

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Arden Centre Alveley, including an Open Forum, commencing at 7.30pm

132. PRESENT

Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker (Chairman), Cllr. Miss I. D. Jakeman, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, 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.

133. IN ATTENDANCE

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

134. OPEN FORUM

Briefing by Footpaths and Rights of Way Officer

Cllr. Thompson expressed frustration at the lack of progress on a number of projects, including the conversion of three stiles in the Village to kissing gates, replacement finger posts for the Village and the replacement of footbridges on footpaths 16 and 19. However, he advised that, with the support of Shona Butter, Rights of Way Officer from Shropshire Council, letters had been sent regarding the encroachment of footpaths in the Village and that Footpath 50 has been cleared. He also noted progress with regard to Footpath 51 from Bridge Road, and highlighted recent cooperation with Alveley Strollers and Striders.

In response to a query on behalf of Alveley Historical Society. Cllr. Thompson advised that the 'extinction' date of 1 January 2026 relating to the Deregulation Act 2015 would not affect footpaths shown on the Definitive Map.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Thompson for his continuing hard work, and this sentiment was echoed by other Parish Councillors.

Highways Issues

Cllr. Noble expressed concern about vehicles, including a low-loader, being parked in Greenway Avenue, creating the impression that a property was being used as a business. During the subsequent discussion, the problems of HGV parking in the Village and vehicles being parked on visibility splays were also raised. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward undertook to raise these issues with the Police and the Highways Authority, and to arrange a site visit with David Gradwell (Highways Officer) and PC Matt Picken (Safer Neighbourhood Team) which the Chairman and Clerk could attend. She also offered to produce an article for the next Parish Council newsletter.

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135. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It **was resolved** to accept apologies for absence from Cllr. Mr. K. R. Stanton (personal), Cllr. Mrs. J. M. Hall (personal) and Cllr. Mrs. A. Preece (work).

136. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

137. MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2019

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 were a true and accurate record.

138. PARISH MATTERS

Environmental matters

Cllr. Thompson referred to his report at the November Parish Council meeting regarding fly-tipping on the BOAT below Coton. He expressed concern that the rubbish has not been removed and that more fly-tipping has now occurred. The Chairman agreed to refer the matter to Cllr. Mrs. Woodward. Cllr. Mrs. Potter reported a case of fly-tipping in Romsley.

139. REQUEST FOR GRANT SUPPORT FOR THE SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

The Clerk's report was received. He confirmed that a business planning document had just been received. There was significant support for the option of providing some grant support during the 2020/21 financial year. Some Councillors suggested that there should be concessions for local residents, but recognised the practical difficulties. Concerns were also raised about car parking charges, especially for the disabled. After discussion, it was **proposed** by Councillor Miss Jakeman and **seconded** by the Chairman that the detailed options should be considered at the Annual Finance meeting of the Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020. This was **agreed** unanimously.

140. PARISH COUNCIL IT ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk's report was received and his action in purchasing a new laptop computer was **endorsed**.

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141. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to publish the next newsletter before the end of March. Cllr. Noble requested that proposed topics should be flagged up at the next Parish Council meeting, and that the articles should be submitted by the middle of March.

142. DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PLAN 2020/21

The draft plan was received. After discussion, it was agreed to remove the provision for Councillors' induction training and to make provision for 'climate emergency' training, preferably as a whole Council activity. It was also suggested that detailed plans should await the publication of the SALC training programme for 2020.

143. FORWARD PLAN 2020/21

The draft plan was received. The discussion focused on neighbourhood planning. Various ideas were put forward on the best way forward and the Clerk undertook to amend the document to reflect the discussion and to bring a revised version to the Annual Finance meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

144. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS.

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council – none.
2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed – none.
3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council – the following were noted:

19/04930/DIS Barns Discharge of Condition 3 (bat boxes) on planning permission 16/04007/FUL for the conversion of existing office/stores/garage to form one dwelling, High Barns Farm, Six Ashes, WV15 6EP.

Parish Council -noted, Decision – Approve.

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

Parish Council recommendation – Approve, Decision – Approve.

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

Parish Council recommendation – Approve, Decision – Approve.

4. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council since the Agenda closed none.

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5. Other planning matters - none.

145. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

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

Conservation Area

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward referred to a recent proposal to extend the Alveley Conservation Area. She passed a map of the Conservation Area to the Clerk and gave an idea of the process that would need to be followed to secure an extension. She indicated that there would be no fee from Shropshire Council but advised that significant appraisal work would be required, although this could be done by local people.

Pot Holes

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward shared the frustration of some Parish Councillors that pot holes are not being dealt with adequately. She assured the meeting that she is in regular contact with Shropshire Council Highways, and reiterated her advice that all problems should be reported on-line.

146. ALVELEY RECREATION ASSOCIATION (ARA)

The Chairman referred to a recent meeting of the ARA Committee. She advised that the financial position of the Association had improved. She also gave notice of a Music Festival planned for 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

147. FINANCIAL REPORT.

- 1 Deposits and bank balances 2019/20 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019  
The Parish Council's deposits and bank balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 were **noted**.
2. Bank reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019  
The Parish Council **agreed** to note the bank reconciliation statement for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.
3. Invoices for Approval and Cheques for Signature  
The attached schedule of invoices/direct payments was **approved** and Councillors Narburgh and Mrs. Potter were instructed to endorse the invoices and sign the cheques to be paid. The Parish Council also **confirmed** the decision of the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman to issue an urgent cheque for a new laptop computer, in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5.

148. FORMS OF ADDRESS USED IN COUNCIL MINUTES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

Cllr. Thompson drew attention to the current practice of omitting 'Mr' when referring to male councillors, but of including 'Mrs, Ms or Miss' when referring to female

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councillors. He considered the current practice as discriminatory. He noted that the practice in most other organisations, including Shropshire Council and other Parish Councils, was now to refer to every councillor, irrespective of gender, by the prefix 'Councillor' followed by their surname. He **proposed** that this practice should be adopted by Alveley and Romsley Parish Council, and this was **seconded** by Councillor Miss Jakeman. After discussion, the resolution was lost.

Councillor Thompson then **proposed** that, in order to avoid discrimination, the appropriate prefix 'Mr, Mrs, Ms or Miss' should always be used when referring to Councillors, irrespective of their gender, and this was also seconded by Councillor Miss Jakeman. A vote was taken and the resolution was lost.

149. ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY AGENDA

Parish Council Newsletter

Risk Assessment – annual review

Dates of annual Parish meetings

Timetable of Parish Council meetings in 2020/21 municipal year

Forward Plan

150. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next monthly meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 commencing at 7.45pm preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm in the Arden Centre Alveley.

The meeting closed at 21.07.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.