



Albrighton Parish Council

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Minutes of the **General-Purpose Committee Meeting** of Albrighton Parish Council held on **Thursday 15th February 2024** in the Library, Station Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton WV7 3QH.

Present: Councillors Benson, Illes, Meyrick, Pledger, Wild.

Clerk: apologies received.

Locum: Mike Ward

Apologies from Cllrs: Harrison, Noakes, Robinson, Wilmot.

There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

A quorum was present for all decisions made.

GPC24/11 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman of the General-Purpose Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

GPC24/12

Disclosable Pecuniary and other Interests.

No declarations were made regarding the Code of Conduct.

GPC24/13 Minutes of previous meeting

There was an amendment GPC24/5 which detailed a suggestion to invite Shropshire Council's Street Scene Officer to give advice on replacing rotten wooden bollards and other associated furniture. All other points were agreed and accepted prior to the change.

Proposed: Cllr. Meyrick **Seconded:** Cllr. Pledger **Agreed:** 3 **Abstain:** 2 (5)

GPC24/14 Tracker update

- **Speeding:** It was noted the policy of providing VAR's was currently being reviewed by Shropshire Council
- **Bike racks:** These had been located in the Red House and advice would be sought from Shropshire Council Street Scene Officer regarding the best/safest sites. Bearing in mind the utilities and services.
- **Grit bins:** Cllr Meyrick reported that 2 on Bowling Green Lane had been filled and he would check the remainder.
- **Moving benches:** Cllr Pledger noted the contact who had previously fixed the benches and would be able to advise/assist with moving them
- **Parking:** Cllr Meyrick updated the committee following the inaugural meeting of the Albrighton Parking Action Group (APAG). A meeting took place with Paul Gill from Marstons regarding the Crown Car Parking. A discussion took place regarding the

meeting and the options going forward as Marstons were in contract with the Parking Company. It was raised that the signage is misleading in terms of when payments/fines would be required and was suggested to report to trading standards.

- **Proposed:** Cllr Pledger **Seconded:** Cllr Meyrick **Abstained:** 1 **Agreed:** 4 (5)

Action: All information relating to the parking difficulties at the Crown should be placed on the agenda of the next Full Council meeting for further consideration - office.

Plaques for benches had been already purchased and after discussion on the naming of the King Charles Coronation Garden members agreed that the word 'garden' should be retained.

GPC24/15 Working Group Loak Road/Worthington Drive Green Space area.

Cllr Pledger reported that a £600 legacy had been received for new fruit trees. A plaque will be made and the planting of the new trees should take place in late winter/early spring, aligned to a local farmer was assisting with the work. The fruit from the trees would be free to anyone who wanted it.

Volunteers would also be needed to help with the planting.

Action: Publicity event - office.

GPC 24/16 Garage doors

A video of the garage doors in operation had been received and an early problem had been resolved. It was noted the doors were now working.

GPC 24/17 Christmas lights

A report on the budget for Christmas lights had been received which showed spending of £16,457 for 2023. The contract with Turnocks expired in 2025 and competitive tendering would be necessary when a new contract was to be issued. Councillor Pledger sought clarification on the current spend was Shropshire Council would need to re-test the lamp posts after new CCTV cameras were installed. Members agreed that the new lights were an improvement on the display in previous years.

Postscript: subsequently clarified by the Clerk that the difference related to the reclaimable VAT.

GPC 24/18 Items for next agenda

Councillors agreed that after liaison with the Clerk there should be further discussion on the new garden/fruit trees and a street scene report following the proposed visit on 28th February 2024.

Date of next meeting

- Full Council Meeting – Thursday 7th March 2024 – 7.00 pm
- General Purpose Meeting – Thursday 21st March 2024 – 6.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm