

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Wattlesborough Village Hall on Monday 15th May 2022

Present: D Parry (Chair), Mrs. S Evans, Mrs J Wilson, Mrs K Stokes, M Davis, C Bourne, Cllr. E Potter: plus, PC Richard Walters and PCSO Jackie Baldwin for the Police Report

Apologies: R Kynaston, R Davies, Mr R T Hughes

1730 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR Not required as serving for another year.

1731 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes 1721 to 1729 of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th March 2023 were proposed for acceptance by Mr Bourne, seconded by M Davis, and approved unanimously.

1732 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Mr Bourne declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning item 11b

1733 CLERK'S REPORT The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received the annual Precept and £21 in Community Infrastructure Levy. He has also applied for £357 of VAT refund and the Parish website had generated £150 from the adverts. The new bus shelter was on order and would arrive in about 2 weeks' time, he said, at a cost of approximately £4500 + VAT. As this had been approved at a previous meeting, he asked for a motion to pay the invoice for this as soon as it was satisfactorily finished (Proposed Mrs Stokes, seconded Mr Davies, nem con). He would then publish a budget forecast for 2022/3.

He had received a donation request from the Midlands Air Ambulance, see next item, and £270 profit from the Coronation events, also later in the minutes.

1734 DONATION REQUEST – Air Ambulance After a short discussion Mr Bourne proposed that £200 be sent to the AA funds, seconded by Mrs Wilson, non against.

1735 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES REPORT This had been previously circulated and appeared to show that the two devices had resulted in a general reduction in speeding over the last two years, so that around 37% of motorists were now speeding compared with 60% at the time the units were installed. Worryingly however, there were still instances of very high one-off speeds of 90+ mph. The Police noted that they had been speed trapping in Alberbury as well. It was suggested that these results be published on the Parish Website and Parish Magazine, and The Clerk will organise this. The Clerk will also send a copy of the data to the Safer Roads Partnership and speak to ORP and Pontesbury PC about ANPR cameras.

1736 PARISH MATTERS

- a. **Highways** The verge cutting of Rowton Lane was discussed and it is likely that Shropshire Council will only do one verge cut this year (in June). As the visibility in this lane is already difficult, Mr Bourne proposed and Mrs Evans seconded a motion that this Council should organise a cut as soon as possible, and there were none against. Mr Bourne will organise.
- b. **Policing:** PC Walters explained the current Neighbourhood Team structure, in a large area from Nesscliffe down to the Welsh Border and across to Minsterley. There were current late night initiatives taking place to disrupt and catch various types of criminals. There had been 25 crimes in the Parish in the last year. He introduced the revamp of Neighbourhood Watch, which is online and works by alerting/advising those who sign up for information.
- c. **Kings Coronation:** Mr Kynaston (in absentia) had written to thank all those involved in the two events, which had been a big success and generated the surplus mentioned earlier. The Chair echoed these thanks, and also noted that Mr Kynaston had also helped enormously.

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It was proposed by Mrs Stokes, seconded Mrs Wilson, that £100 be given to the Scouts, and £100 to the Young Farmers, for their sterling efforts, nem con. The Clerk noted that there were some Hall Fees to pay as well, but the overall would not be very much more than the £290 raised.

- d. **Other:** The Chair reported that the gate moving exercise at Wattlesborough Village Green had been completed and had resulted in some additional car parking in Wigmore Lane. Mrs Stokes also thanked The Chair for arranging the debris removal. At the Playing area, dog fouling notices had now been sourced. The annual safety inspection would be due in the next month, said The Clerk.

1737 LOCAL COUNCILLORS REPORT Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, saying that the forthcoming Boundary Review could result in him losing Westbury, but not Yockleton, and gaining Ford parish; consultation was ongoing. There would later be a review at parish level.

He noted that the NW Relief Road Planning Application was still held up by Environmental Agency concerns.

1738 FINANCE The Clerks Salary and expenses £333.58, Border Lawncare £20, Village Hall hire £15, SALC £446.62 and Works to Wattlesborough Village Green £705, were proposed for payment by Mrs Evans, seconded by Mr Davies, and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk reminded members that they had confirmed that the Internal Controls and Systems were satisfactory back in February, and he now asked the Chair to sign the Declaration to that effect. He also confirmed that the Council would be applying for Exemption from External Audit as previously agreed, and this form was also signed by The Chair.

He had previously circulated a summary of last years accounts, plus agreeing the reconciliation with Mr Parry, and the Annual Accounts were then signed by The Chair prior to Internal Audit by Mr D Roberts.

Clerks Salary Review: The Clerk had previously circulated a paper showing how this Parish was out of step with market salaries, with neighbouring parishes paying up to four times the current Alberbury Clerk's salary. He had noted that the Parish should budget for and pay more like the going rate, to make replacing him easier if required in the future. After a short discussion councillors agreed with this argument, and on a motion by Mr Davies, seconded by Mrs Evans, (unanimous) it was decided to increase The Clerk's salary to £4600 pa with effect from the next payment.

1739 PLANNING It was decided to support 23/01551/FUL because the young family concerned were essential to the farming community (Mr Bourne took no part in this discussion). For similar reasons, Me TK Evan's application at Rowton would also be supported.

1740 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 10th July at Alberbury Village Hall, 8 pm

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: