

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

Held at Alberbury Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: R Griffiths, C Bourne and R Davies.

**1636 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Minutes 1626 to 1635 of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were proposed for acceptance by D Parry, seconded by Mrs Evans, and approved unanimously.

**1637 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were none

**1638 CLERKS REPORT** The Clerk told members that he had 'attended' an area meeting of Clerks earlier in the day and had been told that several local Councils were still meeting virtually. The current legal position was that all meetings had to be face to face, and these Councils risked being challenged for any decisions. He also reported that a new Code of Conduct was on the way, with minor changes.

He had recently paid the website charges totalling £104.39 which included £11.99 for the .co.uk domain which we did not use but retained to prevent its use by others. He had also arranged for the Wattlesborough Copse works to be carried out in the sum of £216. Finally he had carried out an end of year reconciliation on the accounts, matching the bank balances with the recorded payments and income, and this had been agreed with Clr. D Parry.

He also noted that he had not progressed works to the bus shelter at Halfway House as yet.

**1639 POLICE** No report

**1640 PARISH MATTERS**

**Highways** Mr Parry and Mrs Stokes reported on the new signs at Wigmore Lane which referred to a Playground and were poorly positioned; The Clerk was asked to write to Shropshire Council about this. Mrs Wilson had sent photos to The Clerk of the poor condition of Abbey Lane, Alberbury, which he had forwarded to Shropshire Council Highways dept. There was also a report of an overflowing rubbish bin at Whiston Farm on the A458.

**Other** The Chair told members that a meeting to discuss the Queens Jubilee in June was being arranged for Alberbury Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> February, when it was hoped to pull an organising committee together. He also noted that there was a memorial Mass planned for Emma Siese and The Clerk was asked to write a supportive letter to Patrick Siese

At the request of The Clerk, members confirmed that the Village Hall grants will be reduced back to £500 each as they were before the COVID pandemic. (Proposed Mr Parry, seconded Mr Davies, nem con). It was noted that should Wattlesborough Village Hall have a project to improve their car park, then this could be considered for further assistance.

**1641 UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT** Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, saying that one off grants etc. had reduced the operating deficit at Shropshire Council to near zero, but there was a structural deficit of £50-60 million still being carried forward. A balanced budget for 2022/23 was proposed with a 4% increase in Council Tax, though he observed that 86% of the budget was being spent on Adult and Child Social care, which was out of step with other area and clearly not sustainable. Finally he noted that lots of resurfacing works were currently underway and would affect this parish; he said the works appeared to be extensive and of good quality.

**1642 FINANCE** The Clerks Salary and expenses £292.34, SALC training £10, Website expenses £104.39, Alberbury Church Clock maintenance (3 Years) £822, JD Tree services (Wattlesborough copse) £216 and Alberbury Village Hall £15 were proposed for payment by Mr Parry, seconded by Mrs Stokes and agreed unanimously.

The proposed budget for 2022/23 had been pre-circulated, showing a small surplus if no new spending projects were proposed, though The Clerk pointed out that projects such as the Village gates at the Welsh end of Alberbury had still not been done. It was also noted that the £2000 in the current year for Village Hall grants would now be just £1000, so members asked that the spare £1000 be allocated to a Platinum Jubilee allowance. On this basis The Clerk recommended that the Precept be left unchanged at £9500 for the third year running, and this was proposed as a motion by Mrs Stokes, seconded Mrs Evans, all in favour.

**1643 PLANNING**

21/05707/OUT Willholme, Stretton Heath Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of 3 dwellings with alterations to existing vehicular access; demolition of existing buildings. Applicant: Mr A Vaughan – The Parish had already opposed this based on councillor comments on line, as it was an open market housing development outside of any settlement and did not fit the Parish Plan. Clr. Potter agreed and said he would support this view.

**1644 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 scheduled for Wattlesborough, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: