

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

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Present: K Evans (Chairman), R Griffiths, M Tomlins, Mrs K Stokes, P Siese, C Bourne, D Parry, Mrs J Wilson, Clr. D Roberts, Paul Sutton from Shropshire Housing Group and 2 members of the public

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

**1268 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Minutes 1258 to 1267 of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October were proposed for acceptance by P Siese, seconded by C Bourne, and approved unanimously

**1269 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were none

**1270 X75 BUS SERVICE** Councillor Roberts informed the meeting that a deal had been struck between Powys CC and Shropshire Council which would ensure that this service would continue to pick up passengers in Shropshire for the next planning period. A more permanent solution would need to be revisited and he had not been happy, he said, with the poor way in which Shropshire Council had handled this matter.

**1271 AFFORDABLE HOUSING** Mr Sutton of Shropshire Housing Group (SHG) addressed the meeting. SHG was formed from the Council house stock transfers in North and South Shropshire. They work together with stakeholders and parish councils to provide affordable housing, especially community led projects, and he had previously addressed this Council about 10 years ago when the 18 home development around Wattlesborough Village Hall was proposed (and rejected).

He said that to his surprise, there were only 7 households currently waiting for affordable housing in this parish, and 5 of them wished to move away from the area. This would seem to indicate that there was no housing need, but he was checking this with the Parish Council. The Chair said that the recent Community Led Parish Plan and consultation around it, had said that whereas local needs or affordable housing would be supported, open market housing would not, and in the case of the former category, there had not been a siren call for more affordable housing at the moment. P Siese observed that unless local people had approached Shropshire Council to go on the housing list, there would appear to be little demand, and Clr. Roberts noted that a lack of local jobs, poor bus services and little facilities were almost certainly the reason why there was little demand.

It was agreed that there was no relevant project at present and Mr Sutton was thanked for his interest.

**1272 LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORT** Councillor Roberts told members that Shropshire Council was in election mode currently, so little of a substantive nature would now happen before May 2017, except for a looming Council Tax increase.

The Chair took this opportunity to thank Clr. Roberts, who is retiring from Shropshire Council in May, for his substantial efforts on behalf of this Council over the years, and wished in well in the future.

### **1273 PARISH MATTERS**

- a. **Highways** : The Clerk reported a less than acceptable reply from Highways division on the Wigmore Lane promised improvements and said that he would be writing again. Mr Griffiths told members that little progress was also being made with speeding in Alberbury. He said that the reply from Shropshire Council about the requirements of a speed limit, were clearly not correct, there were over 20 houses in the village spread over 60 m and that appeared to qualify for a 30 mph limit. There were also still problems with overgrown paths. The white gates at either end of the village also need some attention, though The Clerk suggested that this could be done by the Parish Council in extremis. He was asked to write to Mr Davis at Shropshire Council again.
- b. **Police**: No addition to the previously circulated Police Activity e mail, but The Clerk reported that the owner of the Halfway House Stores appeared to have had no information from the police about the investigation of the attempted robbery there recently.
- c. **Other**: The school bus stopping place in Alberbury was discussed. This has been moved since this was raised by parents and after a risk assessment by Shropshire Council and the operator, and this needs to be monitored in the future
- d. **Website**: The Clerk and member of the public Mr Carlyle reported that some improvements had been made but they needed further IT instruction to make better progress; this was being arranged.

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**1274 CORRESPONDENCE** The Clerk read out a letter from Mrs Tomlins-Davies about a hedge problem between her property and Wigmore Lakes Caravan site, which she has asked to be referred to the Planning Enforcement Officer.

The Clerk also reported no progress with West Midlands Ambulance and the defibrillator ideas. Mr Parry said that he would acquaint The Clerk with a better contact at the British Heart Foundation.

**1275 FINANCE** The Clerks Salary and expenses £260.77, the Village Hall hire £12, and the war memorial upkeep at Alberbury £240 were proposed for payment by Mr Parry, seconded by Mr Siese, and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk then tabled an ytd financial statement for 2016/17, and there were no queries. This currently shows a slightly improved reserves position at the year end. He asked members to consider their budget requests ready for the next meeting.

**1276 PLANNING** There were two matters noted; both applications for Open Market Housing which had been previously circulated by e mail and opposed.

**1277 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS** Dates for 2017 were suggested as 9.1, 20.2, 3.4, 15.5, 10.7, 4.9, 23.10 and 11.12, subject to confirmation with the Village Halls

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: