



ALBRIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – 3rd March 2021

The remote Albrighton Parish Council meeting which was held through Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 6.00pm.

COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE: P Woodman, R Smith, P Illes, A Straney, P Collins, R Rudman, S Pledger, J Pledger, M Pitchford, M Medlyn

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Reynolds Clerk to the Council and one member of the public.

ORDINARY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

20112 Apologies

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

Cllr B Hickson, apology was accepted by council.

20113. 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 20125.

20114. Public Participation

Members of the public are invited to ask questions, make representations or submit comments please contact the Clerk prior to the meeting. This is LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON – at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

Member of the public was invited to speak by the Chairman, but had nothing to raise.

20115. Minutes of previous meeting:

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2021

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes of 3rd February 2021 were true and accurate records.

20116 Matters Arising

To consider any matters arising from the minutes which are not included in the agenda

None to note.

20117 To consider the Clerks report (enclosed)

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The Chairman asked the Clerk to outline a few main points from her report which had already been circulated which the Clerk did and then asked members if they had any comments.

Cllr Illes thanked the Clerk for the information she had provided and asked if the Covid-19 regulations regarding the Flyer had changed, the Clerk updated members that the regulations on passenger numbers remained unchanged following the latest government guidelines.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work and moved that the report be accepted.

20118 Finance & Personnel

a) To receive a report of the receipts and payments up to 31st January

The Clerk informed members that the end of month accounts had been circulated to all Councillors and she was happy to answer any questions, none were asked.

b) To consider income & expenditure in February 2021 details below:

Expenditure

Date	Cheque	To Whom Payable	Reason	Amount
01/02/21	FPM	Parish Council Website	Accessibility Contract 2021	150.00
08/02/21	FPM	Manby Bowdler	Professional Fees Invoice 62587 (nett)	2500.00
08/02/21	FPM	Heartwoods	Work on trees at War Memorial	1000.00
10/02/21	Chq	Civil Parking Enforcement	Parking fine for the Flyer	75.00
15/02/21	DD	Mainstream Digital	Telephone charges	44.73
15/02/21	DD	West Mercia Energy	Gas charges Dec 20	165.80
15/02/21	DD	Fuel Genie	Flyer fuel January 2021	87.98
15/02/21	FPM	Waterplus	Invoice S-DCAFee00072575	40.00
18/02/21	DD	West Mercia Energy	Electricity charges Dec 2020	91.36
19/02/21	FPM	NALC	NALC Training	38.93
19/02/21	FPM	HMRC Cumbernauld	PAYE/NI Contributions Jan 2021	1332.24
19/02/21	FPM	O Neal	Reimbursement postage Beverley B S	6.85
21/02/21	FPM	Parish Council Website	Amendment to Flyer Page	35.00
22/02/21	FPM	Shropshire Council	Pension Contributions Feb 2021	1645.17
22/02/21	FPM	Manby Bowdler	Professional Fees Invoice 63029 (nett)	1000.00
23/02/21	FPM	Albrighton Parish Council	Staff Salaries Feb 2021	4934.67
23/02/21	DD	GB Copier	Library copier	31.20
26/02/21	DD	Ald	Flyer lease Feb 2021	713.41
28/02/21	DD	Veolia	Duty of care Jan 2021	4.00

Income

Date	Payment Type	Payer	Reason	Amount
01/02/21	DD	Nationwide Building Society	Interest on Business Account	3.61
01/02/21	DD	Shropshire Council	Library Subsidy	1200.00
09/01/21	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 26 – 29 Jan 2021	48.00
09/02/21	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 19 – 22 Jan 2021	44.00
09/02/21	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 12 – 15 Jan 2021	43.00

16/02/21	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 2 – 5 Feb 2021	47.00
23/02/21	Cash	Albrighton Parish Council	Flyer cash 9 – 12 Feb 2021	24.00

The Clerk asked members if they had any questions, Cllr S Pledger asked what the cheque for Manby Bowdler was and the Chairman explained this would be dealt with under a later agenda item.

