

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Alberbury Village Hall on Monday 15th January 2024

Present: D Parry (Chair), Mrs. S Evans, Mrs J Wilson, M Davies, R Davies, Cllr. E Potter (part mtg), and 3 members of the public. Also present for the Police report: PC R Walters and PCSO Sarah Edwards

Apologies: R Kynaston, R T Hughes, Mrs K Stokes

1775 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1767 to 1774 of the Meeting held on 4th December 2023 were proposed for acceptance by Mrs Evans, seconded by Mrs Wilson, and approved unanimously.

1776 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none.

1777 CLERK'S REPORT The Clerk reported that he had applied for a grant from the Police Commissioners Fund to use for a new Speed Indicating Device (SID) in Alberbury. So far as the Budget for 2024/5 was concerned (to be discussed later in the meeting), he had assumed that the grant was not received. He also told members about the Beacon Event on 6th June for the 80th Anniversary of D Day, and it was agreed to send this to Cllr. R Kynaston as he was used to arranging such events.

1778 PARISH MATTERS

- a. **Highways** Councillors noted that Wigmore Lane is due to re-surfaced in the long-awaited scheme, very shortly, and The Clerk had sent details of the proposed yellow lines to Shropshire Council, Cllr. Potter asked if that could also be copied to him. Mrs Wilson said that Abbey Lane in Alberbury had also been attended to. It was however noted that potholes are still a big problem locally. On a question from a member of the public it was confirmed that this Council will fund additional hedge cutting in Rowton Lane when necessary.
- b. **Policing:** PC Walters reported that there had been 8 offences locally in Nov/Dec 2023, and there was a bit of an upward spike in January, mainly thefts of quad bikes, plant and equipment from sheds. There were generally three times more offences in the urban area than the rural, he said. He was currently bidding for further speed trapping in our area. The Clerk also added that PC Walters was supporting the grant application for a new SID at Alberbury. The Chair thanked the Police for their attendance.
- c. **Other:** A member of the public asked about the various items that were currently causing issues on the Halfway House Inn site, and The Chair said that these were being dealt with by Shropshire Council.

1779 UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT Cllr. Potter told members that Shropshire Council's budget consultation was currently online, and if people wished to rank the services they want to receive, this was where to do it. Whereas the Council had achieved the necessary savings in the current year without too much pain, some £40m savings were needed in 2024/5 and these would involve cutting services like libraries etc., that would be noticed. The other consultation underway was the Movement Strategy, with ideas like a new railway station at Preston Boats, and proposals like entry and exit to Shrewsbury by the same route i.e. Go into town via the Welsh Bridge and you would have to leave over the Welsh Bridge.

Finally, he noted that car park charges in Shrewsbury were about to increase substantially.

On a question from a member of the public he said that he was unaware of any proposals to replace the post office in Halfway House. The Chair thanked Cllr. Potter for his report.

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1780 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £798.83 (including website expenses and training costs) and Alberbury Village Hall hire £15, were proposed for payment by Mr M Davies, seconded Mrs Evans, and approved unanimously. The Clerk then asked if the Council wished to grant £500 each to the Village Halls, as in previous years (except when COVID was rampant), and this was proposed by Mrs Wilson, seconded by R Davies and approved, nem con.

The Clerk then led the discussion on the proposed Budget for 2024/5 which had been pre-circulated. As well as two payments covering three years that would fall due in the 2024/5 period, he had included £5800 for a new SID at Alberbury and a second-hand unit at Halfway House. He had not included any legal fees or similar and was asked by Mrs Evans to find out if additional insurance could be purchased for this eventuality. Councillors then debated the budget proposals, which would lead to an increase in precept to £14,000, the first increase for many years. The Clerk said that even at that level, reserves would be depleted if everything in the budget came to pass. However, if in a year's time the monies had not all been spent than the precept could be reduced in 2025/6. Finally, he added that at £14,000, the precept would add £5.62 per elector to the Council Tax, which was not a large amount.

Mr M Davies proposed, and Mrs Evans seconded a motion to raise the precept to £14,000 which was approved with none against.

1781 PLANNING Councillors noted 2 items which had either been refused or were subject to Enforcement, and there were no comments arising.

1782 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 12th February 2024 at Wattlesborough Village Hall, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: