

Albrighton Parish Council



Albrighton Parish Council

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DRAFT

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** of Albrighton Parish Council, held on **Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7.00pm** The Red House, Albrighton, Nr Wolverhampton WV7 3QH

Councillors Present: Benson, Harrison, Lumby, Medlyn, Meyrick, Noakes, Pledger, Robinson, and Wild.

Clerk to the Council: Joanne Oliver

There were nine (9) members of the public present.

FCM24/01 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman of the Council to welcome everyone to the meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year, thanking them for their continued work within the Council.

FCM24/02 Apologies for Absence

To receive, consider and accept, as appropriate, any apologies for absence in accordance with the terms of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillors who cannot attend the meeting are requested to tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting.

Apologies were received from the following councillors: Gold, Wilmot, Webster, Straney, Illes.

FCM24/03 Code of Conduct

Disclosable Pecuniary and other Interests.

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting, and which is not included in the register of interests. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

None received.

Dispensations.

To consider and approve any requests for dispensations. None received.

FCM24/04 Public Participation

The Chair to adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes, as per Standing Order 3.d., 3.e., 3.f., and 3.h.

If any member of the press or public wish to raise any issues, queries or questions at the meeting please contact the Parish Clerk by 12noon on Wednesday 10th January 2024, where you request will be noted, tabled at the meeting and you will be asked to provide your comments by the Chairman.

Meeting proposed to be closed.

Proposed Cllr Robinson **Seconded** Cllr Pledger **Agreed All (9)**

There were *9 members of the public* who attended this meeting.

Mr B Wilkinson publicly apologised for his 'outburst' at Decembers Full Council meeting. Apology accepted by the Chairman of the Council.

Mr Wilkinson went on to say that on behalf of residents of Station Road, he and his partner had compiled a survey for speeding and traffic issues. A number of surveys had been returned and he wished to find out how these could be used. He was advised to speak with the Clerk by making contact early W/C 14th January. He also stated his opinion and that of others gathered in regards to the parking time restrictions within the village. Councillors answered questions posed within the open session.

Public session was then closed late. (18 minutes)

Proposed Cllr Robinson **Seconded** Cllr Noakes **Agreed All (9)**

FCM24/05 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes received and reviewed for the Full Council Meeting on the 7th December 2023. These had previously been circulated to all members and agreed by the Chairman in principle.

Proposed SP Seconded AM Agreed 5 Abstain 4 (9)

Minutes received and reviewed for the Extra-Ordinary Meeting on the 4th January 2024.

Proposed AM Seconded SP Agreed 6 Abstain 3 (9)

FCM24/06 General Update from the Clerk to the Council Casual Vacancy Update

2nd May 2024 meeting - a request had been to move this due to SC/Police requesting they have the whole building for elections. Cllr Medlyn was unsure and agreed to look into this matter and confirm back to the Chair of the Council. *Action Cllr Medlyn to report findings.*

APC celebrates 130years – The Clerk requested that councillors provide a baby photograph to the office and asked that they spread the word to any previous Councillors.

Update regarding Crown Car Park – A letter had been sent to Marstons. Cllr's Lumby and Meyrick gave a further update that they were awaiting a meeting date to be forwarded.

FCM24/07 Update from the Finance and Grants Committee

The Chair of the committee Cllr Noakes provided an overview and details on the following: -

Monthly expenditure against the current budget – This is currently sitting at 85% of 2023/24 budget. No concerns raised.

Precept & Budget – It was shared that work had been undertaken to conclude the proposal for 2024/25 precept and budget. Information was shared about all the positive work and purchases that had taken place in the current year and most of the work highlighted around Health and Safety

had now been undertaken with the exception on new fire doors. It was shared that the proposal would be for an 8.5% increase overall, this would place a Band D Council Tax Charge at £118.75, this would be a £9.30 increase per month. Some councillors voiced their disagreement in this and felt if purchases had not been made the increase would not be necessary, others stated this was not the case.

A proposal was put forward to accept the increase and to request a precept amount of £199,368.00 stating that the Council would be supporting this by transferring £41,032.00 from the reserve fund. Total budget requirements for 2024/2025 totalled £ 246,700.00.

Proposed CN Seconded AR Agreed 6 Abstain 1 Against 2 (9)

FCM24/08 Update from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Lumby advised there was not much information to share at this time.

It was stated that he had contacted Highways at SC prior to Christmas to ensure the work on the unsafe walkway outside the Estate agents at the top of the village was undertaken due to a resident falling. This work had partly been completed, however further work was required and he would be following this up. *Office - noted they had followed up also.*

FCM24/09 Update from the General-Purpose Meeting

The Chairman of the General-Purpose Committee Cllr Illes had forwarded his apologies. The Vice Chair of the Committee and Cllr Pledger gave an overview.

A proposal was made to purchase an additional picnic bench for the Duck Pond on Cross Road made from the same material as the current bench without the additional disabled access.

Proposed AR Seconded NL Agreed All *Action office to purchase.*

FCM/24 – 10 Update from Working Groups

War Memorial – The Clerk gave an update in the absence from the Chairman of the Working Group Cllr Webster. A report had been received from the Chairman asking for additional funds to be supported for a small amount of further landscaping.

Proposed to accept the cost of a maximum £350.00 to cover these costs

Proposed SP Seconded AR Agreed 7 Abstain 2

It was also requested that communication was sent to Shropshire Council with regards to having a 'Dawn to Dusk' light pointing at the War Memorial. *Office to coordinate request and outcome.*

Coronation Gardens - Cllr Pledger gave an overview of the work with disappointing comments that vehicle tracks were once again over the ground. Soil was to be delivered and hoped this would eradicate future problems. There were materials left from donations which had been asked to remove. *Office coordinate Village Warden with APC vehicle to move and store.*

FCM24/11 CCTV

The Council were given an update on the report from Shropshire Council regarding structural outcome and wiring into street lamps.

The office had received information that the CCTV could not be wired into lampposts where there were currently Christmas lights situated, due to isolator switches required and they could not be overloaded. The only solution was to allow the CCTV to be wired in and the re-location of Christmas lights to differing lamp posts for future years. The Clerk had been in communication with

Turnock's who had stated 'we weren't the first' and it seemed this problem was happening all over due to Shropshire Council's requirements.

Proposal was made to move the Christmas lights to different lampposts and to move forward with the installation of the CCTV equipment.

Proposed AR Seconded D Benson Agreed 7 Abstain 2

FCM24/12 Process and Protocol for best working practices

Deferred until FCM May 2024 – *BF Action office to add to agenda.*

FCM24/13 Defibrillator Update

The old BT phone-box was now the property of Albrighton Parish Council. The Harp had made contact stating they were now in receipt of a defibrillator and wished to donate to the Council for use in the old BT phone box. It was explained by the Clerk that there was a complicated process to follow and this would now be looked into. Cllr Robinson was to also report back what equipment The Harp had and how to move forward with the kind donation. *Office contact necessary organisation and report findings on best way to move forward with necessary costing as required.*

FCM24/14 Correspondence.

None received.

FCM24/15 Agenda items for next meeting

Items to be passed through to the Office by 12 noon Wednesday 24th January 2024.

FCM24/ 16 Date of Next Meeting

- General Purpose meeting - 18th January 2024 6pm Library meeting room
- Finance, HR and Grants - 25th January 2024 6pm Library meeting room

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm