

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7.00pm at The Red House, Albrighton

In attendance: Cllrs Christine Jones, Virginia Sankey, Robert Parry, David Williams, Philip Ogle, David Beechey, Lee Chatburn, Shropshire Councillor Ed Bird, and the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey)

22.82 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

22.83 Apologies for absence and reasons:

The Council received and accepted an apology from Cllr Adrian Robinson due to a family commitment.

Cllr Hugh Kirton was unwell and unable to attend the meeting.

22.84 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest at this time. Cllr Robert Parry noted that he is on the Albrighton Fayre Committee and had raised the purchasing of traffic cones due for discussion in the meeting.

22.85 Public Session:

There were no members of the public present.

22.86 Minutes

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th October 2022

22.87 Matters Arising

a) Bus Stop Renovation

The Parish Clerk said she had been in contact with a possible contractor who aimed to prepare a quote for this week.

It was noted that the work would probably be best now left until Spring because of the weather.

b) Chairman's Chain

Cllr Christine Jones offered an update on the replacement link for the Chairman's Chain. She advised that the craftsman in Jackfield who had made the Chain no longer did this kind of work. He had recommended the same company that she had originally thought to

approach, Fattorinis in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. The company had said that it would need to see the Chain to make an assessment of the cost of the work. Cllr David Williams suggested obtaining a valuation as well as a quote for the work.

It was agreed that Dawn Harper and Christine Jones liaise about getting the chain taken to the company for a quote, preferably for the December meeting.

c) Terms and Conditions of use of the Woodland Car Park

There was some discussion on the speed restriction clause as including on the draft terms and condition. The Nature Reserve Management Committee had suggested 5mph, however, it was decided that as it is advisory and not enforceable that the draft should be left as prepared, at 10mph.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to accept the draft terms and conditions of using the Woodland Car Park

d) Donington and Albrighton Local Nature Reserve reports

Written feedback on the Donington and Albrighton Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2022-2027 had been received from Cllr Virginia Sankey and Cllr Robert Parry. Cllr Sankey said that it would be helpful to have a plan of who owns what and who is responsible for what, Cllr Parry said that a plan of the Nature Reserve would be helpful, he suggested a digital map such as ProMap.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should pass on the comments of Cllrs Sankey and Parry, advise that the report had been considered, and suggest that a ramp is included in the report.

Councillors raised concerns about the use of concrete on the path as it is a harsh surface and in time can suffer from disintegration. It was also questioned when this had been agreed. It was suggested that plastic grids would be a more sympathetic surfacing.

22.88 New Business

a) Nature Reserve Management Committee Meeting 21/10/2022 Report

The report from the Donington and Albrighton Nature Reserve regarding issues of interest to the Parish Council was considered

i. Terms and conditions of the Woodland Car Park

The Committee had considered that a maximum speed limit of 10mph was too high. This was covered in a previous item.

ii. Replacement of the bridge by the Dipping Pool

The Committee is hoping to replace the existing bridge in July or August 2023, and to replace it with a steel frame covered in plastic composite. The Parish Council requested that the Parish Clerk asks about progress on the bridge and for more information. It was questioned if it would need a structural engineer to provide drawings and if this could be provided in house at Shropshire Council.

iii. Dogs to be on leads notices

The DALNR has a dog control order so a dog warden can authorise dog owners to put their dog on a lead. It was noted that signs are being obtained to remind nature reserve users to be responsible dog owners.

iv. Winching out of willows in the willow carr

The committee advised that any work on the willow carr would need to be discussed at one of their meetings with detail on what equipment is to be used, access routes, and insurance cover. Cllr Parry said that it would not be a large job at this time, and suggested that a large tree lying in the north channel could come out at the same time as the work is done.

v. Woodland management proposals

There has been discussion with Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, and Shropshire Council flooding teams about management of the woodland, and water flow through the Conservation Area. A report has been written outlining options, and this is being reviewed by the Environment Agency. When it is ready the Parish Council will be contacted to discuss the contents.

b) Albrighton Fayre

The Parish Clerk said that the Parish Clerk of Albrighton Parish Council had written regarding a suggestion from the Albrighton Fayre Committee that the two Parish Council purchase traffic cones for the use of village organisations including the Committee itself. It was suggested that an option was that the traffic cones be purchased Albrighton Parish Council's Events Committee, as it has £5,000 delegated funds.

Cllr Robert Parry said that in the past cones had been collected from Bridgnorth for use at the fayre and that this had incurred cost. This was why the Albrighton Fayre Committee was looking at alternatives.

It was noted that Donington with Boscobel Parish Council had never previously owned traffic cones or used them in the parish. Shifnal Town Council had offered the free use of cones and barriers.

It was agreed to offer thanks the Albrighton Parish Clerk and agreed with the suggestion that the traffic cones are purchased directly by the Events Committee.

22.89 Correspondence: For Action

a) Albrighton Parish Council – Parish Flyer Information

Thanks were given for the £3,000 grant for the library, and information has been received regarding the Albrighton Parish Flyer. A working group has been formed to review the Flyer but this work has not yet been completed. The Melville Club has purchased a bus but this is for the use of members only and will not be in use during the Flyer's normal times, but would still be used on a Wednesday for the collection and return journeys for residents going to the Melville Club.

At half year, expenditure on the Parish Flyer was £15,243, and income was £12,881, leaving

a deficit of £2,262. Expenditure includes the cost of leasing the vehicle, running and staffing costs. Income includes a subsidy of £9,600, a bus operators grant of £534, and modest user income. Budget expectation for the year is £14,6000 income an £34,916 expenditure. At half year income is 88.2% of the budget and expenditure £43.7% against budget.

The large financial loss of the service was noted. It was questioned why two buses were needed and noted that part of the use of the Flyer is taking members to the Melville Club.. The existence of a Community Car Scheme was also mentioned.

It was agreed to defer consideration of contributing towards the Parish Flyer until received a report from the Parish Flyer Working Party.

b) Albrighton Parish Council – Albrighton War Memorial

A letter has has written offering thanks for donating £5,000 towards the restoration of Albrighton War Memorial.

It was noted that a donation had not in fact been made but that it had been discussed in principle to support the project.

c) SALC – membership fees

The Parish Clerk told Councillors that a reminder that SALC (Shropshire Association of Local Councils) membership fees were due had been sent after the publication of the Agenda. The invoice is for £590.61.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to pay the £590.61 membership fees.

d) CAB – request from Mrs Sylvia Pledger

Mrs Sylvia Pledger had contacted the Parish Council the day before the meeting regarding funding the Citizen's Advice Bureau. This item had therefore not been included on the Agenda. Mrs Pledger had requested that the Parish Council consider one month or more of the service, currently it costs £150 to provide it.

It was noted that the Parish Council had agreed to pay £650 towards the cost of the month of December 2022 (June meeting, minute 22.25 d)).

It was requested that the Parish Clerk ask for user data, and for figures. It might be appropriate to consider an increase in funds set aside for the purpose in the budget.

It was agreed to defer discussion on this item until the next meeting.

e) John Parry – maintenance of Donington Churchyard Car Park

It was noted that a letter had been received by the Parish Clerk from John Parry dated 30th October but that this had been delayed in the postal strikes and not received until the day before November's meeting. It had therefore not been included on the Agenda or circulated to members.

Mr Parry advised that due to his retirement he would not be seeking to renew his contract in 2023. His letter attached an invoice dated 30th October 2022 for £276 for maintenance and care of the Church Car Park for 2022.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to pay the invoice of £276 for maintenance of the car park.

It was requested that Mr Parry be sent a letter of thanks for his work, and well wishes for his retirement.

Cllr Robert Parry said that he may be prepared to cover some of the work undertaken in the future. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting, and information be sought on service user agreements and Councillor expenses if this arrangement were to be agreed by the Parish Council.

22.90 Correspondence: For Information.

The following was noted having been circulated by email prior to the meeting:

- a) NALC has sent a legal update including advice about donating to churches.

22.91 Planning

a) Applications:

22/04730/FUL (validated: 27/10/2022)
20 Windsor Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV7 3PY
Erection of a single storey front extension, and two storey side and rear extension following removal of existing attached garage

No comment

- a) **Permission Granted:** None at this time
- b) **Permission Refusals:** None at this time
- c) **Any other planning matters:**

The following was noted, having been received following the publication of the agenda:

22/04481/PA3MA – application for a change of use for Spiders Web Café, Sydnal Lane, Albrighton, WV7 3NB

22.92 Finance.

22.92.1

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to approve the following payments –

Clerk	Clerk's salary (November)	£607.53	LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 112
HMRC	Tax	£0	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk	Travel Expenses (November)	£30.50	LGA 1972 s.111
Screwfix	Litter picking equipment	£24.97	LGA 1972 s.111

22.92.2

It was noted that the following payments were made following a decision made at the meeting of 18^h October:

Albrighton Parish Council – Warm Hub contribution - £250
Red House Remembrance Day Civic Reception - £250
Red House Senior Citizen's Christmas Party - £300

22.92.3

It was noted that the following income had been received:

Interest – £130.11 to the Public Sector Deposit Fund (October)

22.92.4

a) Bank Reconciliation

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to receive and approve the bank reconciliation until the end of October 2022

b) Spend to Date

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, to receive and approve the spend to date to the end of October 2022

22.93 Reports:

- (a) **SALC:** Cllr D. Beechey had attended the SALC AGM. The Chief Constable of West Mercia Police had spoken at the AGM and had said that he would expect a Police Officer to attend a Parish Council meeting 4 times a year. Councillors present said that receiving the same report on policing matters as received at Albrighton Parish Council would be appreciated, the Parish Clerk is to request this is provided in future.

- (b) **RAF Cosford:** there was no report at this time
- (c) **Nature Reserve Report :** this had been covered earlier in the meeting
- (d) **Albrighton Village Halls Trust:** It was suggested that in future this appear as an occasional item when a report is available
- (e) **Clerk's Report:** the Warm Hub has been set up in the library.
- (f) **Royal British Legion:** Cllr D. Williams thanked everyone for their support at the Remembrances Day Parade. There was positive feedback about the event, it went well, but there are some points to work on.
- (g) **Footpaths:** Cllr V Sankey reported that comments regarding a treed on Pebble Brook had been mentioned and will be passed on. Consideration is still being given to a kiss gate below Boscobel House as an access point, and negotiations are ongoing with English Heritage and the landowners.
- (h) **RAF Cosford Cadets:** Cllr R.Parry said that the Cadets had performed well on Remembrance Sunday and requested that a letter of thanks be sent to ATC Squadron for attendance.
- (i) **War Memorial Working Party:** Cllr D.Williams updated on the War Memorial Working Part and said he would like to stand down in favour of Cllr Lee Chatburn who had more experience in such matters. He would deputise for him when required.
- It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, that Cllr Lee Chatburn takes over as the Parish Council's representative on the War Memorial Working Party.
- (j) **Shropshire Councillor's Report:** Cllr Ed Bird reported that the Leader of Shropshire Council has contacted her group (Conservative) about ambulance queues and the impact of the removal of the discharge of funds. Budget discussions are underway and there are concerns about the challenge being faced by the Council. Adult and social care are both statutory services and take up 86% of the budget. 308 asylum seekers will require housing in the county.

Councillors present noted that support from Shropshire Council over the last two years had been excellent, with the street signs being placed where requested being an example. Cllr Bird thanked Councillors for this feedback.

22.94 Training

Training information is available on: www.alcshropshire.co.uk/training

22.95 Date of the Next Meeting 20.12.22

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **13.12.22**

22.96. Confidential Session

Exclusion of Public and Press: in accordance with Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters. It is therefore recommended, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and it is therefore **resolved** that the public and press be excluded.

22.97. NALC agreement on National Pay Award

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to implement the agreement made by NALC on national pay. This raises pay at SCP 21 by £1 an hour, with effect from 1st April 2022.