

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Alberbury Village Hall on Monday 23rd October 2023

Present: D Parry (Chair), Mrs K Stokes, Mrs J Wilson, R Kynaston, R Davies, Mrs. S Evans, R
T Hughes, C Bourne, M Davies and 7 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr. E Potter and the Police

1758 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1750 to 1757 of the Meeting held on 4th September 2023 were proposed for acceptance by Mr Hughes, seconded by Mrs Evans, and approved unanimously.

1759 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Bourne declared a personal interest in item 9 (b) Planning on the Agenda

1760 CLERK'S REPORT The Clerk reported a quiet month with only the consultation on Shrewsbury town centre re-development (which he had circulated) and communications regarding the slip road (next item) having crossed his desk. The Council had just received a barrister letter on the Halfway House Inn site however, which would be discussed later under Other Parish Matters.

1761 SLIP ROAD ONTO OLD A458 The Clerk summarised the position with this idea:

Members were reminded that this idea was raised at the last meeting as a device to reduce speeding along this road. The Clerk had since mailshotted all residents on that stretch and received various comments, and he had had a call from National Highways, who are responsible for the main A458, who had heard about the proposal.

National Highways

They were worried about this proposal for a number of reasons:

- Just stopping the slip road would not be sufficient traffic engineering for them as it would make the pull in dangerous. Some kind of splay would have to be added to the existing turn in
- There is no current justification for this in terms of recent accidents etc., and the cost of doing the works would be difficult to justify.
- National Highways would not have invested in this slip road if they didn't think it was necessary, cash is tight.
- Creation of a dead end in the old slip road may encourage fly tipping and undesirable parking etc.
- They struggled to see where speeding drivers would be going to; it made no sense that they were using this as a cut through.

Comments from Residents against the proposal

Of the 30 household there he had 6 replies arguing against blocking the slip road. Reasons given:

- The parking issue mentioned above which might be used by HGV's, then causing a hazard when they rejoined the A458. Overnight engine running etc.
- Creation of such a layby will lead to littering etc.

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- There is a perceived lack of accidents at this spot. Any previous accidents are said to have occurred at the Halfway House pub junction with traffic slowing down to turn left, the very thing being proposed by the slip road closure.
- The existing slip road is therefore there for road safety reasons.

Comments from Residents in favour of the proposal

He had had 4 letters in support of the blocking:

- Speeding is perceived as a problem and this idea would reduce it
- Drivers are using this as a cut through to Marche Lane and this would discourage this

Other ideas

A couple of residents had suggested speed bumps or a 20 mph limit as alternatives. Or blocking the road at the Halfway House Inn end. Any such schemes would come under Shropshire Highways rather than the national body, and would be difficult to justify in terms of cost and lack of evidence.

The Chair then opened a general discussion. Mr Bourne thought that if national Highways were against the idea then it was very unlikely to proceed, and Mr Kynaston commented that enforcement of a 20mph limit would likely be difficult. A member of the public said that blocking the road anywhere would lead to problems with bin lorries and the school buses, having difficulty turning. One suggestion of a speed bump at the end of the slip road was, it was suggested, dangerous, as traffic would approach it at up to 60mph. Another member of the public said that there had been no accidents on this stretch of road in living memory, so it would be difficult to justify any changes.

It was decided to ask Shropshire Highways for the feasibility of traffic calming measures (although unlikely to be funded at present) and the Clerk was asked to price up a new Speed Indicator Device for Alberbury village, which would release the existing device for use on the old A458. (This being a device that just indicates a speeding situation, not the actual speed).

1762 UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT In Cllr. Potter's absence the Chair read out a summary report. Parish boundary changes were progressing, but not involving this parish. The NW Relief Road was heading to Planning in November, and was now said to be fully funded using ex HS2 monies. He, (Cllr. Potter), was aware of a large number of mud blocked drains due to the recent heavy rainfall, and he was working with Highways Dept to sort this.

1763 PARISH MATTERS

- Highways** Mrs. Stokes reported continuing problems at Wigmore Lane caused by vehicles parked on the junction, and in the latest case, causing an HGV to be unable to turn off the main A458. The Clerk said he would inform the police, and Mrs Evans suggested that leaflets posted on cars might help the problem.
A footpath sign has been decapitated at Cardeston, said Mr M Davies, and the Clerk will report this. There is also a bridal way blocked between Snods Nook and Abbey Lane, in

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Alberbury. There had been a serious RTA at Rowton, partially caused by flooding, and the drains had since been cleared. Finally the footpath between Beningfields and the B4387 junction at Halfway House was reported as overgrown at low level.

- b. **Policing:** No report. It was noted that there had been a recent speed trap in Alberbury. The Clerk was asked to produce a speed devices report for the next meeting.
- c. **Alberbury Grass Cutting** Mr Hughes said that Border Lawncare were happy to do the areas other than around the war memorial when they were in the area, but the Gates area at the Welsh end of the village would be inaccessible unless the hedges were cut. The Clerk was asked to set up a new arrangement with them, using Robert Davies as the Council's prime contact.
- d. **Other:** A member of the public asked if some small improvements could be made to the new bus stop at Halfway House, and the Clerk will look at this.
The Clerk then referred to a letter, previously circulated, that had been received from a barrister acting for Mr K Peake, concerning an area apparently attached to the Halfway House and Seven Stars Inns. Councillors were unanimous that this was not the responsibility of the Parish Council as this land was almost certainly owned by either National Highways or Shropshire Highways, as part of the old A458; and was still required as a visibility splay for the turn into Marsh Lane. The Clerk was asked to reply to the barrister in that vein.
A problem was also reported on Rowton Avenue with substantial mud being left on the road after the maize harvest. The Clerk was asked to write to the farmer and contractor particularly to avoid the same issue next year.

1764 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £587.49, Alberbury Village Hall hire £15, and Parish Online Mapping £67.20 were all approved for payment, proposed Mrs K Stokes, seconded R Kynaston, nem con. The Village Contribution towards Alberbury Fireworks of £200 was also agreed unanimously, Proposed M Davies, seconded Mrs J Wilson. The Clerk said that after this meeting, there would be approximately £14700 left in the accounts, which allowed for some small expenditure on village projects.

1765 PLANNING There were no comments made on any of the applications

1766 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 4th December at Wattlesborough Village Hall, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: