

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th March 2018, at the Arden Centre, Alveley at 7.45pm, preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm.

198 PRESENT

Cllr. Mr. K.R. Stanton (Chairman), Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Mrs. J.M. Hall, Cllr. Miss I. D. Jakeman, Cllr. Mr. R.J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble, Cllr. Mrs. S.L. Potter, Cllr. Mr. D.J. Preece, Cllr. Mr. B.A. Punchard and Cllr. Mr. F.D. Voysey

199. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D.H. Rawlinson (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer), Cllr. Mrs. T. Woodward

200. OPEN FORUM

Nine local residents were present. Three issues were raised:

1. Application to operate a small exempted campsite at the "Three Horseshoes" Public House

Paul Tilley requested an update on the Council's position. His impression, following the discussion in Open Forum at the February meeting, was that some Councillors were sympathetic to the proposal. The Chairman reiterated that this had not been a formal planning application so that the Parish Council was only monitoring the situation. He also noted that some residents had lodged objections directly with Freedom Camping who had subsequently withdrawn the proposal.

2. The proposed development of six affordable dwellings on land to the east of Meadowbrook Close, Alveley.

Andrew Birch asked for an update on the status and progress of the planning application. He was advised that a decision by Shropshire Council was awaited and that, although applications are normally determined by within eight weeks, complicated or controversial cases could take longer.

Pauline Cutler stated that she is representing those residents who oppose the proposed development. She expressed dissatisfaction with the Parish Council's submission to Shropshire Council. It was a brief statement rather

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than a letter of objection and did not reflect the views of local residents who feel very let down. The Chairman noted her comments.

Malcom Philpotts was in total agreement with Mrs. Cutler. He considered that the Parish Council's submission was unsatisfactory. He questioned the intent of the Council in this matter. Mr. Philpotts went on to suggest that, if the planning application is refused, the applicant is likely to appeal. An independent inspector would then review all submissions and would be influenced by the low-key submission of the Parish Council, which only raised points of detail. He felt that the Council should put forward the strongest possible opposition and not, as seemed to be the case, "throw the towel in at the first hurdle". However, he accepted the Chairman's observation that the Parish Council can only comment on the planning application as it relates to Shropshire's Core Strategy, and that both parties must "agree to differ" on this matter.

3. Hosted Outreach Post Office Service

It was reported that this Service was now "up and running" at the Arden Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 noon to 2pm.

4. Potholes

Cllr. Voysey registered concern about the large pothole in the road at the junction of Greenway Avenue with Daddlebrook Road. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward advised that this was on Shropshire Council's schedule of work to be done.

201. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was resolved: to accept an apology for absence from the meeting from Cllr Mrs A. Preece (work commitment).

202. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF INTERESTS ON ANY MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED

Cllr. K. Stanton declared a personal interest in item 5.3 (Village planters).

203. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2018

Cllr. Noble expressed the view that minute 189.1 was not sufficiently comprehensive and did not reflect all that was said. He also suggested that a

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formal letter of objection should have been lodged with Shropshire Council. Cllr. Miss Jakeman supported this view.

The Chairman noted these remarks but, in the absence of comments from other Members, **it was resolved by a majority that:** the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 6th February 2018 were a true and accurate record.

204. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS

The Chairman, with the agreement of Members, suspended Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Mrs. Woodward to speak.

1. Highways

Cllr. Ms. Barker reported that the ironworks in front of the shops in Cook's Crescent are getting worse.

Cllr. Preece was grateful that the grit bins had been replenished in advance of the severe weather.

The collapse of the wall in Honeybourne Road was noted. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward confirmed that the wall belonged to a householder, that Shropshire Fire and Rescue had secured the site and that Building Control would investigate and report.

Cllr. Voysey reported that street light 136 is still not working.

2. Public rights of way – to be considered at agenda item 6.5.

3. Environmental matters

Village Planters

The Chairman withdrew for this item. Cllr. Ms. Barker took the chair.

Members considered two proposals:

(a) To replace the existing planter at the end of Lime Close with a brick planter and to accept a quote of £400 plus VAT from Turford and Son for this work to be carried out.

(b) To accept an offer from the Historical Society to maintain all six planters, subject to a small annual grant to cover the cost of plants and other materials.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council would retain ownership of all the planters and Members were advised that the Historical Society were keen to seek sponsorship to cover some of the maintenance costs.

The following resolution, proposed by Cllr. Miss Jakeman and seconded by Cllr. Punchard, **was agreed unanimously:**

- (i) To accept the quote for the brick planter and to instruct the Clerk to raise an official order.
- (ii) To accept the offer of the Historical Society, to provide funding of up to £200 for plants etc. and to instruct the Clerk to finalise the detailed arrangements.

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(iii) To charge these costs against 2018/19 budget contingency.

4. Romsley Matters

Cllr. Mrs. Potter confirmed the date of the annual Parish meeting as Tuesday 20th March 2018.

She also advised that the new kissing gate would be purchased and installed before the end of the month.

She reported complaints from residents about the poor quality of Broadband connectivity. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward advised that, under the “Connecting Shropshire” initiative, a transmitter would be operating from Six Ashes from April, which would benefit those residents with direct “line of sight”.

Cllr. Mrs. Potter expressed concern that, during the recent severe weather, staff working for one local resident had been seen emptying grit bins into wheelbarrows. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward agreed to refer this to Shropshire Council Highways for follow-up action.

5. Matters brought to the attention of the Council not requiring a decision.

(a) Newsletter – the implications of the General Data Protection Regulations were discussed and **it was agreed** that Cllr. Noble should attend the forthcoming training event on 15th March along with Cllr. Voysey and the Clerk.

(b) Central Garage – concerns were shared about a fire on the evening of Thursday 25th February on this largely derelict site. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward confirmed that the incident was being investigated by Shropshire Council’s Public Protection officers, who were in touch with the owners. She also noted that there was outline planning permission for the site. Cllr. Ms. Barker expressed particular concern about damage to a hedge bordering the site.

(c) Severn Valley Country Park – the Chairman reported back on the liaison meeting which he and Cllr. Ms. Barker had attended on Monday 19th February. He highlighted the difference in approach between this Council and Highley Parish Council. Highley representatives appear ready to continue grant-aiding the Country Park indefinitely, whereas our representatives made clear that Alveley’s grant support is for one year only. In addition, they registered this Council’s concern that proposed developments at the Country Park may not add value to the village of Alveley, because of increased traffic, including coaches, along a narrow access road, and loss of custom to village amenities as the facilities at the Country Park are expanded. Other Members supported this position and agreed that the Parish Council should monitor how this year’s grant is used before considering further financial support.

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205. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council – to make recommendations

18/00168/FUL Amendment to previously approved planning permission 16/05523/FUL for the erection of one dwelling. Proposed dwelling is east of Brookfield, Daddlebrook Road, Alveley. The proposal is to add an attached garage.

After a brief discussion, **it was resolved** to make no firm recommendation, but to emphasise the need for roadside parking to be reduced once the development is completed.

2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed Council to make recommendations to Shropshire Council.

18/00291/FUL Post Office and Stores, 60-61 Alveley WV15 6NG. Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for change of use of former Post Office (Use Class A1) to residential (Class C3).

It was **unanimously agreed** to recommend approval

3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council
None received.

4. Other planning matters

Application to divert Footpath 49 (part)

Members considered an email dated 15th February 2018 from the Rights of Way Mapping and Enforcement Manager at Shropshire Council, along with written comments from Paul Thompson and Cllr. Mrs. Woodward.

As well as the proposed diversion, Members were requested to consider the possible extinguishment of three sections of existing footpaths, namely 52/1, 52/2 and 53/1.

Members were content to accept the proposed diversion of Footpath 49/3 but were strongly opposed to the extinguishment of Footpaths 52/1, 52/2 and 52/3, and **it was resolved** to instruct the Clerk to prepare a written response for approval by the Chairman.

18/00809/AGR Astley Farm, Alveley WV15 6ER. Proposed open-ended building to house an agricultural sprayer to reduce pollution.
Not a formal consultation. For information only. The application was noted.

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206. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

The Chairman, with the agreement of Members, suspended Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Mrs. T. Woodward to speak.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward referred to her response to the consultation on Bus Service 297 (agenda item 12).

She also expressed the hope that, now the outreach Post Office service is operational, business would pick up. Advertising and promotion had to be left to the Post Office, but she undertook to contact them. It was suggested that the Newsletter and Parish Magazine might be used.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward was concerned that the problem of surface water running down Daddlebrook Road was worse than ever and would inform Highways.

207. STREET LIGHTING

The Clerk reported that he had been unsuccessful in contacting the EoN Project Manager, despite several attempts. The Chairman noted that there had been little activity for two weeks but accepted that the severe weather might be largely to blame.

208 BRIEFINGS BY CLLR. F.D. VOYSEY

(a) Transparency Code

Cllr. Voysey summarised the key points of the Code and explained that it applied formally to small councils with an annual turnover of not more than £25,000, but not at this stage to slightly larger councils such as Alveley and Romsley. However, he recommended that this Council should seek to comply with the key aspects of the Code as quickly as possible.

(b) Green Belt Performance Report

Cllr. Voysey explained that a two-stage review is underway to assess how well the Green Belt is being protected. The first stage is a desk-top exercise which rates various parcels of land (eleven in the case of Alveley and Romsley) in terms of their importance in preserving the Green Belt. The outcome will be used by Shropshire Council to review, and possibly adjust, the boundaries of the Green Belt.

Cllr. Voysey noted that the Parish Council has not been consulted during the first stage of the review, but he felt there should be consultation at the second stage, and referred to the Government's Statement of Community Involvement.

Cllr. Voysey was thanked for his briefings

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209. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Cllr. Noble reminded Members that there was a meeting on Thursday 8th March 2018 to present the Survey findings so far. He noted that advertising the event had been problematic with the severe weather being just the latest difficulty. He reported that seventeen of the twenty-five questions had been analysed.

210. TO RECEIVE A FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Invoices for payment and cheques for signature. A revised schedule was circulated.

It was resolved to approve the invoices for payment and to instruct Councillor Ms P. Barker and Cllr. C.D. Noble to sign the invoices, cheques and schedule.

2. Banking Arrangements

The Clerk updated the meeting on the problems he had experienced with regard to the telephone banking mandate.

It was resolved to note the current position and to instruct the Clerk to provide a full report on bank deposits and balances, including a bank reconciliation, to the next monthly meeting.

3. Crucial Crew

Members considered a request from the Bridgnorth and District Crime Prevention Panel for a grant of £140 to support the involvement of 14 children from Alveley Primary School in the 1918 Crucial Crew event and **resolved** to approve the application.

211. RE-TENDERING OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS (ROUTE No 297)

There was total unanimity that this Service is essential to the Community and must be retained, and **it was resolved that** the Clerk should forward a written response in these terms to the Passenger Transport Commissioning Group.

212. DATE FOR ANNUAL ALVELEY PARISH MEETING

It was resolved that the annual Alveley Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Arden Centre.

213. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT AGENDA

General Data Protection Regulations

Street lighting

Housing Needs Survey

17/18/75

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Parish Council Website

Shropshire Playing Fields Association – grant application

214. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 8.00pm, preceded by the Alveley Parish meeting at 7.30pm and will be held at the Arden Centre Alveley.

The meeting closed at 9.43 pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.