up, 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. **Action Cllr Woodman**

19073 To consider appointment of tree warden (Cllr Woodman)

The Chairman informed members that he had received a recommendation from John Bulmer, the previous tree warden of someone who would be very suitable to be the new village tree warden. Cllr Woodman informed members of the background of Mr Bob Watson and members agreed that he was very suitable and they would be happy for him to be approach by the Chairman to undertake this important voluntary role.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Mr Bob Watson be appointed as tree warden for Albrighton Parish Council
Action Cllr Woodman

19074 To receive verbal update on Pedestrian Access Ramp at the station (Cllr Smith)

Cllr Smith stated that he had contacted West Midlands Trains many times over the last 8 months asking them to provide a staff member to engage with us. We needed them to take over the agreements made by London Midland Trains for the operational maintenance and to pay the cost of the electricity supply to the Viperail handrail with built in LED lighting. Eventually Jon Harris, Integrated Transport, Accessibility & Development Manager had agreed to meet us, and had come to the Station to meet Cllr Smith and the Chairman on 27th August and it was a useful meeting. Cllr Smith said that subsequently he had received an email from West Midland Trains stating they agreed in principle to provide operational maintenance for the ramp as long as the entirety of the ramp is passed in to Parish Council ownership and that the necessary pedestrian measures are put in place at the bottom of the ramp. (i.e. the footpath which Shropshire Council have agreed to build) and that they would pay for the electrical supply. Cllr Smith said that this now allowed him to move forward with the Application for the dispensation against the Design Standards for Accessible Railways and he would seek the documentation from the various bodies which had to be submitted along with the Application Form. Then he was hopeful that all the necessary legal agreements could then be put in place.

Cllr Smith also updated members on Jon Harris's announcement of the new Station Travel Plan Program which was being undertaken by West Midlands Trains explaining that the fares received from the introduction of fees on the station car park would contribute towards the improvements and the new travel plan. He informed members that WMT would introduce next week a funding scheme called Customer & Community Improvement Scheme (CCIF) which they offer to communities to improve things in connection with the station, these may be bike racks or signage and it could even contribute towards the costs of a feasibility study regarding the acquisition of additional car parking land. Parking charges were discussed but members were informed that we have no control over the charges they are being implemented across the West Midlands Trains network on their own car parks. Mr Harris would send Cllr Smith an invitation to the Community Transport Event in Birmingham on 20th September 2019 but this would be passed to another Cllr as Cllr Smith would be on holiday.

Mr Harris asked if there was an event in the near future where he could come to speak to residents. He said he would come to be a speaker at the Public Meeting organised by the Civic Society on 14th October and would explain their plans for the Station.

Mr Harris asked if the Council would provide help/input to WMT for their Station Travel Plan and members agreed to do so. Cllr Smith to ask for more information.

Members were very grateful for the time and effort by Cllr Smith and wanted to record their thanks to him for his hard work. Cllr Pate asked that Cllr Smith write to Steve Davenport and Steve Brown to keep them updated of the current position and to ensure monies are still secure for the necessary works on the station ramp.

19075 To receive a verbal update on the summer activities (Cllr Woodman)

Cllr Woodman said that he had attended some of the events held over the summer and these were very good. The Clerk also had facilitated at some of the events but she asked Cllr Medlyn to comment as she had been heavily involved in this project working at the Red House. Cllr Medlyn said that a vote of thanks must be given to the volunteers who had worked every day for 5 weeks, councillors agreed. She stated the last week was quieter due to families getting ready for school and some being on holiday taking advantage of the bank holiday.

Cllr Straney asked how many families from RAF Cosford had supported the event and Cllr Medlyn said very few. Cllr Straney said he was disappointed as the village is not getting the support from Cosford that they used to get.

19076 Correspondence

For action:

a) St Marys Church – Silver Mace – insurance query (enclosure)

The Clerk had circulated a letter from the church regarding the Mace which stated that they thought the Mace was covered under our insurance policy. The Clerk informed Council that she had subsequently been in touch with our insurers and they had confirmed that whilst the former Clerk had mentioned the Mace to them, he had not set up any insurance cover for it, the Mace was only covered under public liability insurance. She further stated that if council wanted to provide this insurance for the Mace, it would need to have its up to date insurance valuation to progress this.

Cllr Beechey said that Paul Joseland was trying to get the Mace valued for the council but Council were concerned that this had been taking a while. Members felt it would be helpful if the Clerk could be provided with information. It was agreed that Cllr Beechey would provide the Clerk with the contact details so she could arrange for the Mace to be valued, and then the Mace could be insured properly. The Clerk was asked to write to the church and explain that the Council would need to get the Mace valued and insured before they could make a decision regarding where it would be displayed on a long-term basis.

Action – Cllr Beechey & Clerk

19077. Date of next meeting:

- a) Albrighton Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 2nd October 2019 at 7.15 pm in The Red House.

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

Chairman