

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

Held at Alberbury Village Hall on Monday 16th April 2018

Present: M Tomlins (Chairman), R Griffiths, Mrs J Wilson, , Mrs K Stokes, D Parry, C Bourne, Clr. Ed Potter and 4 members of the public

Apologies: M Mead (Shropshire Council), R Davies and R Kynaston

1374 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1364 to 1373 of the Meeting held on 19th February were proposed for acceptance by Mr Griffiths, seconded by Mr Parry, and approved unanimously.

1375 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

1376 COUNCILLOR VACANCY The Clerk reported that three persons had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the Council and that he, the Chair and Vice Chair would arrange to interview them as soon as possible. Subject to those meetings he proposed to send a recommendation if applicable to members by e mail.

1377 LOCAL COUNCIL BUSINESS Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, saying that Shropshire Council would be setting a legal budget this year and was in better shape than many others, with 13 Councils to his knowledge close to collapse or bankruptcy. He noted that the Council were considering purchasing the two Shrewsbury shopping centres from their Capital Reserves as this would produce an estimated 7-8% return, as opposed to the 0.7% they were currently receiving from the reserves. In addition, this would give them control of most of the riverside area of Shrewsbury, allowing the whole area to be re-developed. He said that the whole Council had voted in favour of this proposal though it was not unanimous. A member of the public criticised this strategy when figures suggested a recent 6% reduction in footfall in retail Shrewsbury. Clr. Potter said that there was some risk to the proposal, but Shrewsbury would benefit by more 'destination' visitors if the riverside were more attractive. He also noted that the theatre was continuing to do well, and was said to be the only local theatre in the UK that was currently profitable.

1378 TRANSPARENCY GRANT The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been successful in applying for a Transparency Grant of just over £2000. There was a need to spend this on improving the Council's communication ability including the website and our computer infrastructure, but meanwhile this had put the Council in a favourable cash position. He noted that this had first been spotted by member of the public R Carlyle, and then assisted by Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) in Shrewsbury. The members thanked the Clerk and Mr Carlyle for securing this grant.

1379 MEMBERSHIP OF SALC In view of their assistance with the above, which was given freely and without commitment to a non member Council, and the fact that training and assistance (e.g. With GDPR) were available from SALC, the Clerk proposed that the Council rejoin SALC for a year at a cost of £338.90, and this was accepted unanimously.

1380 PARISH MATTERS

- a. **Highways:** The Clerk had pre-circulated a paper on the provision of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs which recommended not proceeding at present with a small sign at Halfway House, but proceeding to install a Speed Limit Reminder sign at Alberbury. To go further, this would require an approved site on the eastbound carriageway, a suitable pole to be installed and the permission for same from Shropshire Highways. He suggested that Perry Muir of SCC might be able to assist and it was agreed to contact him. The new sign once installed would collect speeding data as well as warning over the limit motorists, which, said the Clerk, would assist in pushing for a 30mph limit.

The response from Peter Nutting, Leader, Shropshire Council, to this Council's highways requests, had been very disappointing. Only the lack of a litter bin on the A458 at Halfway House, and an HGV sign on Rowton Lane, were addressed, and Clr. Potter was leading the robust response. It was stated that Ian Walshaw was the Officer involved at SCC and that he should be asked to attend a future meeting. Mr Griffiths would send an aide memoire to the Clerk prior to another letter, and Ford PC should also be involved in the Eyton Bends discussion. In addition the A458 entry slopes at Rowton and Stretton Heath needed attention and the potholes on the B4358 to Westbury were now very severe.

- b. **Police:** No report
- c. **Website:** Another meeting of the working group would take place as soon as possible
- d. **Defibrillator** Three fully trained defib operators were now in place, but none as yet from Wattlesborough. That defib machine would currently be available for use at Rowton Country Club. It was suggested that more publicity be made, perhaps through the website
- e. **Other** Village Gates, The Clerk reported that nothing had been heard from Highways department. He also reminded members that various initiatives in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) would be coming out in the next two months, starting with the Social Media Policy which had been pre-circulated, and this was approved nem con

1381 CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk informed members of the latest moves in the Future Fit NHS project, which would be coming out for further consultation shortly. The proposal at present was to make Shrewsbury the 'hot' emergency centre and to take all electives to Telford.

1382 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £297.55, the SALC membership agreed earlier £338.90 and the Village Hall hire £12 were proposed for acceptance by Mr Griffiths, seconded by Mr Parry, and agreed unanimously. The Clerk reported that he had now received audited accounts from Alberbury Village Hall and had paid them their annual grant, but he still awaited a response from Wattlesborough VH.

The Clerk then tabled a year end position and the annual accounts summary including bank reconciliation, and these were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chair. The Clerk then explained that new external auditors were in place this year and the nature of such things was that more queries could be expected. It was possible, he said, as a smaller Council, to declare exemption from the external audit. All the documentation still had to be prepared and published, and the internal audit carried out, but exemption would avoid higher costs being run up. It was agreed, nem con, to register for exemption this year.

1383 PLANNING All planning matters had been previously circulated to members. However, on a request from a member of the public, it was agreed to list all matters that has arisen since the last meeting, in future, to assist in tracking applications

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm

1373 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 14th May at Wattlesborough Village Hall, 8.00 pm

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: