



ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Station Road

Albrighton

Wolverhampton

WV7 3QH

Email: clerk@albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.albrightonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Present

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

In attendance:

S Reynolds Clerk to Albrighton Parish Council. There were 8 members of the public present.

Minutes of the Albrighton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4th October 2018 at 6.30 pm in the Red House.

Minutes of meeting

The Chairman introduced Margaret Wright (Managing Director) and Martin Whitelegg (Neighbourhoods Manager) from STAR Housing and Clive Wright (Chief Executive) and Cllr Dean Carrol (Dept Portfolio holder Housing) from Shropshire Council and firstly asked Margaret Wright to speak on behalf of STAR Housing.

Margaret gave a presentation on their current housing vision for Albrighton and also explained how STAR Housing was formed and is owned by Shropshire Council. STAR Housing manages mainly housing in Bridgnorth and Albrighton with 272 houses in this area. She explained that only 39 houses have become available for rent in the last 4 years which has created pressures for allocations in the area.

Clive Wright explained how STAR Housing managed properties on behalf of Shropshire Council as an 'arm's length' management company and how Shropshire Council manage the Home Point policy which allocates points to people requesting housing.

The Chairman of Albrighton Parish Council then invited questions from residents after explaining he would be extending the time to include the public session time from the subsequent Albrighton Parish Council meeting.

There were many questions and a robust discussion on how allocations and housing stock was not meeting the demand in Albrighton. Several residents raised issues concerning 'Home Point' and asked whether local residents could be allocated points for them to be able to secure a local property. Cllr Medlyn left the meeting at 7.10pm. Cllr Dean Carol said the points allocated for having a connection to an area is for a connection for anywhere in the county and not for a particular area

or village/town in Shropshire. A resident said that as she had childcare support and other connections to Albrighton that she can't apply for a house in another part of the county as she could not afford to lose that support. Several residents asked that the system should award a point(s) for having a connection to the village where the offered property is located. Three Cllrs took up this point and asked SC and Home Point to consider this aspect.

The Chairman thanked all the speakers for their attendance and for their offer to speak to residents individually about their personal issues after the meeting.

18083. Apologies

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

Apologies received from:

Roger Rudman (holiday) Sandra Kirkland (work commitments) and James Pledger (work commitments)

18084. 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

18085. 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.

Fifteen members of the public were in attendance, all members of the public were given time to ask questions on any item on the agenda.

This had been earlier in the meeting, no further questions asked.

18086. Report by the Shropshire Council member, Cllr. M Pate, with regard to items of business likely to affect the community.

Cllr Pate informed Councillors he together with the Vice Chair had met with Ian Kilby, Richard Fortune (Planners) and Gemma Lawley (Highway Development) again regarding the new application which has been submitted. He felt that other than the removal of the care home element there was no change to the application – i.e. the traffic access to Shaw Lane and drainage connection to the Shaw Lane sewer which the Planning Committee opposed are still features of the new Application. Cllr Pate also informed the council that Cross Road had now been patched.

18087. Parish Councillors' reports with regard to any items of council business they have recently conducted likely to affect the community.

The Clerk informed council that the list of outside bodies which should be revisited and approved at the AGM every year does not include all of the meetings. The Clerk explained that the Albrighton/Shifnal team meetings were not on the list which she had circulated. The Clerk explained that council needed to approve a member to represent Albrighton Parish Council on this committee.

Cllr S Pledger stated that she had been representing Albrighton Parish Council on this committee. The Vice Chair expressed concern about the lack of reports from the committee and Cllr Pledger explained that the information is sometimes confidential and can't be shared. Cllr Hickson expressed an interest and said that he would be pleased to represent the council on this committee. The Chairman then put this appointment to the vote. Cllr Hickson was duly elected as the council representative by a majority vote.

18088. 18088 Minutes of previous meetings:

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2018.

It was then PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED unanimously that the minutes of 6th September 2018 were true and accurate records.

18089. Matters arising

To consider any issues arising from the minutes that are not included on the agenda.

An update report on the Flyer by Cllrs Smith & Illes that had been requested at the last meeting had been circulated and the Vice Chairman explained how there had been an increase in usage following the publicity campaign, but more evening and weekend bookings were needed. The report also included detail costings for the running costs of the Flyer and the Vice Chairman reported his surprise and dismay that the Clerk had discovered that the MOT of the Flyer had expired and it was also untaxed. Fortunately, the new Clerk had acted on this immediately and had arranged for the vehicle to be MOT'ed that same day. Concern was expressed that the former Clerk/RFO had allowed this to happen.

Thanks, were expressed to Cllr Medlyn who had offered the use of her own car for bus users whilst the Flyer was being MOT'ed.

It was noted that the Bus Subsidy Operators Grant had been lost due to the RFO claiming it too late. The report included an analysis of the passenger usage showing that morning trips were more popular and usage reduced in the afternoon.

The cost of running the Flyer was discussed together with the lower fares that are currently available for bus pass holders. Cllr Smith asked council to consider the proposals at the end of the report.

It was then PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED unanimously that the Flyer Working Party would: -

- a) consider how best to use the remaining leaflets and implement any action

b) carry out a consultation on future fares and report back to council for a decision to be taken regarding future process, especially for bus pass users.

The Chairman thanks Cllrs Smith and Illes for their hard work on this report

18090. Committee reports:

None

18091. Planning:

Planning applications:

Reference: 18/04178/FUL

Address: The Old Mill House, 11 Holyhead Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire.

Proposal: Erection of single storey ground floor rear extensions; replacement front porch; replacement of existing flat roof over Eastern block with new pitched roof; formation of raised rear patio with steps; conversion of existing carport into habitable accommodation and the over cladding of the building

Applicant: Mr D Allen

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

Reference: 18/04219/FUL (validated: 11/09/2018)

Address: 22 Loak Road, Albrighton, Shropshire, WV7 3HT

Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension

Applicant: Mrs M Littlewood

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

Reference 18/04320/TPO

Address: Cloverfield, 1A Redford Drive, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire.

Proposal: To carry out works to 2No Lime Trees (see description of works) protected by Shropshire Council (Land to the south of Station Road) TPO 2010

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

Reference: 18/04439/TPO (validated: 26/09/2018)

Address: 28 Grange Park, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3EN

Proposal: Crown lift to approx. 20ft from base 1no Yew protected by the Shropshire Council (Land at and to the West of Church Lane, Albrighton) TPO 2010 (Ref: SC/00020/10)

Applicant: Mrs Madeline Croton

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

Reference: 18/04270/FUL

Address: Bridge House, High House Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire.

Proposal: Erection of part single/part two storey front and side extensions and replacement of existing outbuilding with a garage/store

Applicant: Mr Mohan Sahni

It was felt by members that many planning applications had been submitted in respect of this property and that it was becoming too large for its site. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED

that council recommend rejection of this application on the grounds of over development of a property in the green belt.

Planning decisions:

None received to date

Planning enforcement:

None received to date

18092. Finance & Personnel:

a. To receive a report by the Chairman to also include receipts and payments up to 31st August, 2018

Cllr. Maguire presented his report up to 31st August 2018. Members expressed concern that the Highways grant of £5,000 had not yet been received together with other issues. It was agreed that there was a need to establish what monies should be expected by Albrighton Parish Council and that it would be helpful if cheques/payments made within the previous month was presented within the minutes. This has not been the case for the last 6 months, these will now be included in minutes.

b. To consider the appointment of internal auditor.

The Clerk informed council that an internal auditor had not yet been appointed and 3 quotes had previously been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that DM Payroll be appointed as internal auditor for 2018/19.

Cllr Maguire informed Council that since Cllr Kirkland had resigned, they had been carrying a vacancy on Finance & Personnel Committee and he felt it would be appropriate for this vacancy to be filled. It was proposed that Cllr Pitchford join this committee and put to the vote.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr Pitchford be elected to the Finance & Personnel Committee by a majority vote (1 abstention)

18093. To consider report from Cllr Medlyn regarding further arrangements for the Christmas lights 2018.

Cllr Medlyn was not in attendance so this item was deferred to next meeting.

a) To consider purchase of Christmas tree and lights

The Clerk asked councillors if they wanted to consider the purchase of a Christmas tree and lights for the forthcoming festive season.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a budget of up to £1,000 would be available to purchase a Christmas tree and lights and to have it installed and that permission be sought from the Red House for it to be positioned on their land.

18094 To receive update on Road resurfacing programme –

The Clerk circulated the response received after continual chasing from Shropshire Council. The major/minor works detailed did not include any timescales and was not therefore too helpful.

18095 To receive update regarding play scheme Summer Play Scheme.

The Clerk informed Council that she had written to Cllr Kirkland as instructed. No response had yet been received, and Cllr Kirkland was not present at the meeting so item to be deferred.

18096 To consider signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

Cllr Beechey stated that he felt with our close links to Cosford we should support this. All members agreed that we should sign this covenant.

18097 To consider that Albrighton Parish Council apply to be considered for the 'VILLAGE IN BLOOM' competition, in 2019 (Cllr Pledger)

Cllr Straney expressed concern as he felt that the village was not at the point yet where we could do this. The village currently has its own Civic Society competition for gardens and hanging baskets etc. and he felt we should continue to encourage residents to get involved with this. Cllr Pitchford also felt that the village was currently below the standard needed for 'village in bloom' and we should consider this at another time if it was suitable.

18098. To note date of next meeting Albrighton Parish Council to be held on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 7.15 pm.

Moved to later in agenda

18099. To consider report regarding the financial invoicing & payments (Cllr M Pate)

It was felt by all Councillors that this be discussed in confidential session

18100. To consider Place Plan Review, Identification of critical infrastructure priorities (Cllr Beechey)

Due to time constraints it was felt that a working group should be established to look at this. The review of the Place Plan is to be completed by the end of November and may influence the future allocation of CIL monies.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a working group be established, members to be Cllrs Pate, Woodman, Smith with Cllr Beechey as Chair.

18101 To consider Christmas meal

The Chairman felt that it would be more appropriate this year to have a small lunch time event for the staff which he would attend to represent the Council. The Chairman said this would be paid for from his Chairman's allowance.

18102 Correspondence

For action:

To consider request from Albrighton RBL for replacement bench at the Red House

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support Albrighton RBL decision to replace the bench, but to ensure they had agreement from the Red House to do this as it was not Albrighton Parish Council land.

To consider request from SC regarding information point

The Clerk explained she had been in negotiation with Shropshire Council to retain a level of service for residents regarding the Information Point. Councillors were informed that the subsidy of £3,000 would cease but Albrighton Parish Council would still be able to offer a service for local residents if we could sustain it.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk should pursue this option if possible.

To consider request from a resident for details regarding the cost of the EM.

Clerk informed Council that she had received a request from a resident for details of the extra costs incurred by the holding of the EM on 15.8.18 and needed Councils direction as to whether these could be released or not.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED unanimously that the Clerk should provide all details of costs involved in the EGM including hall hire, staffing costs and any other costs incurred.

To consider request from Albrighton Village Halls Trust

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED AND AGREED to support the Albrighton Village Trust with the costs towards the Pensioners Christmas Party 2018 and that the sum of £500 be given to the Albrighton Village Trust.

18103 Date of next meeting:

- a) Albrighton Parish Council meeting – Thursday 8th November, 2018 at 7.15 pm in The Red House.

The Clerk informed the Council that she would be on leave on the 1st November and requested that the next meeting could be held on 8th November 2018.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the date of the next meeting would be 8th November 2018.

Agenda items for the Albrighton Parish Council meeting to be held on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 7.15 pm.

- Issuing of correspondence to Councillors

- Report from the Working Group of the Place Plan
- Report from Finance & Personnel
- Update regarding Summer Playscheme (deferred)

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.