

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

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Present: D Parry (Chair), R Kynaston, Mrs. S Evans, Mrs J Wilson, R T Hughes, Mrs K Stokes, C Bourne, Cllr. E Potter, and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: M Davies, R Davies

The Chair opened the meeting by observing that the meeting was being filmed by Mr K Peake, one of the members of the public present, and there were no objections to this. The Chair also reminded the public that they were only permitted to speak at Point 5 (d) on the Agenda under Parish Matters Other.

**1767 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Minutes 1758 to 1766 of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 were proposed for acceptance by Mr Hughes, seconded by Mr R Kynaston, and approved unanimously.

**1768 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** All Councillors present know Mr M Davies, Councillor and Applicant for item 8 (d) on the Agenda. In addition, Mr Kynaston declared a Personal interest in item 8 (b).

**1769 CLERK'S REPORT** The Clerk reported that the Speed devices report for Alberbury had been pre-circulated and appeared to confirm that the Westbound device was showing lower average speeds than the Eastbound, however, on a question from Mr Bourne, he would check whether low speed traffic emerging from Rowton Lane was affecting the average. Following the last meeting, The Clerk had obtained budget prices for removing the eastbound camera and relocating it on the old A458 at Halfway House, then purchasing a new Speed Indicator Device for Alberbury. Excluding the cost and installation of a new pole at Halfway House, the other costs would be around £5500 + VAT. He would now look at how this could be financed and mentioned that there was a new tranche of Police Commissioner Fund money being announced shortly, which could be of use.

The Clerk also told members to be aware of extensive road closures on the B4386, Westbury to Nox, at the end of January 2024.

### **1770 PARISH MATTERS**

- a. **Highways** Councillors discussed the continuing problems caused by local potholes, Abbey Lane in Alberbury being the latest to be reported. The Clerk advised those present that custom and practice by Shropshire Council had changed in recent years and they would now not accept liability for a pothole that had not been reported on Fix My Street. He said it was easy to do, and members should not wait for a meeting before reporting any holes.  
The footpath on the A458 is still overgrown between Halfway House and the house known as Beningfields and The Clerk said he would chase National Highways on this.
- b. **Policing:** No report but The Clerk noted that the Speed detector Van had been in Alberbury recently.
- c. **Halfway House Inn site:** The Clerk said that there were no developments at the site that were not already known by Councillors, and there was nothing further to report
- d. **Other:** A member of the public asked about the various items that were currently causing issues on the Halfway House Inn site, including potential toxicity and rodent problems, and The Chair said that these were being dealt with by Shropshire Council.

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**1771 UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT** Cllr. Potter said that Shropshire Council had achieved £38 million savings in this year's budget but were still about £4m short, however, it was thought they would get through without too much trouble. The following year 2024/5 would be another problem however as the Adult and Social Care budget alone was projected at £20m, and they were looking at ways to run this area more efficiently. He noted that this was not just a problem for rural councils, as the City of Nottingham (similar number of inhabitants to Shropshire Council), had declared bankruptcy in the last week.

He informed members that the Nesscliffe Training camp was now being used to house migrants, many of whom had served the UK Govt. overseas and were therefore legitimate. This operation was being run by the MOD and Shropshire Council had no involvement.

Finally, he noted that the A5 highway from Shrewsbury to south of Wrexham was being targeted in a road safety initiative. For many long-distance drivers from the South, it was the first piece of single carriageway they would encounter and was prone to accidents. He asked members to report dangerous incidents.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Potter for his report.

**1772 FINANCE** The Clerks Salary and expenses £593.24 and Wattlesborough Village Hall hire £15, were proposed for payment by Mr R Kynaston, seconded Mrs Stokes, and approved unanimously.

**1773 PLANNING** Councillors discussed 5 items. Item (a) (Halfway House Inn Alleged breach of Planning) was with Shropshire Council for action. Mr Bourne proposed that the Council should support Item (b) (Park Farm) and this was seconded by Mrs Wilson, all in favour. Item (c), no comment on the application. Item (d) (Shoothill Poultry) was also suggested for support by Mr Bourne, and his proposal was seconded by Mrs Stokes, none against. Finally the recent application for holiday lets at the former Halfway House Shop was considered. The Clerk noted and Mrs Stokes confirmed that several local comments had been made: that the premises had not been well advertised for new tenants, and apparently not since March as was stated in the application. The shop had been lost to the village because the new lease appeared to be too expensive for the previous lessee. Finally, any proposed car parking on the A458 side of the building would appear to be dangerous and would block visibility for traffic leaving the rest of the businesses there. The Clerk was asked to send in a letter of representation.

**1774 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Alberbury Village Hall, 7.30 pm

Further meetings next year were proposed to be on 12<sup>th</sup> February (Wattlesborough), 18<sup>th</sup> March (Alberbury), 13<sup>th</sup> May (W), 8<sup>th</sup> July (A), 2<sup>nd</sup> September (W), 14<sup>th</sup> October (A) and 2<sup>nd</sup> December (W), all subject to Village Hall bookings, The Clerk to confirm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: