

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held by Zoom teleconference on 15th February 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 120,000 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 15 million persons having received a first dose at this point.

1574 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1566 to 1573 of the Meeting held on 11th January 2021 were proposed for acceptance by D Parry, seconded by R Griffiths, and approved unanimously.

1575 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Kynaston was the applicant in the Planning item 8d, and would take no part in any discussion on that, and Mrs Evans declared a personal interest in 8c as related to the applicant.

1576 CLERKS REPORT The Clerk reported that it was still planned to hold elections in May and that the present policy of the Government was to not allow virtual meetings after April, but this was under review based on how the COVID emergency continued. He was still waiting for a date for the Speed Indicator Device pole in Alberbury to be installed. He had also completed a Finance Update Course recently and had issued a number of procedures and statements since, without comment by members.

1577 PARISH MATTERS

Highways Mr Bourne noted that there were still two large potholes at Cardeston. On a question from Mr Tomlins about potential signs to slow traffic in Wigmore Lane, The Clerk said that he had asked for suggestions from David Gradwell at Shropshire Council and was waiting for a reply.

There then followed a robust discussion on the problems at Rowton Avenue. 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. The lane was too narrow and there was no passing place possible between Rock Cottage and the Alberbury junction. He could not see that any funds would be available from local sources to correct this situation. This view was supported by Mr Davies. Mrs Wilson argued that the passing problem would still exist with agricultural vehicles, so improved passing places were still required. She was not aware of the cost or feasibility of such, and suggested the use of a local traffic consultant to suggest some proposals, Andy Gough (see later). Mr Tomlins agreed that a weight limit was necessary but the drawback was the potential cost of improvements, as yet unknown. Mr Bourne said that this was the safest route for HGV's requiring to cross between Alberbury and the A458, but that passing places and hedge trimming were required. This view was supported by Mrs Evans.

Mr Parry said that he was aware of a possible source of funds from the Aggregate Tax at the Criggion Quarry, and would investigate further. Councillor Potter confirmed that Shropshire Council would pay for the introduction of a 7.5 tonne limit, and would also assume the future maintenance of any new passing places, but were unlikely to contribute to the capital cost of same. He agreed that the use of Andy Gough Consultancy made sense. On a motion from Mrs Evans (seconded Mrs Wilson) to get proposals for the use of a consultant, and for Mr Parry to investigate funding from the quarry, there was then a counter proposal from Mr Griffiths (seconded Mr Davies) to put the 7.5 tonne limit in now. Members voted 5 to 2 in favour of the first motion, and The Clerk was asked to get a proposal from Mr Gough. It was also agreed to take no action to delay the proposed Stop sign at the Alberbury Rd junction, which was supposedly being supplied by Shropshire Council.

Policing The Clerk had obtained the number of speeding tickets issued in the last year for Alberbury, for the last meeting, which was disappointing low, and Mr Griffiths asked if he could now discover how many visits the Safety Camera Partnership had made in the last three years. Mrs Stokes observed that there had recently been a spate of shed break-ins with quad bikes etc. targeted

Website Mr Parry reported that there had been a recent meeting of the website committee and The Clerk had confirmed that, as far as possible, our website was compliant with accessibility requirements. Members were asked to submit more local photos to refurbish the web pages. Mr Parry also said that the new Planning Tracker on the website was a great leap forward and he thanked The Clerk for setting this up.

Other New Village Gates at Alberbury, members decided to wait on this proposal until a site meeting was feasible. Other budget spending ideas at this stage included new noticeboards (The Clerk to get proposals) and Hamlet signs for the settlements within the parish

1578 COUNCILLORS REPORTS Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, saying that he was pleased to see remedial works being done to the highway in Alberbury village, but he wanted to see a complete re-surface in the capital programme for Shropshire Council. He noted that COVID vaccinations were now progressing apace in Shropshire, and that the discretionary grant scheme to help small local businesses impacted by COVID still had some funds. He remarked on recent reports and communications from a security firm claiming to prevent anti-social behaviour and working with the police, and told members not to engage with them. Finally he confirmed that the 17 remaining smallholdings owned by Shropshire Council were all for sale.

1579 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £494.18 (which included the Zoom renewal) were proposed for payment by Mr Parry, seconded by Mrs Wilson, and agreed unanimously. The Village Hall Grant payments agreed at the last meeting of £1000 each were also approved, proposed Mrs Wilson, seconded Mrs. Evans, none against.

The Clerk then confirmed to the meeting that former Councillor David Roberts had agreed again to be the Internal Auditor.

Mr Groome then went on to remind members that he had circulated various control documents recently and they were required to confirm if they were happy with the current financial systems and procedures in place. This was agreed unanimously. It had also been noted previously that this Council would apply for exemption from External Audit this year, and The Clerk asked for a confirmation motion to that effect (proposed Mr Parry, seconded Mrs Stokes, nem con). The Clerk continued, saying that the recent course he had attended suggested that an internal checker be in place as part of this Council's systems, someone who was not a cheque signatory who would periodically reconcile the bank balance and make other checks with The Clerk. This was agreed by all and Mr Parry volunteered to carry out this duty until further notice.

Finally the year to date financial position had been pre-circulated and there were no further comments.

1580 PLANNING It was noted that the Halfway House Inn application 20/04833 had been withdrawn to redevelop the proposals. Councillors decided to support 20/4918 (Old Post Office, Alberbury) and 20/05429 (New extension for cattle)

1581 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 22nd March 2021 scheduled for Alberbury but likely to be Zoom, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: