

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

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Present: R Kynaston (Chair after item 1591), R Griffiths, R Davies, Mrs. S Evans, D Parry, Mrs J Wilson, Mrs K Stokes, Cllr. E Potter, and 1 member of the public, Mr M Davis

Apologies: PC R Cookson

Historical note: This was the first face to face meeting for a long time; whilst the COVID 19 pandemic was still evident, it was starting to wane and a steady release of lockdown regulations was starting.

**1590 COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS AND PECUNIARY INTEREST FORMS** Following the Parish Council elections the previous week, all councillors except Mr M Tomlins had returned uncontested. They then made their Declarations to The Clerk.

**1591 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** The Clerk took the Chair and asked for nominations for the post of Chair. He noted that the previous Chair, Mr Kynaston, was willing to stand again for one year. Mr Kynaston was then proposed by Mrs Wilson, seconded by Mr Bourne, and there being no other nominations, he was elected unanimously and took over the Chair. He then called for nominations for Vice Chair, and Mr D Parry was proposed by Mr Griffiths, seconded by Mrs Stokes, and there being no other nominations he was also elected unanimously. Mr Bourne suggested that a thank you letter be sent to Mr M Tomlins for his service to the Council, and The Clerk was actioned to do this.

**1592 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Minutes 1582 to 1589 of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were proposed for acceptance by D Parry, seconded by R Griffiths, and approved unanimously

**1593 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were none

**1594 CLERK'S REPORT** The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from Wynnstay Farmers concerning speeding in Alberbury, and they had promised to inform all their drivers. He had also received a request for funds from Hope House Hospice, and councillors agreed unanimously to grant them £100 this year (proposed D Parry, seconded Mrs Stokes). He had written to Shropshire Council to commend Tracy Russell of Highways Dept. for particularly good service. On a question from Mr Griffiths The Clerk said that he had not received any of the promised information from other members of Highways Dept. and would chase this.

**1595 COUNCILLOR VACANCY** The Clerk confirmed that the Council was one person short and that he believed this position could be filled by co-option after a parish wide advertisement. He would confirm this in the next few days but meanwhile, councillors were asked to trawl the parish for volunteers, and it would be posted on the website. Mr Davis, in attendance, was a potential candidate.

### **1596 PARISH MATTERS**

- a. **Highways** The Clerk reported that he had not heard from the traffic consultant for Rowton Ave., despite a chase, and he would now chase again. Mr Bourne complained about the state of the road at 5 ways, Fords Heath, and Cllr Potter advised that it was scheduled in the highways programme. The new Speed Indicator Device at Alberbury was said to be working well by Mr Griffiths, and The Clerk added that the existing VAS device on the other carriageway had now been adjusted to 'fire' at just over 40 mph rather than 44 mph. Mr Griffiths told members that there had been a speed trap in Alberbury this day, but it was still at the Village Hall and always facing towards Shrewsbury. He was most unhappy with the service and effectiveness of the Safety Camera Partnership.

Mr R Davis asked about the general resurfacing needed for the road through Alberbury and Cllr. Potter said that they were waiting to see what was in the capital programme. He thought that a campaign of letters to Shropshire Council would help, and said that he would inform councillors where to send such letters. Finally, Mrs

Wilson told councillors that the condition of Red Abbey Lane was appalling, despite reports of significant potholes to Shropshire Council. The Clerk said that sending in photographs would help.

- b. **Policing:** It was noted that there had a suspicious drone spotted in the area which appeared to be 'casing' potential crime sites. Mr Parry told members that there was also a current problem with dog thefts, potentially linked to the traveller community. It was noted that the Police had not attended a meeting for some time, and The Clerk was asked to remind them of this.
- c. **Other:** Mr Griffiths informed members that redial landscaping works were needed around the Alberbury war memorial, additional to the usual grass cutting, and this was estimated at around £150. He proposed proceeding with this work using the current contractor BML Ltd, this was seconded by Mr Parry and agreed nem con. The Council would also like to progress with noticeboard refurbishments and replacements throughout the parish, and the first proposal was at Alberbury Village hall, where the committee there had offered £500 towards a new Board. Members agreed to match fund this up to £1000, and recover the VAT, so a retail price for a new board of 31200 was possible. (Proposed Mr Parry, seconded Mr Bourne, all in favour). The Clerk agreed to look at local blacksmiths etc. for other noticeboards.

Mr R Davis reported that the condition of some of the stiles in the Loton Park area were in poor condition, and Mr Potter said that if this was reported to Shropshire Council they would take responsibility for these. On a question from Mr Bourne about footpath bridges, Cllr. Potter said that bridges installed by Shropshire Council were maintained by them, but those supplied by the landowner were not covered.

**1597 LOCAL COUNCILLORS REPORT** The Chair congratulated Mr Potter on his re-election to the District Council with an impressive majority, and a number of members noted that this reflected on the huge effort Mr Potter put into the role. He told members that the existing Leader of the Council, Peter Nutting, had not been re-elected and therefore a new Leader would be chosen in the next week. The Conservatives had also taken control of the Council with 43 seats out of 72. He predicted a new approach with a regeneration of Shrewsbury central to the strategy. He also said that the All Recycling Wheelie Bins promised in the Conservative manifesto, would now likely be rolled out in June.

**1598 FINANCE** The Clerks Salary and expenses £285.65, and the Village Hall hire £12 were proposed for payment by D Parry, seconded by Mr Griffiths, and agreed unanimously. Similar approval was given for the Westcotec Speed Indicator Device at £5256 inc. VAT, proposed Mrs Stakes, seconded Mr Parry.

The Annual Accounts statements, previously circulated, were then tabled by The Clerk and signed by The Chair. These would now go to the Internal Auditor for checking. The Clerk noted that this was the last year the accounts would be in this form, as the Council were now using the Scribe system. To that end, as agreed at the last meeting, he had arranged for Mr Parry to have read only access to the accounts for periodic checking purposes.

The Clerk's salary was then reviewed. The Clerk had pre-circulated advice on Clerk's salaries in other local parishes which showed that this Parish was out of line with market rates, and it was noted that The Clerk gave exceptional service. On a proposal from Mr Parry, seconded Mr Griffiths, it was agreed unanimously to increase the Clerk's salary by 6% to last for two years.

**1599 PLANNING** Five applications were studied by councillors and it was agreed to support the extension at Rock Cottage 21/01432/FUL, but to oppose the residential caravan at the Halfway House Inn 21/01847/FUL, as this appeared to be retaining a caravan that had been agreed to be removed some time ago.

**1600 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 12<sup>th</sup> July at Alberbury Village Hall, 8 pm, suspected to be Face to Face

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: