

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 15th October 2019 At 7.00pm at The Red House Albrighton

19.070 Welcome by the Chairman:

19.071 Apologies for absence and reasons:

Cllr Thompson, family commitment
Cllr Hickman, personal commitment
Cllr White, health

The above apologies were **accepted** en bloc, **all in favour**

19.072 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

None at this time

19.073 Public Session:

There were no questions at this time.

19.074 CAB

Dr Matthew Bird, a G.P from Albrighton Medical Practice, was present to give some background to the situation with the C.A.B. Dr Bird said that he had no allegiance with the C.A.B, but feels it is a service that is needed and useful. Historically it existed at the medical practice, where accommodation was provided for free, and the practice's reception staff also operated as reception for the bureau. It was an arrangement that ran smoothly for some years. Dr Bird said he found it disappointing when funding was cut two and a half years ago, by the health authority. There is a theory linking social problems to health problems, and the impact of the GP workload. In the last year of operation 67% of the clients using the service had a disability or long-term health conditions. The service offers free face-to-face impartial advice. Using the C.A.B's more generalist services might be difficult for disabled and elderly clients to access. When the service cut the practice was approached, through the patient group, for ideas to return the service. Albrighton Parish Council stepped in to fund it for 12 months. At a meeting at the surgery one month ago, the Wynn Foundation proposed to carry half the cost.

Dr Bird said he was here to explain what the C.A.B do and ask if it is something that the Parish Council would be willing to contribute towards.

The Chair said that it had been agreed in principle at the last meeting that if other funding could be found the Parish Council would be willing to contribute towards the services for one year. This would give time to establish if long-term it is a viable project.

There was some discussion on how the service could be accessed by members of the public and its role in the community. Dr Bird said that the service had been one day a week, half a day spent on face-to-face advice and the other half on follow-up and paperwork.

19.075. Minutes:

It was proposed by Cllr Beechey, and seconded by Cllr Jones, that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019 be accepted as a true record.
All in Favour.

19.076. Matters Arising

a) Cosford and Green Belt

Cllr Parry said that the Council had been asked to comment on bid proposals which included part of Cosford being taken out of the Green Belt. Cllr Jones said it had not been made clear that this was just one section of the airfield. Cllr Beechey said that the proposals [for Cosford] and those for Tong and Shifnal were quite separate issues.

There was discussion amongst councillors about how linking the plans for Cosford with other housing plans had been unhelpful and had given the impression it was all being taken out of the Green Belt and could potentially be used for future widescale housing development.

Cllr Dale questioned the taking of a piece of land out of the Green Belt without a clear reason for doing so. Cllr Wilson said that all future plans for Cosford were defence related and that the Academy will use a redeveloped plot.

Cllr Wilson said he had wanted to know how the Council had arrived at its previous comments on the proposals and said he was satisfied having heard the views expressed.

b) BT Telephone Removal Consultation

Shackerley Lane is the only place in the Parish with a telephone box.

Cllr Parry said there had been no calls from the phone box in the last 12 months. Residents on the lane had expressed the views to him that they would not be against removing the phone but would like to keep the iconic telephone box.

It was proposed by Cllr Dale and seconded by Cllr Wilson that **the Parish Council has no objection to removing the telephone but would like to retain the telephone box.**

All in Favour.

It was requested that the Parish Clerk responds to the consultation accordingly.

c) David Austin Memorial Garden at the Redhouse

There will be a change in date to the proposed event. The ground will not be prepared by Remembrance Day so the new date will be in Spring.

The Chair reminded the Council that in principle it had been agreed to a joint share in the case of putting up the commemorative stone. There would be no other cost to the Parish Council.

d) Speeding on the A41

The Operations Manager from West Mercia Police had responded to the Parish Clerk's email raising public concerns about speeding on the A41. The response stated that the police "have no evidence to support the claims" but did intend to visit the area "to assess the need for further action".

In the ensuing discussion, some Councillors felt that this response did not fully consider the problem. It was commented that speed cameras are often seen on the stretch of road.

Shropshire Council Highways had advised that a request to review speeding issues would come through the relevant Parish Council and this would then be directed to our traffic team in Shirehall.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should request a review. It was requested that the Parish Clerk advises to this affect.

e) Flooding on the Newport Road

Cllr Parry said that debris had been removed, closure signs were still up but the road is now clear. A tanker had been out and the drains sluiced. He said that there had been road safety issues. Cllr Beechey said that tree roots had been causing problems and that this needed sorting out. Cllr Wilson said he would follow up on comments that Cosford might need drains unblocking.

f) Highways – Station Road and Brooklands Road

Parking remains a problem by the station. The Chair reported that he had not been advised of a timescale for the disabled access footpath but expected it to be within the next 12 months.

Cllr Jones said she had been to the Civic Society meeting the previous evening where there had been comments from the public about the increase in parking on the highways now that there are charges at the station. There have been some problems parking at the surgery.

19.077. New Business

a) West Midlands Trains Community Transport Event

Cllr Beechey had attended this event and provided a written report to Councillors about it. He said that it had looked at how Parish Councils could work with West Midlands Trains to make better use of the station. Use of the Albrighton Flyer had been mentioned.

Cllr Wilson said that visitors to the Cosford Museum regularly use the station but most arrive by car. The Academy would be more likely to be interested in station use. The development plan is a 15 year strategy.

Cllr Kirton commented on the overgrown condition of the pathway between Cosford and the station. Cllr Parry commented on the lack of disabled access at the station.

Cllr Williams said that it was down to Network Rail to take the lead to improve their facilities.

It was agreed to write to both Network Rail and RAF Cosford expressing concern at the lack of disabled facility at the station and that it is felt to be limiting given development at the museum.

It was requested that the Parish Clerk drafts a letter to be approved at the next meeting.

b) Community Connectors Network Meeting

Cllr Beechey attended this meeting and provided a written report to Councillors about it. He said that it was about helping the organisation to signpost places people may go to and that it is not necessarily about cost or funding facilities.

The Nature Reserve and the Melville Club were mentioned by Councillors as examples of facilities available locally that might be suitable for social proscripting purposes.

Cllr Parry said there had been an increase in volunteers at the nature reserve. He questioned whether toilet facilities should be considered.

The Chair suggested that a speculative costing of toilet facilities could be undertaken by the Nature Reserve Committee.

c) Boscobel House

The Parish Clerk had been contacted by English Heritage about plans to develop the education facilities at Boscobel House. She would be meeting a representative of the organisation on 18th October. Councillors present suggested an interest in coming along to see the site and hear about the proposed plans.

Plans had been sent to the Parish Council by Shropshire Council after the publication of the minutes.

19.078. Correspondence: For Action.

a) Road Safety

A resident of RAF Cosford has contacted the Parish Council to raise concerns about road safety and access in and out of the village caused by the flood on Newport Road. It's an issue for families walking children to school and nursery school, particularly as large vehicles are using Rectory Road as an alternative access route.

Councillors said that the matter had been dealt with and action taken.

19.079. Correspondence: For Information.

The following were noted:

a) Shropshire Council Street Works notification

Due to the Remembrance parade taking place in Albrighton on 10th November 2019, Newport Rd and High St will be closed from 1020am to 1230pm.

b) NHS Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital

An Independent Reconfiguration Plan has allowed the trust to move ahead with Future Fit plans

19.080. Planning.

- (a) Applications:** None at this time
- (b) Permission Granted:** None at this time
- (c) Permission Refusals:** None at this time
- (d) Any other planning matters:** None at this time

19.081. Finance.

a) To approve the following payments –

PKF	Audit Fees	£240	Inc. £40 VAT	LGA 1972 s.111
Vanessa Voysey	Clerk's salary & expenses (Oct)	£570.96	Inc. £16 home £15.79 travel	LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC	Tax	Not due		LGA 1972 s.111

It was agreed to approve the payments, **All in Favour.**

b) Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was received and agreed, **All in Favour**

The Parish Clerk reported an error concerning cheques 1615 and 1616. Both were for £22 for the Redhouse for a meeting hire. Cheque 1615 had not been included on the July payments sheet and Cheque 1616 had been included on the September payments sheet against an invoice for the same meeting. It was agreed that if the cheque was presented to credit the amount against the next invoice.

The Parish Clerk reported that a cheque written in June for the Shropshire Playing Fields Association had not been presented. Cllr Beechey said he would investigate this as he is a member of the organisation and would speak to the Treasurer.

(c) Spend to date - To receive and agree the spend against the budget.

The spend to date was received and agreed, **All in Favour**.

(d) AGAR report

The AGAR report was noted.

(e) Petty Cash

The Parish Clerk reported that the Petty Cash was in order but that the coins were old pound coins and now obsolete. She therefore suggested they be banked.

(f) Banking

The Parish Clerk reported on the Savings Bank account and suggested that as a way forward either a new mandate be requested or that the Parish Council consider changing banks.

Cllr Dale said that the Parish Council should consider an investment fund.

Cllr Kirton commented on avoiding risk to public money.

Cllr Beechey said that the Albrighton Fund invests with CCLA and gets a good return.

It was agreed that the account be closed and the money moved to a new account.

All in Favour.

It was requested that the Parish Clerk bring information on options to the next meeting.

The Parish Clerk reported on the current account and online banking. It would need a two signatory system.

The Chair suggested that the Parish Council retains the cheque system whilst other options are explored.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should find out how the TSB could facilitate internet banking with dual authorisation.

(g) Pension Compliance

The Parish Clerk reported to the Parish Council that it needed to report its legal compliance to the Pensions Regulator by June 2020.

The Chair said that staff not eligible could consider if they wanted to opt in and advise the Parish Council at the next meeting.

19.082. Reports:

- (a) SALC (Cllr D. Beechey).
- (b) RAF Cosford (Sqn.Ldr. Wilson).
- (c) Local Nature Reserve (Cllr D. Hickman).
- (d) Albrighton Village Halls Trust (Cllr H. Kirton).
- (e) Clerk's Update

Any other reports

Cllr Dale asked when the next budget meeting would be and reminded the Parish Council that next meeting would be a suitable time to discuss the forthcoming year's budget.

19.083. Training

The Chair said that training information was on SALC website and that any interested parties should inform the Parish Clerk.

19.084. Date of the Next Meeting 19.11.19

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **9.11.19**