

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Donington with Boscobel Parish Council Tuesday 17th November at 7pm Held on Zoom Video - Meeting ID: 837 5432 2073

Present: Cllrs Christine Jones, David Dale, Robert Parry, David Beechey, David Williams, Hugh Kirton

In attendance: V.N.Voysey (Parish Clerk)

20.69 Welcome by the Chair

Chairman Christine Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20.70 Apologies for absence and reasons:

Apologies were received from:

Malcolm White – no internet connection

Don Hickman – personal commitment

Chris Wilson – work commitment

The above apologies were received and accepted

Shropshire Councillor Ed Bird sent in his apologies prior to the meeting.

20.71 Declarations of Interest: a) Pecuniary b) Personal

Cllr Robert Parry had registered his personal interest in item 10) d) with the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting

20.72 Public Session:

There were no members of the public present and no questions filed in advance of the meeting

20.73 Minutes:

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2020 as a true record

20.74 Matters Arising

- a) **Benches repair** – Cllr Parry has sourced hard woods from a joiner for the Mike Owen memorial bench. The Parish Clerk has the invoice. The cost is within budget, £276 including VAT. It might require the placement of four slabs which Cllr Parry will also source and fit.
Cllr Parry has sourced three replacement slats for the bench by the railway. Bolts will be drilled through it.
It is anticipated that there will be approximately £100 for additional expenses in materials, still keeping the project with the £500 budget agreed by the Parish Council.
It was **proposed, seconded, and resolved** to pay the bill for the hard woods so that Cllr Robert Parry can collect them and to cover any additional expenses within the £500 budget.
Cllr Robert Parry also suggested attaching a plaque to the slats and this was **agreed** by the Parish Council.
- b) **Contribution towards joint services** – a joint meeting was held on Friday 13th November with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Parish Clerk of Albrighton Parish Council and Cllr Christine Jones, Cllr Hugh Kirton, Cllr David Dale and the Parish Clerk from Donington with Boscobel Parish Council. Notes had been made from the meeting and circulated to members.

There was a detailed discussion on the contribution request towards services during which the following points were raised:

- The implication of the reduction of the grant from Shropshire Council for the library: if it is reducing at about £4k a year, then there could be an £1k increase a year in the amount of support requested from the Parish Council for the library. If a subsidy is not received from Shropshire Council for the Albrighton Flyer, then the support request for this service could also go up.
- The high amount of support request for the library compared to what the Parish Council had put in its precept and how this could be justified to residents. It was questioned if these were the services residents would want the Parish Council to contribute towards, and it was mentioned that the residents of RAF Cosford use neither the library nor the Flyer as they have their own transport and information services.
- The implication of new housing being built in Albrighton would be likely to reduce the proportional share as it has been calculated based on the tax base. The contribution of small outlying Parishes would be minimal if based on the same calculations. Currently, they do not contribute towards services in Albrighton.
- The Albrighton Flyer is used by elderly and vulnerable users and is providing a good service. Younger working people might not use this service or the library as they do things in different ways but we do need to look after older people.
- The Library is aimed at younger people particularly in the summer months. The Flyer is a service we should be providing. We should consider what we support. We are answerable to our residents.

- The Parish Council has no say in the running costs of the library. There is no way of establishing if running costs could be reduced or income increased. If we are to fund it to this extent we should have some say in its management.
- Figures had been requested from Albrighton Parish Council when setting a budget last year but none was forthcoming. We can only work with the information that we are given and so £3k went in the budget against the library service as an approximation.
- Previous discussions about supporting the Christmas lights have raised excessive costs and none of the lights being in the parish. It has not been included in this year's budget.

It was suggested that the two councils set up a committee to look at the running of the library, on a parallel with the committee that looks after the nature reserve. It was questioned how much of a parallel this would be as a budgeted sum is set for the nature reserve and if that is over then the money is sourced from elsewhere.

It was suggested that the budget line from the cancelled approbation event could be moved to the library line and increase the amount in it to £4k.

It was suggested that the discussion had overall seemed to favour a grant based approach, and that the other available option was to accept whatever figures were given at the end of the financial year.

It was **proposed, seconded and resolved** to grant the precepted amount of £3,000 towards the costs of Albrighton Library.

4 in favour: 1 against (Cllr David Dale), 1 abstention (Cllr David Beechey)

It was **proposed, seconded and resolved** to pay £2772 towards the cost of the Albrighton Flyer. All in favour.

It was **proposed, seconded and resolved** to pay £152 towards the cost of village planters. All in favour.

c) Highways – the Parish Clerk said that there was nothing to report regarding Long Lane and Rectory Road as there had been no feedback from Shropshire Council. Cllr Robert Parry reminded the Parish Council that he had also raised the issue of the condition of road signage and that the road sign in Shackerley Lane is now smashed. Cllr Christine Jones said that she would ask Shropshire Councillor Ed Bird if he had any updates.

d) Casual Vacancy – A local resident has approached Cllr Christine Jones about the Casual Vacancy. He was not able to attend this evening's meeting but is hoping to attend December's meeting. It was suggested that he might offer a letter of introduction to members in advance of this meeting.

20.75 New Business

- a) **Surgery** – Cllr Robert Parry reported that at this time it did not seem that the surgery entrance would alter.
- b) **General Power of Competence** - it was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, to state that the council is eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 ss 1-8 as i) the Parish Clerk completed and passed CiLCA in October 2020 and ii) two thirds of the Councillors were elected and not co-opted.
- c) **David Austin Memorial Garden** – Cllr David Williams said that a good job had been done by Albrighton Parish Council in this project and that David Austin was a prominent member of the community and supporter of the Nature Reserve. Cllr David Beechey said that there would not have been St Cuthbert's Meadow without David Austin. It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to pay £372.85 towards the David Austin Memorial Garden.

20.76 Correspondence: For Action

- a) **Closure of the TSB bank** - notification has been sent that the Albrighton branch of TSB is closing on 12th January 2021. The Parish Council holds a current account with the TSB. Cllr Christine Jones said that the nearest branch would now be in Wolverhampton. The view was expressed that it would be unlikely that the bank would change its mind. It was requested that the Parish Clerk look at alternative banking arrangements for the current account and put into consideration the move towards online banking.

20.77 Correspondence: For Information.

- a) **Road Closure** – Worcester Lane will be closed on 6th December for structural examination of the railway bridge between 7am and 3pm. Works promoter is Network Rail.
- b) **Road Closure** – County Lane will be closed from 20th January 2021 to 10th February 2021 between 9.30am and 4pm for surfacing work. The work promoter is Kier on behalf of Shropshire Council.

The above were noted

20.78 Planning.

- a) **Applications:** 20/04521/FUL

Proposed commercial development land to the west of Neachley Lane

Erection of a new air ambulance headquarters and airbase, including a helicopter hangar, offices, staff and visitor accommodation, training spaces, offices and ancillary floorspace, a new final approach and take off area (FATO), a new access

road from Neachley Lane, and car parking, gardens and outdoor activity spaces, comprehensive landscaping schemes and associated development.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to approve the above application.

Comment: this is an appropriate development to happen within the green belt.

b) Permission Granted:

20/04229/AMP

7 Woodland Close, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Shropshire WV7 3PR
Non-material amendment to previous planning permission 20/00993/FUL Erection of a single side storey extension

The above was noted

c) Permission Refusals: None at this time

d) Any other planning matters:

A member of the public has contacted the Parish Council to express concern at the narrowing of the road on Shackerley Lane adjacent to new barn conversions at White Ladies Farm. Wooden bollards have been placed on a grass strip, opposite a metal gate that used as an access point for agricultural land. Large farm equipment uses the gate throughout the year. The placement of the bollards and the narrowing of the lane will make manoeuvring difficult. It is requested that the Council takes the needs of safety and farming into account when considering the narrowing of the width of the roadway.

Cllr Christine Jones had visited the site and taken photographs prior to the meeting and these had been circulated by the Parish Clerk.

It was agreed that this issue be passed onto Shropshire Council Planning Department for their consideration.

20.79 Finance.

20.79.1

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, to approve the following payments –

Clerk	Clerk's salary & expenses (September)	£449.37		LGA 1972 s 112 (2) LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC	Tax	Not due		LGA 1972 s.111
PKF Accountants	Audit Fees	£240		LGA 1972 s 112 (2)

20.79.2

- a) **Bank Reconciliation** it was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation until the end of October 2020
- b) **Spend to Date** it was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to receive and approve the spend to date to the end October 2020
- c) **Online banking** - this was covered in the meeting when discussing the impending closure of Albrighton's TSB bank branch
- d) **Budget** – Cllr Williams commented that some of the money earmarked for projects has not been spent because of Covid. He suggested that some of the earmarked money be put back into the budget for next year as organisations will be needing support. He would also like the Council to consider a higher grant for the Community First Responders. It was **agreed** to have a detailed meeting to discuss the budget.

20.80 Reports:

- (a) **SALC** Cllr D. Beechey – the AGM will be held on 20th November at 6pm.
RAF Cosford Cllr. C. Wilson – filed a written report in advance of the meeting that said that training carries on at Cosford despite the latest lockdown and Remembrance ceremonies were attended in Albrighton, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Bridgnorth.
- (b) **Nature Reserve Report** - the committee filed a written report in advance of the meeting that was circulated to all Councillors
- (c) **Albrighton Village Halls Trust** Cllr H. Kirton – nothing to report at this time
- (d) **AFLAG** – Albrighton Flood Action Group Cllr D. Hickman – nothing to report at this time
- (e) **Clerk's Report** – this had been covered elsewhere in the meeting

Any other reports.

20.67 Training

Training information is available on: www.alcshropshire.co.uk/training

20.68 Date of the Next Meeting 15.12.20

Items for the agenda to be notified to the clerk by **05.11.20**