Cllr S Pledger also asked what the £75 parking fine was for and the Clerk explained that this was a fine the Parish Council had received because the Flyer had been parked on double yellow lines in Bridgenorth on the 22/12/20. The Clerk had tried to appeal this fine but the civil parking enforcement company had photographic evidence that the vehicle was parked for over 45 mins without a disabled badge being on display in a prohibited area and would not waive the charge. Cllr Illes asked if it stated within the Flyer Drivers Handbook that the driver was responsible for fines, the Clerk informed him that this was correct but council could advise if this was to be enforced. Discussion followed on this matter and it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the enforcement company to see if the fine could be overturned.

Action – Cllr Smith

Members approved the income & expenditure for the month together with all internet banking transactions.

Resolved: It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREEDED unanimously that the income & expenditure for the month together with all online banking transactions be approved.

20119 To receive planning report - Planning Working Party

The Chairman invited Cllr Woodman to lead on this item, a report had previously circulated regarding the planning items received which had been reviewed by the Planning Working Party and that they were recommending support. Cllr Woodman further explained that he was seeking further detail from Shropshire Council regarding an application which Albrighton Parish Council had previously considered, which the council had recommended be referred to their planning committee for determination but Shropshire Council had approved this via Planning Officers delegated powers.

Resolved: It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREEDED by a majority that the applications were recommended for support.

Action – Clerk

20120 To receive update from AFLAG

The Chairman asked Cllr Collins to give a report on AFLAG as Cllr Collins is the Chairman of AFLAG. Cllr Collins gave a very detailed update on all the activities of AFLAG since the flooding in 2018. Cllr Collins went through the various areas of the village which had been affected by flooding detailing the issues and what mitigations and measures were either being considered or completed to improve these issues.

Cllr Collins updated members work which was carried out at the railway bridge in Station Road and spoke about its relative success and possible next steps. With reference to the bridge at Newport Road the repair work is now underway and the work is planned to take 3 weeks. AFLAG had been instrumental in being pressure to bear on all 3 agencies and it was hoped that the solution now being brought forward would improve this area which floods regularly whenever there is heavy rainfall.

Cllr Collins also discussed the improvements to the road gully maintenance program, issues with land drains in parts of the village, the brook, together with the condition of the sewers in Kingswood Road and the subsequent repairs.

Cllr Collins informed members that 2 members of AFLAG now sit on the National Flood Forum and was ensuring that our issues were being heard and supported nationally. This would be really helpful in hopefully access funding for some of the infrastructure improvements needed. AFLAG had met with Shropshire Council and were considering how a local flood response hub could be set up and managed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Collins for his very detailed report and for how much work he and other members of AFLAG had done over the last 2 years and the progress that had been made. Cllr Collins thanked the Chairman explained that it was very much a team effort.

20121. To receive an update from the Christmas Lights Working Party

The Clerk had circulated a report on behalf of Cllr Illes and the Christmas Lights Working Party Cllr Illes informed members that the Christmas Lights Working Party had been very active recently assessing what work needed to be done for next year, he commented that the electric bill had not yet been received it was expected that all costs would be around £1,300 over budget but this included the new infrastructure which had been put in place which would normally have been budgeted over 3 years but had been paid in full up front. Cllr Illes informed members that the working party had started to look at other sites to extend the lights display and asked that a further £1,000 be earmarked for that. The costs of pollarding the trees this year had been around £1,600 and it was felt that now during the pandemic was not the right time to increase the Christmas lights display costs further. He informed members that the costing for next year was much less at £8,800 and the recommendation from the working party was that the contract be placed for this year with Turncock's.

Resolved: It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED by a majority that the Christmas lights contract with Turnock be extended for the year 2021/2022. Action – Clerk

20122 To consider litter picking proposal

Cllr J Pledger informed members that after discussion with Cllr Illes who had put this proposal forward, he was seeking advice as to the timing of this event, Cllr Illes explained that he had received several complaints about the increase of litter around the village and that a community litter pick may help improve this. Cllr J Pledger said that he had considered either early April or late June as part of the national 'Big Spring Clean' as dates for the activity to take place. The Clerk informed members that she had been informed by Shifnal Town Council that Shropshire Council had advised them that due to the restrictions, H&S concerns and also having no control of where the volunteers may be venturing (e.g. on to private land) that Town and Parish Councils should not be supporting or assisting in these activities until after all restrictions had been lifted. Members agreed it would be best to follow advice given by Shropshire Council and that a June date would be better.

Resolved: It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED unanimously that planning should proceed for June assuming that restrictions are eased, if this was not the case then the matter would come back to council for approval of a new date.

20123 To receive a verbal report regarding ICO

Cllr J Pledger said that he had been told by the ICO that the Council should correct the council record. The council record was that Cllr Woodman had said Cllr J Pledger had breached the Localism Act concerning his Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Form and it was a criminal offence. Cllr J Pledger wanted this corrected as it was not true that he had breached the Act and not committed a criminal offence. He said the ICO said that it must be corrected within 30 days.

Cllr J Pledger said that information was shared with the Finance & Personnel Committee and the result of his SAR to the Clerk did not provide the information which he believed it would. He said he felt the Clerk was not providing all he asked for.

The Chairman said that Cllr J Pledger has phoned him on the evening of 5th February 2021 and had asked if APC would issue an apology for Cllr Woodman saying that he had committed a criminal offence. Cllr J Pledger said that Graham White had provided information that showed he did not commit an offence and that this information had been shared with all Councillors. The Chairman replied saying that this was long ago and he seemed to recall that Cllr J Pledger provided an extract or a quotation from the information Cllr J Pledger had received from Graham White but not a copy of Graham White's advice. The Chairman stated that he had received the Clerk's email of 5th February replying to Cllr J Pledger in which she said that she had copied it to the Chairman as the corporate council body may be able to answer Cllr J Pledger. During the phone call the Chairman has asked why doesn't Cllr J Pledger send the full information from Graham White. Send it in its entirety and it would also be relevant to have the full information, in its entirety, of what Cllr J Pledger sent to Graham White on which he based his reply. Cllr J Pledger agreed to do so but then Cllr J Pledger changed his mind during the call and the discussion ended.

The Chairman said that he would review the evidence concerning Cllr J Pledger's request and if it was found that the council record was wrong it would be corrected. To check he would need to gather evidence including that in the council office records and if Cllr J Pledger had evidence would he please provide a full copy of the document(s), as just described to him asap.

Cllr J Pledger explained several times that the council record said he had breached the Act and committed an offence.

Cllr J Pledger proposed a motion and Cllr S Pledger said she would second it. Cllr Collins said he was not a councillor at the time mentioned and that as he had not seen all the evidence, he could not make a judgment and so if there was a vote he would have to abstain. Cllr Pitchford also said that as he did not have all the evidence he would also abstain. The Clerk said that as Cllr J Pledger had not provided notice of a motion it was not on the agenda a motion could not be put. Cllr S Pledger said that we had just had a vote on the Christmas lights and the Clerk said this was because the proposal was in the report submitted by Cllr Illes.

Cllr J Pledger said this was an example of the litany of mistakes made by the Clerk, which she refuted.

The Clerk drew councillors' attention to the time and explained that Council needed to vote on whether to continue the meeting as over two hours had passed, this was in line with the councils Standing Order 3x.

Resolved: It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED by a majority that the meeting should continue.

Cllr J Pledger said he did not mean to make the Clerk feel uncomfortable, but she replied that he had hadn't made her feel uncomfortable but that he had really upset her. Cllr Pledger said he apologised for upsetting her it was not his intention.

The Clerk informed councillors that she had noticed when checking members votes that Cllr Medlyn appeared to have left the meeting.

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The Chairman said that this matter raised by Cllr J Pledger needed to be resolved correctly but unfortunately councillors did not have the evidence before them to determine the matter during this meeting.

The Chairman said that this issue of the Council record would be put on the agenda for the next meeting when councillors would be able to see the evidence. The Clerk informed all councillors that any such evidence/documents needed to be submitted prior to the meeting to her in order that it could be circulated to all councillors in readiness for the meeting, the Chairman and other members agreed.

20124 Date of next meeting:

Albrighton Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 7th April 2021 6pm via Microsoft Teams
Exclusion of Press and Public

Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 – to Resolve that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which will involve the likely disclosure of information as defined in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960, the public and press will be temporarily excluded from the meeting and asked to withdraw.

20125 Staffing Update

This item was held in private session, for which a separate minute of item 20125 is held on file in the council office and members may view this by appointment with the Clerk. (as explained in item 20089)

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for attending and the meeting closed at 20.46pm

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