

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Alberbury Village Hall on 18th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: D Parry (Chair), R Davies, R Hughes, Mrs K Stokes, Mrs S Evans, Mrs J Wilson, and Cllr. E Potter, plus 3 members of the public.

Apologies: C Bourne, R Kynaston, and M Davies

1791 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1783 to 1790 of the Meeting held on 12th February 2024 were proposed for acceptance by R Davies, seconded by Mrs S Evans, and approved unanimously.

1792 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

1793 CLERKS REPORT The Clerk reported that this Council had been successful in obtaining a new grant from the Police Commissioners Office for a new Speed Indicating Device in Alberbury with funds available to relocate the current device to Halfway House. He had met with Shropshire Council and agreed a potential location for the Halfway House device and would now discuss this with local residents. He had also reported the flooded road drain at Yockleton Road, Cardeston. (Subsequent to the meeting, Shropshire Council advised that they do not intend to do anything about it).

He then asked for a proposal to purchase a new SID and relocate the Alberbury device to Halfway House with a new battery fitted, at a total cost of around £6200 + VAT. This was proposed by Mrs Stokes, seconded by R Davies and passed nem con. This will now be put on order.

The Clerk gave a summary of the last year which he said had been a very active period for the Council. We had provided a new bench at Cardeston, and a new bus shelter at Halfway House, both of which considerable investments. We had now conceived a scheme to install two Speed Indicating Devices in the Parish at low cost and had received a grant towards the same. We made representations, support statements or objections to a number of key planning applications, following our moral duty to try and benefit all the Parish, but unfortunately, we had not so far been able to influence the current issues at the Halfway House Inn. We also provided additional verge cutting in Rowton Lane, and revamped the parish website. The King's Coronation had been celebrated, which had raised £290 towards local groups, and we had supported the Wattlesborough Show and the Alberbury Fireworks as in previous years. On the downside, the year saw the closure of the Halfway House shop and post office, which we had been unable to prevent.

1794 UNITARY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr. Potter gave further information on the increase in Council Tax just announced, which would be 5%, of which 2% was needed for additional Social Care. (Over 80% of current CT goes towards Social Care). Despite this, an extra £62 m would be needed to be saved in the coming financial year, so that anything non statutory was at risk, but currently Shropshire Council was solvent. His biggest concern was the dire state of County highways, with no extra funding available until 2025 (said to be from HS2 savings) and a potential change of Government before then. He said that the NW Relief Road was making progress with a full Business case due by the end of the year and possible spades in the ground in 2025, however, this could easily go back with a new administration both nationally and locally.

He then spoke about the current consultation in Shrewsbury where it is proposed to zone the traffic and prevent cross zone travel, so one would enter and leave the town by the same route, and not be able to drive through. A member of the public asked if this would affect bus travel and was told that buses and taxis would likely be exempt, and access to the bus station (or its successor) would not be affected. However, access to the train station by private transport from the West of the town (i.e. from this Parish) would appear to be very difficult and extended. The Clerk was asked to submit a comment to the consultation along those lines, and also post this on the website.

1795 PARISH MATTERS

Highways

A member of the public (P J Roberts) drew councillor's attention to the poor state of the road from the A458 into Cardeston, where vehicles are mounting and destroying the verge. This situation was getting worse, he said, and when coupled with the blocked drain and flooding near the A458, something needed to be done. The Clerk was asked to look at other solutions to the blocked drain that this Council could pay for, in the absence of any response by Shropshire Council. The speaker was particularly concerned because the extant Planning Application at Far Broadway Poultry, not yet determined, would, if granted, increase the HGV traffic at certain times at this location. The Chair said that this would be discussed by councillors after this meeting closed.

Policing No report

Other Another member of the public (K Evans) asked councillors if he could update them on a future planning application, for information only, and The Chair agreed. Me Evans had a bungalow conversion refused by Planning two years ago (although this Parish Council had supported it). Since then, he had tried to respond to various requests, all of which appeared to be for a development not in keeping with the area, and he now intended to re-submit the original application. This was likely to be refused again in which case he would appeal.

1796 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £579.75, the hall hire costs £15 and the invoices for £414.72 inc. VAT (Scribe) and £647.68 inc. VAT (Hugo Fox three-year deal), both due April 5th, were approved, proposed Mrs Stokes, seconded R T Hughes, none against.

Finally, the year-to-date financial position was confirmed, and the Council would finish the year with approximately £10,600 in funds, said The Clerk.

1797 PLANNING

- a. 24/00177/FUL Wattlesborough Heath Garage, change of use to create additional yard space, this had been refused, but Cllr. Potter said that this was due to the lack of a noise survey and there were no other Planning issues.
- b. 24/00841/HHE Whiston Priory, erection of a single storey rear extension for Mr and Mrs Blackledge, no comments to report.

1798 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 13th May 2024 scheduled for Wattlesborough Village Hall, 8 pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: