

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Monday 20th February 2017

Present: K Evans (Chairman), R Griffiths, M Tomlins, Mrs K Stokes, P Siese, D Parry, Mrs J Wilson, R Kynaston, M Mead (Shropshire Council), Clr. D Roberts, PC Summerfield (part meeting) and 27 members of the public

Apologies: C Bourne

1287 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1278 to 1286 of the Meeting held on 16th January were proposed for acceptance by R Kynaston, seconded by R Griffiths, and approved unanimously.

1288 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

1289 SPECIAL PLANNING ITEM: 16/045541/FUL This was the application at Stanford Farm (retrospective) to allow change of use of farm buildings for Events and Community Activities, applicant Miss L Edwards.

The applicant's agent addressed the meeting. She said that more information and specialist reports had been loaded onto the Planning portal since this was last discussed at the Parish Council in January. A member of the public asked if these reports were truly independent, given that the applicant had paid for them, and was told that they were from independent firms of repute.

Additionally, an Events License had now been granted to allow 28 days of events per annum using marquees. This application was to use the redundant farm buildings for the events, which would have better noise and other conditions attached, but if this application failed then events would still take place under the Events License, which covers the whole farm. There were noise restrictions on the license (no live music after 23.00) but disco and licensed bars could continue until 01.00. A member of the public noted that the promise to host community events had now disappeared under the terms of the Events License, and Miss Edwards said that they had done this in the past, but with all the recent concerns about the planning application they had to restrict the events to 28 at the moment and these would all be private.

There were significant concerns about the access to the events, through Mrs. Turner's farmyard. Councillor Roberts said that this was a narrow access with several properties close to the road. Mrs. Turner's nephew addressed the meeting making several points backed up by others present, namely that the access was an unmade single track road designed for agricultural and domestic use, passing right through Little Stanford Farm and very close to the buildings. It would be unable to cope with a load estimated at up to 80 cars per event, plus delivery and service vehicles, often at unsocial hours. The entrance to this track was off a country lane with insufficient visibility splay (in his opinion) to ensure safe access and egress. As the Applicant did not own or control this access then there would be little control over vehicle speeds and passing places, and apart from the safety considerations this would add to the noise (the noise assessment was based on 5 mph vehicle speeds, whereas 10-15mph was thought more likely).

In addition, he said that 100-200 guests were expected per event, lasting up to 3 days and with extended alcohol sale times, and he suspected that people would be outside the buildings a lot of the time; hence any noise would not be controlled by noise insulation in the buildings

Another resident living on a parallel lane to the proposed access, and also a bridal path, said that they had already had problems with vehicles going wrongly up their lane, which was a cul de sac, and then having to turn in their farmyard.

Councillor Parry said that it was possible to fit noise limiting devices to buildings that would cut off the disco or live band if a certain noise was exceeded. The applicant was asked if an increase in her staff was required to manage a larger number of events, and she replied that it was not.

Councillor Kynaston expressed surprise at the level of opposition to the application, saying that he had not seen such a reaction recently, and wondered what per-application PR had been done. He was concerned about the noise and the traffic, the access past Mrs Turner's door and the general impact on a small community, so he would oppose support for the application. He proposed a motion that this be the Council's position and Councillor Siese seconded. The motion was then carried unanimously. The Clerk reminded the public again that the Parish Council were only a consultee in the planning process and they needed to write into Shropshire Council personally with any objections.

1290 PARISH WEBSITE The Clerk had previously circulated a paper from Mr R Carlyle with a number of suggestions for changing the basic architecture of the website and Mr Carlyle went through this with members. Councillors agreed that these made sense and on a suggestion from the Clerk, agreed an expenditure of up to £200 if required, without further reference to the Council. Mr Carlyle asked for any further suggestions from councillors over the next few days, before actioning the changes. The site does now appear to work properly on I Phones

1291 PARISH MATTERS

- a. **Highways:** The Clerk reported no progress in the speed limit correspondence concerning Alberbury and would write again. Clr. Parry asked members to note that the footpath works by Kier on the A458 will now be in March.
- b. **Police:** PC Summerfield addressed the meeting. He said that the current rural strength was himself and two Community Support Officers covering 12 Parish Councils. Recent criminal activity had been more or less restricted to shed thefts and he asked members of the public to be vigilant, especially with suspect vans etc. Speeding was still a significant issue, he said, and was pleased to see that the Safer Roads Partnership was still active in Alberbury. On a question from the Chair about the A458 he said that this was a High Collision Route and as such, was patrolled regularly by unmarked cars. The Chair and Clr. Parry observed that the problem was often motor bikes.
He also told members about the Stop That Thief scheme which can be used to fit cameras etc., to high risk premises.
He was asked about contact methods: website/e mail if not urgent, 101 for non emergency response and 999 if more serious or a crime is in progress. You can always request a reference number, he said, if needed for insurance etc. The Chair thanked him for his attendance.
- c. **Defibrillators:** The Clerk told members that he had just heard from the British Heart Foundation and the application for two units had been successful. They would however have to be in unlocked cabinets and therefore some further thought was needed for siting them. Ideas included the village Hall at Alberbury and Dinkies Diner
- d. **Other:** A member of the public asked about the rubbish and footpath condition around the telephone exchange, and was told that this issue had been raised many times before, with the lack of a bin there because the previous one had been vandalised. The BT Community fund was mentioned and the Clerk will investigate

1292 LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT/LJC MATTERS Councillor Roberts told members that Shropshire Council was in election mode currently, so little of a substantive nature would now happen before May 2017, however the Bus strategy and Planning Review should be viewed by members if they were able to do this. Shropshire is currently meeting its target for 5 yr land supply, he said, so the Planning Review did not have major changes proposed.

He then introduced the prospective candidate for his replacement on the Council, Mr. Ed Potter, who was welcomed by members

Mathew Mead then reported on LJC matters, principally rural broadband, now moving into its third stage, and NOT spots were now shown on the broadband website.

1293 CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk reported on the afore-mentioned Planning Review, noting that this was another opportunity to designate the Parish as a Hub or Cluster (no support for either of these from the meeting). He also outlined changes to Planning consultations where Parish Councils will now have longer to reply. Member of the public Mr Carlyle observed that even the current low action Planning Review had 50% more development than necessary.

1294 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £261.41 and the Village Hall hire £12 were proposed for payment by Mr Griffiths, seconded by Mr Tomlins, and agreed unanimously. The Clerk then tabled an ytd financial statement for 2016/17, and there were no queries.

The two annual Village Hall grants of £500 each were proposed for payment by Mr Parry, seconded by Mrs Wilson, subject to sight of the Annual Accounts from each Hall in due course.

Finally the Clerk outlined his plans to use Clr. Roberts again for internal audit, and asked members to confirm that all current controls and systems in place were sufficient. This was agreed unanimously

(3)

1295 PLANNING There were no further matters discussed

1296 DATE OF NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 4th April at Alberbury, 7.30 pm. Further meeting dates are displayed on the website

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: