

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

Held by Zoom teleconference on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: R Kynaston (Chair), R Griffiths, M Tomlins, D Parry, Mrs J Wilson, C Bourne, R Davies Mrs K Stokes, Mrs S Evans and Clr. E Potter

Apologies: PC R Cookson

Historical note: The global pandemic caused by the COVID 19 Coronavirus was still continuing, with approaching 126,000 UK deaths since February 2020, and at the time of this meeting England was still in a third complete lockdown. An unprecedented public vaccination process was underway with nearly 30 million persons having received a first dose at this point.

**1582 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Minutes 1574 to 1582 of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were proposed for acceptance by D Parry, seconded by R Griffiths, and approved unanimously.

**1583 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Mrs Stokes declared an interest in 21/01063/FUL as the owner of the adjoining property

**1584 CLERKS REPORT** The Clerk explained that it would be usual at this meeting for the Chair to give an annual report, but as it was in an election period he would give the report instead. He noted that it had been a very notable year with substantial achievements despite the 12 months of lockdowns. The Council had completed a rollout of Smartwater kits to every household in the parish, a significant crime prevention initiative, assisted in no small part by the West Mercia Police. Also with financial assistance from the police, a second Vehicle Activated Speed sign had just been ordered for Alberbury village. The Council had also refurbished and upgraded the Wattlesborough children's play area, with new equipment and surfacing, and the woody copse alongside the A458 had been cleared and tidied, such that it was now looking very attractive. Additionally in Wattlesborough, after many years of lobbying about problems with drainage and sewage on Wigmore Lane, these had now been fixed. Finally, we had made the website more accessible and interesting. The disappointment for the year was not to have made more progress with several highways issues, but that battle continued on. In summary, The Clerk said, this had been a remarkable year and councillors should feel very proud of their achievements. The Chair replied that it had indeed been a good year despite only having one face to face meeting and not meeting parishioners. He particularly thanked the Clerk for all his efforts under very different and difficult conditions

**1585 UNITARY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, saying that he the numbers of COVID 19 cases were dropping significantly even with the schools back, and Shropshire was one of the highest number of vaccinators in the UK (probably affected by the fact that the population is elderly and they have been targeted). The COVID grants had resulted in success for two local businesses and more Govt. money was to follow. He also noted that a significant litter picking initiative on the A458 and the Montgomery Rd, was shortly to start. On highways, he noted that £50 million had been committed locally to get on top of highways problems, and he believed that the road through Alberbury had been earmarked for complete re-surfacing. It was noted by members at this point that Tracey Russell at Shropshire Council had given very good service recently, and The Clerk was asked to write and thank her. Mr Griffiths asked where most of the Shropshire investment monies were coming from, and Clr. Potter said that the route for this was through the Local Enterprise Partnership. Finally, The Clerk asked if Clr. Potter was involved in the latest NHS restructure to Independent Care Systems, and he replied that he was now a member of the local Health and Wellbeing Board

### **1586 PARISH MATTERS**

**Highways** Mr Bourne noted the potholes at Cardeston had been fixed. There is now a flooding problem again on the Rowton Bank. Councillors then discussed the current parking problems at Ford school, which are deemed very dangerous, and The Clerk was asked to write to Ford Parish Council in this matter.

The Clerk reported that David Gradwell from Shropshire Council was meeting him next week to discuss outstanding issues in the parish, including signage in Wigmore Lane.

There then followed a further discussion on the problems at Rowton Avenue. A meeting with The Clerk and Mrs Wilson had taken place with the traffic consultant Mr Gough, who would produce a feasibility report on the suggested passing

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places and cost. He had also reduced his price for the study to £1000 + VAT and disbursements. He was aware of the need for two large vehicles to pass in the lane, and the current highways spec. for passing places. He had said that such places, if done properly, would be adopted by Shropshire Council for later maintenance.

Mr Griffiths said that as agricultural vehicles would be exempt from any weight limit, he could not understand the opposition to HGV's being banned. Mrs Wilson argued that the passing problem would still exist with agricultural vehicles, so improved passing places were still required. Mr Bourne said that the Council should just stone the existing passing places and Mr Tomlins said that we should get some indicative prices from L Edwards, who had done some recently.

The Clerk and Mr Parry had investigated a possible source of funds from the Aggregate Tax at the Criggion Quarry, and had not had a reply.

On a motion from Mr Parry (seconded Mrs Wilson) to use the consultant for a feasibility report, members voted 5 to 4 in favour and The Clerk was asked to order this from Mr Gough.

**Policing** The Clerk had obtained the number of speeding tickets issued in the last year for Alberbury, showing 67 tickets issued in three years. Mr Griffiths said that this was a disgrace, and more action needed to be taken. The Clerk was asked to write to Wynnstay again

**Other** The Clerk reminded members about the need to lodge their Nomination Packs in good time, if they wished to stand again as councillors, and he had Nomination Packs available upon request. On the matter of new noticeboards, Alberbury Village Hall were prepared to assist with the cost of that one, said Mr Griffiths.

**1587 FINANCE** The Clerks Salary and expenses £333.36 (which included the PDF convertor renewal and training for The Clerk) were proposed for payment by Mr Parry, seconded by Mr Tomlins, and agreed unanimously.

Finally the year to date financial position had been pre-circulated and Mr Griffiths noted an arithmetic error within the VAT field, which The Clerk would correct immediately. There were no other comments.

**1588 PLANNING** Councillors decided to support 21/00803/FUL Milestone Ornaments site Alberbury, on grounds of tidying up the village, and to oppose 21/01063/ FUL White Oaks, as being likely to cause loss of daylight to the neighbouring property. Both these decisions unanimous.

**1589 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (the AGM)** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 scheduled for Wattlesborough, but likely to be Zoom, 8pm. This will be the first meeting of the new Council after any election

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: