

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Tuesday 11th December

Present: R Kynaston, (Chairman), R Griffiths, M Tomlins, Mrs K Stokes, D Parry, Mrs S Evans, C Bourne, R Davies, Clr. Ed Potter, I Walshaw from Shropshire Council (part meeting) and 3 members of the public

Apologies: M Mead (Shropshire Council), Mrs J Wilson, and PC Ross Cookson

1422 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING The Minutes 1412 to 1421 of the Meeting held on 22nd October were confirmed by all members unanimously.

1423 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST All councillors declared Personal Interests in the Lower Wood Farm planning application as this was for fellow councillor Mrs J Wilson

1424 HIGHWAYS MATTERS Ian Walshaw, Central Area Shropshire Council Highways Manager, addressed the meeting. (His operating area is roughly that covered by the old Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council). He said that Shropshire Council was capital rich and revenue poor at present, with a smaller highways budget every year at present, though he had just received £7.5m from the Government for pot holes repair.

Mr Griffiths asked him why Alberbury did not meet the criteria for a 30mph limit when at least 30 other similar sized villages had a 30 limit. Mr Walshaw replied that Alberbury did not meet the DFT guidelines for a 30 limit and even if one were put in, the police would not support or enforce it, as was the case in other villages.

He agreed to look at the provision of a STOP sign at Rowton Lane, and the arrangements at that location for the bus stop located there. Mr Griffiths then asked him why a prohibition for HGV's was not appropriate for Rowton Lane, and was told that there is currently no effective way of enforcing such a restriction. However Mr Walshaw confirmed that the improvements to Rowton Lane passing places was a capital scheme that had been taken out of the programme and he would get it reinstated. His department would also install the new village gates free of charge.

He also confirmed that the re-surfacing of Alberbury Road including the Eyton Bends, is intended for next years' capital programme, and the works on Wigmore Lane the year after

Mr Walshaw also explained the rule on verge ownership; between the roots of any hedge on the one side of a rural road, to the roots on the other side, defined the verges and road that were the responsibility of Shropshire Council. In that vein, he would have a look at the dry stone wall outside Mr Bourne's farm at Cardeston, to see what could be done to protect it.

A number of defective highways items raised were the responsibility of Highways England, he said, and the contact there was Martin Bott, Corporate Team Manager, Ops Directorate Midlands, Floor 9, The Cube, 199 Wharfside St, Birmingham B1 1RN.

Finally he promised to look at recent drain clearance, particularly at Halfway House on the old A458.

The Chair thanked Mr Walshaw for his visit and The Clerk was asked to confirm the various points in writing.

1425 PARISH MATTERS

- a. **Highways** The Clerk reported that the Village gates had arrived for Alberbury, awaiting Shropshire Council to install, and the installation of the VAS speed sign pole was also proceeding at a snail's pace; he would chase this again.

It was noted that the big stiles at Loton Park had become very slippery and Mr Roberts (Footpaths Officer) agreed to work out a solution.

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The recent lorry damage incident at Wollaston was briefly discussed. The Chair said that as the chicken farm developer had not discharged his planning conditions he should not have started work and the lorry a. should not have been there and b. had been given an alternative route to avoid damaging local infrastructure.

- b. **Police** The Clerk told members that he had received a report of digging out operations that could have been for fox cubs, or badger baiting, both of which were illegal. Members were asked to be vigilant.
- c. **Wreaths** A wreath from the Parish was laid on Remembrance Sunday at Alberbury as it was the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1.
- d. **Other** The Clerk reported that the Place Plan Review was underway at present with no intended housing development closer than Ford at present, though the zero development at Westbury might be reversed, said Clr. Potter.

Member of the public Mr Carlyle told members that the website editing had been successfully passed over to Mrs Stokes and Mrs Evans. He was thanked by The Chair for his work on this and it was also agreed to hold a progress meeting on January 3rd at Rowton Country Club.

1426 COUNCILLORS REPORT Councillor Potter addressed the meeting and re-confirmed the current spending deficit at Shropshire Council as being up to £8m, but could reach £15m without further government funding. However, the re-development of the Shire Hall at £24m was going ahead, even though it is 50% empty. He also informed members that the Community Team at Shropshire Council, including Mathew Mead, had been put under consultation for possible redundancy.

1427 CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk informed members that the new Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire was Mrs Anna Turner

1428 FINANCE The Clerk's salary and expenses, total £317.59, Alberbury Fireworks contribution £100, Wattlesborough grass cutting £399.60, Village Gates £1376.83, D Williams (Alberbury memorial upkeep) £220 and the Village Hall hire £12, were agreed (Proposed M Tomlins, seconded Mr Parry, none against)

The Clerk promised to issue a financial update and suggested budget before Christmas.

1429 PLANNING Four planning matters were discussed and it was decided to oppose the new house at the Halfway House loop entrance as this was open market housing. Member of the public Mr Carlyle asked for more details in future of applications that have been considered between meetings, and this was agreed.

1430 NEXT MEETING Monday 14th January, (subject to confirmation) at 7.30 pm, Alberbury

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

CHAIR

CLERK

DATE: