

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in the Arden Centre Alveley, including an Open Forum, commencing at 7.30pm

093. PRESENT

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

094. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D. H. Rawlinson (Clerk) and Cllr. Mrs. T. Woodward (Shropshire Councillor).

095. OPEN FORUM

No matters were raised.

096. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

It **was resolved** to accept an apology for absence from Cllr. Mrs. J. M. Hall (personal).

097. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 13.

098. MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2019

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 were a true and accurate record.

O99. PARISH MATTERS

1. Environmental matters

The Clerk confirmed that Shropshire Council's scheme for Environmental Maintenance Grant remains in place for another year, despite continuing problems with the grant application and approval process.

Cllr. Thompson referred to fly tipping along the BOAT below Coton. He had reported this to Shropshire Council four weeks ago and again three weeks later, but no action has been taken. He expressed concern that there would be more fly tipping if issues were not dealt with promptly. The Clerk agreed to follow up.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

2. Romsley Matters

Cllr. Narburgh reported that, following a polite letter from the Parish Council, no action had been taken by the occupier of Crossways Cottage, Birds Green to trim the boundary hedge which is restricting visibility for motorists at the T-junction at the north end of Romsley Lane. The Clerk was instructed to allow two further weeks before reporting the problem to Shropshire Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Potter advised that she had received a complaint from a horse user about a falling branch causing obstruction on the middle bridge across Bow Hill Dingle. She also reported that the security light for the telephone box had been delivered and would be installed once a suitable theft resistance fitting had been made.

100. RURAL CRIME – to consider options with regard to Smartwater and CCTV.

The Parish Council considered the options and issues regarding the possible introduction of Smartwater and CCTV in the area, following the presentations at the September and October meetings.

The Clerk advised that the likely cost to the Council of introducing Smartwater under the West Mercia Police Commissioner's (PCC's) 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative would be around £5,000, assuming 80% take-up. Based on previous experience, Councillors were not confident that this represented good value for money, or would have significant community support.

With regard to CCTV, Councillors were reminded of the logistical issues which need to be addressed before CCTV could be installed, the costs, which would include ongoing maintenance costs, and the strict procedural requirements laid down in the national Code of Practice on the use of Surveillance Cameras. A number of Councillors referred to the presentation by the Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhoods Team and their advice that, because the current incidence of reported crime and anti-social behaviour in the Village was relatively low, Alveley was not seen as a priority for round-the-clock surveillance. When coupled with the practical complexities and costs, they suggested that the proposal did not at present offer value for money. Cllr. Voysey suggested that further work should be done on potential costs and that the Clerk should establish whether grant support from PCC was still available before a final decision was taken.

After further discussion, it was **proposed** by the Vice-chairman and **seconded** by Cllr. Thompson that no further action should be taken at this stage, and this resolution was carried with one abstention.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

101. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PUBLIC TELEPHONE KIOSK IN DADDLEBROOK ROAD, ALVELEY

The Clerk referred to documentation which had been circulated by email to all Councillors at the end of September, regarding British Telecom's proposal to permanently remove this kiosk from service. This proposal was part of a proposed programme of 75 closures across the County which was now out for consultation, with Shropshire Council requiring comments by 8<sup>th</sup> November.

After discussion, it was **agreed** to instruct the Clerk to register the Parish Council's view that this payphone should be retained because:

- It occupies a central location in the village and is therefore accessible by most residents, as well as being near to social housing;
- The mobile phone coverage in the village is variable, so the payphone provides an important emergency back-up;
- Alveley has been designated as a community hub in the Shropshire Local Plan review, which means that further residential development can be expected in future.

102. PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

The Chairman referred to her dissatisfaction with the latest annual inspection by the Play Area Inspection Company and proposed that the Council should consider reverting to annual inspections by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA). This was **agreed**.

103. VILLAGE PLANTERS

The Vice-chairman reported that the new planters at Cook's Cross were now in place. He acknowledged the work done by Severn Valley Country Park (SVCP) Volunteers in building the new planters and in providing their labour at no cost. He advised that the new planters were larger than those replaced and that the costs to the Historical Society of replanting them had required additional spending of £70 over and above the annual allowance of £100 previously approved.

It was **agreed** to reimburse the Historical Society accordingly and to authorise the Vice-chairman to procure small plaques to be attached to the planters to inform residents that they have been built by SVCP Volunteers and funded by the Parish Council.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

104. CLOSED CHURCHYARD

The Clerk advised that the aerial tree survey will be carried out on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and that Ian Cupper from Shropshire Council will also be in attendance.

105. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS.

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council.

19/04334/LBC Conversion of 2 no. traditional buildings to 2 no. dwellings, associated curtilages, access and parking area affecting a Grade II Listed building, Proposed barn conversion east of Shropshire Farm, Dye Lane, Fenn Green, Alveley.

It was noted that this application has previously been considered as 19/03370/FUL, that the Parish Council had recommended approval (minute 068.1(a) of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 refers), and that the application has now been approved. After discussion, it was **resolved** that the further information now available did not justify any change to the previous recommendation.

19/04592/FUL Construction of domestic tennis court with surrounding fencing, Coton Hall, Coton, Alveley.

It was noted that this proposed development was within the curtilage of the property and that it would be well screened. It was **resolved** to recommend approval.

2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed

19/04719/FUL & 19/04720/LBC Resurfacing of the main access driveway, Coton Hall, Coton, Alveley.

Cllr. Thompson declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting. After brief discussion, it was **resolved** to recommend approval, subject to the materials being appropriate in terms of visual appearance and the environment.

3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council – Cllr. Thompson returned to the meeting and the following were noted:

19/03634/LBC and 19/03746/FUL Erection of single storey rear extension affecting a Grade II Listed building, The Coach House, Hall Close Farm, Alveley.

Parish Council recommendation – Approve; Decision – Approved

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

19/03781/FUL Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings into 4 no. dwellings and associated parking and amenity areas, the Hadleys, Alveley, WV15 6HG.

Parish Council recommendation – Approve; Decision – Approved

19/04051/FUL Conversion of existing outbuilding to form self-contained ancillary accommodation and erection of single-storey rear extension, Paper Mill, 121 Alveley, WV15 6HE.

Parish Council recommendation – Reject; Decision – Withdrawn

4. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council since the Agenda closed – the following was noted:

19/02004/FUL Change of use of land from agricultural to residential use, Rose Cottage, 155 Broad Lanes, Six Ashes.

Parish Council recommendation – no comment; Decision – approved.

5. Other planning matters – none were raised.

106. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable Cllr. Mrs. Woodward to speak.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward referred to agenda item 7 and advised that she had recommended that the payphone in Daddlebrook Road should be retained.

She also referred to a recent meeting with a Highways Engineer from Shropshire Council regarding White Gateways which was attended by the Chairman and Clerk of both Alveley and Romsley and Quatt Malvern Parish Councils. It was evident from the discussions that, as a result of staff reductions and pressure of other work, Shropshire Council was not yet ready to give definitive guidance to Parish Councils wishing to install white gateways.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward noted some residents' dissatisfaction with recent planning decisions and delays in planning enforcement. She reminded Councillors that complaints needed to be reported direct to Shropshire Council, using the enforcement protocol which is on the Shropshire Council website.

107. TO RECEIVE A FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Deposits and bank balances 2019/20 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019  
The Parish Council **agreed** to note the information.
2. Bank reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019  
The Parish Council **agreed** to note the information.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

3. Invoices for Approval and Cheques for Signature  
The Parish Council **agreed** to approve the schedule of invoices/direct payments and instructed Cllrs. Noble and Mrs. Preece to endorse the invoices and sign the cheques to be paid.
4. Examination of Quarterly Accounts to October 2019  
The Parish Council **agreed** to appoint Cllrs. Narburgh and Mrs. Potter to examine the quarterly accounts from August to October 2019 and report back to the Council at its December meeting.
5. Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21  
The Clerk reported the Government's proposals for referendum principles in 2020/21 which were noted.

108. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE - LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had successfully completed the CiLCA qualification. It was therefore **proposed** by the Chairman, **seconded** by the Vice-chairman and carried unanimously that the Parish Council meets the requirements of the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 in that:

- (i) elected councillors comprise two-thirds or more of the total number of councillors; and
- (ii) the clerk holds the CiLCA qualification;

and that the Council may therefore exercise the general power of competence in accordance with Sections 1 to 4 of the Localism Act 2011.

109. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PLAN

The Vice-chairman considered that the draft training policy set out in Section 1 of the Clerk's report was a very good document, but he suggested that the policy should emphasise the benefits of Councillors being trained together, rather than individually. In terms of current priorities for training and development, he suggested that planning should be high on the list. With reference to the previous agenda item, Cllr. Voysey suggested that training on how to exercise the general power of competence was also an urgent requirement.

After further discussion, the Parish Council **agreed** to:

1. Instruct the Clerk to finalise the draft training and development policy set out in Section 1 of the Appendix, for approval at the next meeting.
2. Add planning to the list of current priorities for training and development set out in Section 2 of the Appendix.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

3. Instruct the Clerk to present a further report by January 2020 on the training and development plan for 2020 and beyond.

110. ITEMS FOR DECEMBER AGENDA

Briefing by Footpaths and Rights of Way Officer (as part of Open Forum)  
Forms of address used in Council minutes and other documents  
Parish Council's IT arrangements (including laptop)

111. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next monthly meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 commencing at 7.45pm preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm in the Arden Centre Alveley.

112. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**It was resolved** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under s.2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act by virtue of the business to be transacted; that is, it concerns the terms and conditions of employment of staff.

113. The Parish Council carried out the annual reviewed the Clerk's remuneration, and considered additional hours worked during the year in respect of CiLCA training.

The meeting closed at 21.00.

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The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.