

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Alberbury Village Hall on 19th October 2020 at 8pm

Present: R Kynaston (Chair), R Griffiths, M Tomlins, D Parry, Mrs J Wilson, C Bourne, R Davies and Clr. E Potter; Mr M Barrow from Shropshire Council and Adam Line from the Environment Agency, plus 12 members of the public (for the Severn Partnership section of the meeting)

Apologies: PC R Cookson, Mrs K Stokes and Mrs S Evans

1545 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1536 to 1544 of the Meeting held on 7th September 2020 were proposed for acceptance by D Parry, seconded by R Griffiths, and approved unanimously

1546 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

1547 SEVERN PARTNERSHIP Mr Barrow (Director of Place Shropshire Council and Chair of the Severn Partnership, and Mr Lines (Area Manager, Environment Agency), addressed the meeting. The partnership scope includes the whole River Severn from source to sea, and all 10 Local Authorities along that length, covering 2.3 million people, plus the local Water Companies and other stakeholders. It is concerned with managing the flow and preventing floods in highly populated areas. The recent floods in February this year showed a 0.85m increase in the 100 yr. high level of the river at Shrewsbury, and by 2050 this is predicted to be 1.5 m higher still. So the project will consider water management schemes of all types, and one of the early considerations is whether some flow restriction could be built into the proposed NW Relief Road crossing to the west (and upstream) of Shrewsbury. This, and other schemes, are currently being modelled; as well as holding back water during peak flows, there is also a need to have sufficient water for abstraction purposes at low flow periods. Certainly doing nothing does not appear to be an option as each time Shrewsbury floods it costs the Council #2.5 million approximately. Public consultation, websites etc. have just started, informal at this stage.

Mrs Wilson asked if dredging assisted the river behaviour and was told that it worked in some locations but not in others. Clr. Potter noted that there had to be sufficient compensation in the scheme for all the properties and farms that might have to be flooded or give up land, and a member of the public (MOP) added that if financial benefits arose to downstream properties then this money should be re-invested upstream, which was agreed by Mr Barrow. Two other MOP's were concerned about recent housing developments on existing flood plains, said to be on the increase, and how many properties or communities would have to be sacrificed in the future. Mr Tomlins said that the project would involve many road improvements, raisings etc., and this was very expensive, the project had to allow for this.

It was agreed that subject to receipt of the formal public consultation dates, that these could be put on the parish website.

The Chair thanked Mr Barrow and Mr Lines for updating the Parish on this very important project. Mr Lines then left the meeting.

1548 CLERKS REPORT The Clerk reported that using a new Police Authority grant for speed reduction initiatives, as advised by PC Cookson, he had applied successfully for £4000 funding towards the second VAS device in Alberbury. Additionally Westbury level crossing had now had a series of road repairs and was much better. As requested at the last meeting, he had written to Mr Barnes at 6 Abbey Lane, Alberbury, without a reply. He noted that the report of the Shropshire Bus Group concerning local services, was now available if anyone wished to see it. Finally, he noted that the external auditors had raised two technical points on the accounts (Approvals in the wrong order and the precept not shown with separate CIL money), but were otherwise OK.

1549 PLANNING WHITE PAPER The information on this had been pre-circulated, and it was universally acknowledged to be taking Planning matters away from Local Govt. Clr. Potter said that the local Conservative MP's were against it and he hoped that there would be a robust response to Central Government.

1550 VAS DEVICE ALBERBURY Mr Griffiths acquainted members with the type of VAS installation in Baschurch, and after some discussion it was agreed to consider a 'Your Speed Slow Down' device. The Clerk was asked to get quotations and propose a solution as soon as possible.

1551 COUNCILLORS REPORTS/LIC BUSINESS Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, saying that COVID 19 was continuing to dominate Council matters, and it was likely that parts of Shropshire might have to go into Tier 2 restrictions.

1552 PARISH MATTERS

Highways Mr Barrow of Shropshire Council had remained for this item. Mr Griffiths robustly asserted that no progress had been made on any Highways requests in the Parish, especially the need for a 30 mph limit in Alberbury. All other villages in Shropshire that he had researched, in a similar B road location, had a 30 mph limit, and this stretch of road was seeing 3500 vehicles, including 600 HGV's, every day. Mr Barrow said that as a priority, this should be put in the local Place Plan, but in any event he would see what was possible, perhaps using the General Power of Competence. Secondly, Mr Griffiths said that the condition of the local roads generally was a disgrace. Mr Barrow replied that the previous Highways Maintenance model had been risk based, so the A Roads had taken much of the budget, in an area where two thirds of the network were B Roads or less. This was now being refreshed. Finally, Mr Griffiths asked about the restriction of HGV's in Rowton Lane and the condition of the passing places. Mr Barrow asked for more details, and also said that a new code was being developed with farmers on the use of larger vehicles in such locations.

Mr Tomlins and Mr Parry then spoke about Wigmore Lane, where little had been done on the acknowledged drainage problem, and there was a problem with speeding drivers, so additional signage and/or other initiatives (except speed bumps) would be welcome.

The Clerk was asked to put all these points in a letter to Mr Barrow, whom the Chair thanked for his attendance.

There was a further short discussion on Rowton Lane and the need, or not, to take a combine harvester down there. The Clerk was asked to reply to the concerned parishioner on this subject.

Policing No report

Website It was acknowledged that another website committee meeting would be desirable, particularly to discuss accessibility requirements, and Mr Parry will arrange this.

Other Mr Parry asked whether a further tidy up operation could be done on the copse at Wattlesborough, and this was agreed; The Clerk to arrange as soon as possible.

1553 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £274.40, Alberbury grass cutting £17 and the Village Hall hire £15, were proposed for payment by Mr Parry, seconded by Mrs Wilson, and agreed unanimously. It was noted that no fireworks contribution to Alberbury was required as the event would be cancelled due to COVID.

1554 PLANNING The following were noted:

- a. 20/00448/FUL and 02403/FUL, Stanford Farm, new timber building and works associated with wedding venue, Permission granted

1555 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 20th November scheduled for Wattlesborough but will be advised, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: