

Albrighton Parish Council



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DRAFT

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** of Albrighton Parish Council, held on **Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7.00pm**

The Red House, Albrighton, Nr Wolverhampton WV7 3QH

Present:

Councillors: Beechey, Benson, Gold, Harrison, Illes, Lumby, Noakes, Meyrick, Pledger, Robinson, Webster, Wild and Wilmot.

Officers: Locum Clerk – Michael Ward

There were seven (7) members of the public present at the meeting.

A quorum was present for all decisions made. Names present were recorded.

FCM24/55 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman of the Council welcomed members and the public to the meeting.

FCM24/56 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Medlyn and Straney each of which was accepted by the Council.

FCM24/57 Code of Conduct

No pecuniary or other interests were declared.

FCM24/58 Public Participation

Proposed: Councillor Webster **Seconded:** Councillor Meyrick.

Unanimously agreed by Councillors.

RESOLVED that the Council agree for the Chairman of the Council to adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes as per Standing Order 3.d., 3.e., 3.f. and 3.h. and allow members of the press or public who want to raise any issue or query or question to do so.

A member of the Albrighton Action Group provided an update on the position regarding the proposal by Boningale Homes to build houses to the south of the village. A petition opposing the development had gathered 2700 signatures to date, a website had been established and flyers and posters and banners had been distributed. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram had

been used to provide further information and opportunities for comment, together with the Parish Magazine, and a planning consultant and lawyer had also been involved.

On 17th April, the Shropshire Council Local Plan would be distributed and on 16th May Mark Pritchard M.P. would talk at a public meeting.

After clarification was provided regarding the planning application for the proposed development Councillor Webster proposed that the Council meeting should be reconvened which was seconded by Councillor Pledger, and unanimously agreed by Councillors.

FCM24/59 Minutes of previous meetings

Councillor Pledger asked that a typographical error in FCM24/47 regarding the word warm be corrected to war.

Proposed: Councillor Pledger **Seconded:** Councillor Benson **Agreed** 11 **Against** 0 **Abstain** 2

Councillor Lumby asked that an additional note should be added after item FCM24/41 that he left for the remainder of the meeting.

FCM24/60 Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Lumby reported that Shropshire Council were almost certain to charge £52 per year for green bin usage in the future although residents would not have to participate in the gardening waste service. There was little to report over some lampposts that had been causing concern or village grit bins. The raised tables were no longer included in the place plan and a meeting is being arranged to discuss the proposals regarding the redrawing of local boundaries.

FCM24/61 Update from the Clerk

In the absence of the Clerk there was no update.

FCM24/62 Update from the Finance and Grants Committee

There had been an 8.5% increase in the 2024/25 precept which would be paid on 24th April. Councillor Noakes proposed that the Nature Reserve Funding for 2024/25 (Appendix B) should be accepted.

Proposed: Councillor Noakes **Seconded:** Councillor Robinson **Agreed:** All(13)

Members agreed to defer the possible purchase of IT equipment for Councillors until the next financial year.

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held on 23rd April.

FCM24/63 Updated Policies

To accept the following policies:

- Social Media Policy (Appendix C)
- Freedom of Information Policy (Appendix D)
- Publication Scheme (Appendix E)

Proposed: Councillor Noakes **Seconded:** Councillor Pledger **Agreed:** All(13)

- Health and Safety Policy (Appendix F)

Proposed: Councillor Noakes **Seconded:** Councillor Robinson **Agreed:** All(13)

Councillors agreed that the Room Hire Policy (Appendix G) needed to be modified and further discussion on this item was deferred.

- Communication Protocol (Appendix H)

Proposed: Councillor Noakes **Seconded** Councillor Pledger **Agreed:** All (13)

The Financial Risk Assessment was deferred to a later meeting.

Members agreed that the Clerk be asked to write a letter of thanks to the manager of The Harp Public House for the recent donation for a new defibrillator.

FCM24/64 Library Opening Hours

The continued opening of the Library on Wednesdays, which had been operative during the last six months, was discussed. The Clerk had provided figures, which suggested a 25% increase in footfall, and she pointed out that she could not act as gatekeeper for any community groups using the facility if the library was closed on Wednesdays, and would probably need to work from home on that day. Other Councillors pointed out that there was concern over the costs associated with this extra day when the council budget was under pressure.

At the end of the discussion Councillor Illes proposed that HR examines the rostering and the hours worked by staff and extend the trial period by another 6 months while this was being undertaken.

Proposed: Councillor Illes **Seconded:** Councillor Webster **Agreed:** 9 **Against:** 4

FCM24/65 Update from the Planning Committee

There was no update from the Planning Committee.

FCM24/66 Update from Events Committee

The committee had now been designated as a Working Group and its next meeting was scheduled for 13th May.

FCM24/67 Update from the General Purpose Committee

A meeting had been held in March and clarification on the yellow lines in Station Road had been sought. The wooden posts were to be retained and inspection as to their condition was being arranged. The new Committee would decide about planters and any tree planting.

A new meeting was planned regarding the Coronation Garden and 17 fruit trees were now available for planting.

Councillor Benson had prepared an Engagement Survey (Appendix J) for the future aims of the Parish Council. A suggestion was made that these should be posted through residents' doors by Councillors, and collected at a later date.

Proposed: Councillor Benson **Seconded:** Councillor Pledger **Agreed:** All (13)

FCM24/68 Update from Working Groups

War Memorial - There had been no new meetings of the War Memorial Working Group, but future meeting dates had been set. Councillor Webster reported that a grant of £20,000 had been approved and conservation work by Grosvenor Construction was due to begin on 15th April. An information notice board had been erected by the church.

Coronation Garden - All of the trees had been planted in the Coronation Gardens and earlier plantings were now flourishing and in flower. Mowing of the grass was now required and a donation from Boningale Homes for the construction of a path had been offered. Councillor Pledger emphasised that this had nothing to do with the proposed development of 600 homes currently being considered by Shropshire Council and therefore the donation should be accepted.

Proposed: Councillor Pledger **Seconded:** Councillor Wild **Agreed:** 11 **Abstain:** 2

Albrighton Parking Action Group (APAG) - Councillor Meyrick informed members that the cameras and other parking equipment had been removed from the Crown Car Park but parking in Station Road was still under discussion.

There was no report from the Millfield Financial Assessment Working Group.

FCM24/69 Allotments Association – Annual General Meeting

It was reported that new officers had been elected to the Allotments Association at their AGM and there was now a waiting list for any vacant plots. The level of activity was good although it had not been helped by the very wet weather.

FCM24/70 Bowling Green Lane – Speeding

Councillor Lumby stated that any signing or other measures to help reduce speeding in Bowling Green Lane should be added to the Place Plan and Councillor Webster confirmed that speeding in the lane and the loss of signing was a real concern.

Councillor Lumby proposed that additional or replacement signage should go into the Place Plan.

Proposed: Councillor Lumby **Seconded:** Councillor Robinson **Agreed:** All (13)

FCM24/71 Footpaths Group

Councillor Illes informed Council that money was needed to improve local footpaths and figures of £10,000 from APC CIL money and £68,000 from Shropshire Council would cover the costs of the necessary work. He said that the CIL money could be made available over a phased period and a working group comprising of representatives from all interested local groups should be formed to manage the work over time.

After discussion Cllr Illes proposed the Council should seek general support for the project, establish a working group and add this to the Place Plan.

Proposed: Councillor Illes **Seconded:** Councillor Pledger **Agreed:** 12 **Abstained:** 1

FCM24/72 Boningale Homes

The Chairman reported that because representatives of Boningale Homes had not attended a recent meeting there was nothing to report.

FCM24/73 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

FCM24/74 Items for the next Agenda

The Chairman asked members to inform the Clerk if they had any items for the next full Council agenda.

FCM24/75 Exclusion of Press and Public

Proposed: Cllr. Robinson **Seconded:** Cllr. Noakes **Agreed:** All (13)

RESOLVED that as under Section 100 (A) Local Government Act 1972, the press and public to be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.

FCM24/76 Date of next meeting

- Annual General Meeting – Thursday 25th April 2024 - 7.00 pm
- Annual Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 9th May 2024 - 7.00 pm
- Finance, HR and Grants – to be confirmed
- General Purpose – Thursday 18th April 2024 - 6.00 pm

Meetings held at the Red House, High Street, Albrighton, Nr. Wolverhampton. WV7 3LU

The meeting closed at 8.41 pm