

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Monday 7th December

Present: K Evans (Chairman), R Griffiths, M Tomlins, Mrs K Stokes, P Siese, R Kynaston, C Bourne, Clr. D Roberts, Paul Rees from Shropshire IT and 5 members of the public

Apologies: D Parry, Mrs J Wilson and M Mead (Shropshire Council)

1192 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1182 to 1191 of the Meeting held on 26th October were proposed for acceptance by P Siese, seconded by C Bourne, and approved unanimously

1193 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST The Chairman declared a personal and pecuniary interest in his new Planning Application for poultry houses

1194 PRESENTATION ON THE PARISH WEBSITE Mr P Rees (Shropshire ITman) addressed the meeting, his local company specialises in IT projects like village websites. He said that the current website is very basic and is not portable or sizeable to any device that needs to see it. He would suggest, inter alia, these improvements:

- More than one set of meeting minutes available and a calendar of meetings
- Calendar of events for the village halls
- Open forum area
- Places of interest and Rights of Way
- Photo library
- Elements accessed by registered users
- Ability to send e mails to multiple users

All of this would require various degrees of control, and probably more than one person adding and approving content. It would need a lot of work to keep it up to date.

The Chairman observed that this would also be a good vehicle for rolling out the Parish Plan, and asked the Clerk to locate the interested parties e mails from the parish plan process so that a separate meeting could be set up. This would also be on the next PC meeting agenda.

Mr Rees said that the cost of setting up such a website was £200 per domain, and £50 per year for hosting (this hosting figure is similar to what we pay now). Included in that would be training for two people. The Clerk asked him to confirm this by written offer.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rees for his presentation. The Clerk said afterwards that he had not gone elsewhere as yet for quotes as this supplier was local and the amount involved seemed good value.

1195 PARISH MATTERS

- a. **Highways** : Mr Griffiths was pleased to report that the footpath and flooding issues around Abbey Lane had all been attended to. He asked if consideration could be given to a new footpath for about 40 yds between the Loton Park gates and the Village Hall, which was used by the public especially when events were taking place and was dangerous. The Clerk will request this, though members thought that in the current climate, it would be unlikely to proceed. Mr Tomlins said that the promised re-surfacing works at Wigmore Lane were getting closer, but there were additional works required now such as drainage. Finally Clr Roberts asked for Parish Council support to move a BT pole on a dangerous corner and this was given unanimously.
- b. **Police**: No report but it was noted that with the Llandrinio river bridge now out of use for many months, the car traffic through Alberbury had slackened off, but the lorry traffic from the quarry was now a major problem and the Clerk was asked to write to the quarry manger about this.
- c. **Other**: A member of the public asked why the Wattlesborough Green notice board had not progressed. Mr Siese said he was on the case and there would be progress shortly. The same member of the public asked about progress with the Old School Lane naming, and Clr Roberts was asked to look into this.

1196 COUNCILLORS REPORTS/LJC BUSINESS Clr. Roberts told members that allegedly, the Leader of Shropshire Council Keith Barron had resigned due to financial irregularities. The police were looking at the outsourcing company I F & E and the councillor in charge of that had also allegedly resigned. The new Leader is likely to be Malcolm Pate. As a result of this turmoil the finances were in a bit of flux but there was a Council Tax increase of 3.99% looming next April. He asked members to get involved with the Big Conversation initiative and look at the possibilities of taking on more services locally; a lot less was likely to be done by Shropshire Council in future and as an example the Highways Budget for 2016/17 was to be cut from £12m to £8m. The Council currently owed £380m and had only £15m reserves, one serious flooding incident would take that out.

He also noted that currently Westbury and Worthen primary schools were without Head Teachers, not a good situation when the numbers of children at both schools were low.

1197 PLACE PLAN REVIEW The Clerk said that there would be no PP Review this year. He also said that finally, the SAMDev policy was finally being implemented, which confirmed Shropshire Council's 5 year housing land supply submissions were correct, and also underlined this Council's planning status as open countryside.

1198 CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk told members that the Halfway House public house had closed, with an uncertain future.

The Council had also received requests to confirm Mr Daniel Cole and Mrs Julie Cole (separately) as having strong local connections in respect of the single plot exception scheme, and this was agreed nem con.

1199 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £260.75, the Village Hall hire £12, the war memorial upkeep at Alberbury £260, grounds maintenance at Wattlesborough playing area £262.80 and the Alberbury fireworks contribution at £100 were proposed for payment by Mr Griffiths, seconded by R Kynaston, and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk then tabled an ytd financial statement for 2015/16, and there were no queries. He asked members to consider their budget requests ready for the next meeting.

1200 PLANNING There were three matters discussed. The Permitted Development request near Heath Farm appeared to be an unattractive agricultural building that the applicant wished to convert into housing; however several members felt that this would not be possible without major alterations, new windows etc or even demolition of the existing. Additionally, as an open market house, it appeared to go against the Council's open countryside planning status. This comment had resulted from e mail communications between councillors and had been added to the Planning Portal. However, councillors decided to add no further comments.

There was no objection to the solar panels at Loton Park.

A new application for Poultry sheds at the Snod, Rowton was then discussed. Situated at the rear of an existing poultry farm these will not be visible from the nearest public road and will also be accompanied by more tree planting. Councillors agreed unanimously to support this application.

1201 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS Dates for 2016 are 11.1, 22.2, 11.4, 16.5, 11.7, 5.9, 24.10 and 5.12, all booked with the Village Halls

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: