

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALBERBURY WITH CARDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Held at Alberbury Village Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Present: R Kynaston, (Chairman), R Griffiths, Mrs J Wilson, R Davies, M Tomlins, D Parry, C Bourne, Clr. Ed Potter, PC R Cookson, Clr. Peter Nutting from Shropshire Council and 3 members of the public

Apologies: M Mead (Shropshire Council), Mrs K Stokes and P Siese

**1355 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Minutes 1346 to 1354 of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were proposed for acceptance by Mr Griffiths, seconded by Mr Parry, and approved unanimously.

**1356 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were none

**1357 ADDRESS BY PETER NUTTING, LEADER, Shropshire Council** Councillor Nutting addressed the meeting, stating that his theme as Leader was to improve the economic development of the Council area, which had lots of poor quality employment and low wages. He was also addressing issues within the Council with their general culture and their liaison with external parties including parish councils.

Overall, the Council was currently spending £600m and receiving £580m, and he thought that a breakeven position would take 2-3 years. The Council had about £150m in capital reserves earning very low interest, so his aim was to turn this into additional revenue. By example, investment in a revitalised Riverside Shopping Centre could generate a return of 8%; and spending £18m on the Shire Hall, which was single glazed and had 1960's boilers, could save £0.5m a year. There was also a plan to reconfigure the Shire Hall internally and free up at least half of it for commercial lets; and plans to dispose of some of the buildings on the Business Park.

On social housing, he said that a further £110m could be raised by the sale of 4500 Council Houses in Bridgnorth and Oswestry. He was asked by members why local social housing went to non local people on occasions, and he said that it was supposed to be driven by the people in greatest need, but sometimes there were other commercial reasons.

He invited questions and Mr Griffiths lead a series of criticisms about the state of local highways and the communications concerning them, saying that most of this Council's previous comments had been ignored. Mr Nutting asked The Clerk to detail this in an e mail to him, particularly issues that were of significant community concern.

Other points emerged from comments and questions: 1000 houses have been built in the area in the last few years and 50% of them were for local people; and the number of children in the county are still declining with only one new school on the planning horizon and Mary Webb School down to 500 pupils. Finally Clr. Nutting noted that there was still an active campaign to keep A&E in Shrewsbury, and Welsh MO Glyn Davis was also supporting this heavily.

Clr. Nutting said that he hoped to come again at least annually, and The Chair thanked him for attending.

### **1358 PARISH MATTERS**

- a. **Highways:** The provision of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs was discussed again and The Clerk reported that he now had quotes for full size signs in the region of £5000 installed. He was asked to check how much smaller roundel signs, as used on the A458 at Ford, would cost (Proposed C Bourne, seconded D Parry, unanimous) A member of the public asked why Halfway House was not being considered for similar treatment and The Clerk replied that even one sign in Alberbury would involve a substantial increase in precept and therefore one sign at a time was the likely progression

- b. **Police:** PC Cookson spoke to the meeting, dealing first with the speeding concerns on the A458. He said that the Safety Camera Partnership were prioritising areas where data supported a large number of speeding offenders and that was not currently the case at Halfway House, but he would attempt to get this reviewed.. There had been very low crime in Nov/Dec he said, but there had been repeat burglaries at Whiston Farm and Tomlins Crane yard (mainly batteries and tools). There had also been a cannabis growing person arrested just outside Alberbury in Powys. On a question from a member of the public, he said that in the whole of our area including Shrewsbury, there would at times only be 14 Constables on duty, and rural patrols were almost non-existent. However, Pontesbury Police Station was staying open at present.
- c. **Defibrillators:** Mr Parry noted that there will be a training course on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. The second defib site is still being investigated.
- d. **Website:** The new site had been activated via the Hugo Fox platform but was still not live on the open web, said The Clerk, this was being worked upon. It was proposed by D Parry and seconded by M Tomlins, to allow advertising at £25 per annum, and that any adverts placed before this April would benefit from a period through to April 2019, this was agreed nem con. The sourcing of adverts would need to come from individual members approaching contacts, it was suggested. There would be a further website committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- e. **Other:** Nothing raised

**1359 LOCAL COUNCIL BUSINESS** Clr. Potter addressed the meeting, continuing reports on the Halfway House PH Caravan enforcement issue and the parking at the head of Pecknall Lane, which he was working on. He noted that the Mike Davies (Highways) replacement at the Council, had been identified as Mr Plumbridge, so he was now on the trail to get him involved in local highways improvements.

**1360 CORRESPONDENCE** The Clerk reported that he had received details of the Transparency Grant and would be applying on the back of the new website requirements

**1361 FINANCE** The Clerks Salary and expenses £526.74, (including paper, ink cartridges and the new website hosting), the Village Hall hire £12 and the war memorial grounds maintenance charge of £260 were proposed for acceptance by Mr Parry, seconded by Mrs Wilson, and agreed unanimously. The Clerk had previously circulated a yearly cash estimate and suggested budget for 2018/19, which made it clear that to finance VAS signs or other village projects, in the absence of any website income, grant finance or other assistance, would require a £9500 precept in the next financial year. This was proposed by Mr Parry, seconded by Mr Griffiths, and agreed unanimously.

**1362 PLANNING** There was one item on the agenda but no comments were raised.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

**1363 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 19<sup>th</sup> February at Wattlesborough Village Hall, 7.30 pm

Signed: Chairman

Clerk

Date: