

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Held at Alberbury Village Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Present: D Parry (Chair), R Kynaston, M Davies, Mrs K Stokes, Mrs J Wilson, R Davies, C Bourne, R T Hughes, Cllr. E Potter, and 1 member of the public

Apologies: Mrs. S Evans

**1689 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Minutes 1681 to 1688 of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Mr Hughes, seconded by Mr Kynaston, and approved unanimously

**1690 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None

**1691 CLERK'S REPORT** The Clerk reported that he had applied for, and received, the VAT recovery from the Jubilee events and was just waiting for the Scouts details to send them their promised donation (subsequent to the meeting this has now been done). He would shortly start the process of advertising the December meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner attending, and it was suggested after the meeting that Cllr Potter could be asked to facilitate this (he has since agreed to do so). Finally, there was to be a fireworks display in Alberbury this year on November 5<sup>th</sup>, and he had agreed this with insurers.

The Clerk had pre-circulated a report on the Speed Indicator devices at Alberbury, which appeared to show less speeding through the westbound device, which displays the actual speed. Because of the issues encountered getting the data from the devices this time, he was suspicious of the results and asked for the Council to wait on any judgement until the next readings in 3-4 months' time.

**1692 UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT** Cllr. Potter said that he had stepped back from the Cabinet at Shropshire Council to devote more time to his business but was also concerned that the direction of that Council was difficult to see at the moment. He reported that almost all of the road improvement works across the area had now been completed, and he had ordered new rubbish bins for the A458 near Rowton vineyard, and the bin opposite Upper Wigmore on the Halfway House to Westbury road. He was also suggesting that local churches might wish to join the Warm Spaces scheme this winter, and members offered to pass this on.

**1693 PARISH MATTERS**

- a. **Highways** Mr Hughes was updated on the Rowton Lane situation, where extra hedge trimming has had a beneficial effect, but no other actions are currently contemplated. It was agreed unanimously that this Council could pay for additional hedge trimming in future years. However the condition of the Rowton Lane junction with the A458 is causing concern and The Clerk will write to the Highways Authority about this.
- b. **Policing:** No report.
- c. **Platinum Jubilee Surplus:** The Clerk reported that he had not managed to source any fruit trees from Shrewsbury Town Council, but Mr Kynaston had an alternative supply and it was agreed to purchase 5 trees, nem con.
- d. **Children's Playground Wattlesborough:** The Clerk reported that the gate had now been fixed but there were two rider springs to replace, and he had this work in hand.
- e. **New bench for Cardeston:** The Clerk said that he had not been satisfied by the guarantees offered on a recycled plastic bench and had received little or no response from oak bench suppliers. It was

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suggested that the Ironworks complex at Oswestry, or Marche Industries locally, might be able to supply a metal bench, and this will now be investigated.

- f. **Other:** The Chair reported that the gate at Wigmore Lane will be moved shortly to allow more car parking. It was also suggested that the Wattlesborough Copse should be tidied up about now, (cost £4-500); this was proposed by Mrs Stokes, seconded by Mr Kynaston, and approved unanimously. On a suggestion by Mr Hughes, it was also agreed that the grass cutting at Alberbury should be more regular and extensive; this was agreed by all and Mr Hughes will arrange.

Finally, The Clerk had advised members previously that works on the Wattlesborough Village Hall car park were about to start. The Hall Committee had decided to register for VAT so that they could recover this themselves, so there would be no need for the works to go through the Parish Council. However, funds would be very tight for the project and all their reserves would be consumed. The Clerk suggested that it would be possible to assist the Hall with a one-off donation, suggested as £1000. This was proposed by Mr Kynaston, seconded Mrs Stokes, and passed unanimously.

**1694 FINANCE** The Clerks Salary and expenses £289.51, Hope House Hospice £100, and Village Hall hire £15, were proposed for payment by Mrs Wilson, seconded Mr M Davies, and approved unanimously.

The Clerk had previously circulated a request from the organisers of the Alberbury fireworks display to see if the Parish Council donation could be increased, due to the rising cost of fireworks. A figure of £200 was proposed by Mr Kynaston, seconded by Mr Hughes, and approved nem con.

The Clerk then gave a financial update. With what was currently in the bank accounts, and allowing for 4 more meetings plus known expenditure, he estimated that £14000 would be left by year end, which was approximately £4k higher than the start of the year and suggested that some more village projects were affordable. Clr. Potter also suggested that in the current economic climate, a reduction or 'no increase' in precept next year would also be popular.

**1695 PLANNING** The Warwick Farm application discussed at the last meeting had been withdrawn. One other Planning matter was noted but there were no matters arising.

**1696 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 5<sup>th</sup> December at Wattlesborough Village Hall, 7.30 pm

NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE PRECEDED AT 7.00PM BY THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS VISIT

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed: Chairman

Clerk      Date: