

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Monday 9th May 2022

Present: D Parry (Chair after item 1663), R Kynaston, R Davies, Mrs. S Evans, D Parry, Mrs J Wilson, Mrs K Stokes, M Davis, Cllr. E Potter, and 1 member of the public, Mr R T Hughes

Apologies: C Bourne

1662 COUNCILLOR VACANCY The Clerk took the chair and reported that the period of notice to call an election, if necessary, would expire on the coming Thursday, after which the Council could co-opt. Mr R T Hughes, in attendance, had expressed an interest in being co-opted and if this proceeded the formalities would be completed at the next meeting.

1663 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR The Clerk thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr Kynaston, for his lengthened service due to COVID. He then asked for nominations for the post of Chair. Mr Parry was then proposed by Mr Kynaston, seconded by Mrs Evans, and there being no other nominations, he was elected unanimously and took over the Chair. He then called for nominations for Vice Chair, and Mrs J Wilson was proposed by Mrs Evans, seconded by Mrs Stokes, and there being no other nominations she was also elected unanimously.

1664 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1653 to 1661 of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st March 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Mrs Wilson, seconded by M Davis, and approved unanimously

1665 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mrs Stokes declared an interest in the Wigmore Lakes proposal (change of colour)

1666 CLERK'S REPORT The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received the annual Precept and also £1333 in Community Infrastructure Levy, which had been a pleasant surprise. He has also applied for £1800 of VAT refund. He was in the process of finalising the Annual Accounts for the last year and would then publish a forecast for 2022/3.

He noted that a number of members had attended the funeral of former councillor R Griffiths, which had been appreciated by the family, and he had also sent a suitable condolence letter. A number of attendees had commented on the new 'motorway' between Ford and Alberbury, the result of excellent re-surfacing works by Shropshire Council, and a consequence of years of lobbying by R Griffiths in particular.

1667 PARISH MATTERS

- a. **Highways** The Children's Playground signs in Wigmore Lane were still causing confusion, said Mr Parry, and needed to be changed to Children Playing. Cllr. Potter offered to assist in rectifying this and The Clerk will write to D Gradwell at Shropshire Council.
Despite the high standard of the road works in Alberbury there had been serious gouges left outside Mrs Leighton's property which needed attention, and there were also many unfixed potholes in various locations, including Heath Drive, which is unadopted. However, the potholes in Abbey Lane had finally been completed to a high standard and The Clerk was asked to write to Shropshire Council and note this. Additionally, the parking at Halfway House garage is once again causing concern and The Clerk offered to speak to the proprietor.
- b. **Policing:** The Clerk reported that there had been no recent contact with the Police except when it appeared that the local Officer had lost his rural post, only to be re-instated. In between there had been several instances of poor police service. The Clerk was asked to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to invite him to a future meeting.

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- c. **Platinum Jubilee:** Mr Kynaston circulated the events leaflet and said that planning was progressing well. He was thanked for all his efforts by The Chair. The Clerk noted however that he was yet to receive any risk assessments for any events and if they were not completed the events risked not being covered by the Parish Council insurance.
- d. **Other:** The Clerk noted that he had not yet written to Sir Michael Leighton's agent about the damaged stile in Loton Park

1668 LOCAL COUNCILLORS REPORT Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, reflecting on the past year of the latest administration at the County, during which:

- The Homes for Local People initiative had handed over its first house keys, and there were new developments starting with, in one case, 34 self-build plots.
- The £40m promised spend on highways was seeing notable improvements locally
- The multi-purpose recycling bins promised were now in the process of being delivered

He also noted that concern had been expressed about a spike in the numbers of recent drownings in the River Severn, and any possible response was being considered.

The Chair thanked Clr. Potter for his report.

1669 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £294.98, Border Lawncare £38 and the Village Hall hire £12 were proposed for payment by Mrs Evans, seconded by Mrs Stokes, and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk reminded members that they had confirmed that the Internal Controls and Systems were satisfactory back in February and he now asked the Chair to sign the Declaration to that effect. He also confirmed that the Council would be applying for Exemption from External Audit as previously agreed, and this form was also signed by The Chair.

Finally, as mentioned earlier, he would soon be finalising last years accounts and would circulate these to members, plus agreeing the reconciliation with Mr Parry, before showing all this to the Internal Auditor.

There was no salary review for The Clerk as the current agreement lasts until May 2023.

1670 PLANNING The refused proposal for an agricultural building at Snod Coppice was probably due to an error in the application, said Clr. Potter. Councillors agreed to support 22/00230 Stanford Farm new tipi, and 22/01843 Wigmore Lakes colour changes to static caravans.

1671 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 11th July at Alberbury Village Hall, 8 pm

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: