

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th October 2020, including an Open Forum, commencing at 7.30pm. This was a remote meeting using 'Zoom' software in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

047. PRESENT

Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker (Chairman), Cllr. Mr. K. R. Stanton (Vice-chairman), Cllr. Mrs. J. M. Hall, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter, Cllr. Mr. B.A. Punchard, Cllr. Mr. J. R. Taylor and Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey

048. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D. H. Rawlinson (Clerk), Cllr. Mrs. T. Woodward (Shropshire Councillor) and one resident for part of the meeting.

049. OPEN FORUM

The Chairman reported the death of Mrs. Lesley Noble and offered the sympathies of the Parish Council to Cllr. Noble and his family.

Cllr. Mrs. Potter referred to a current road closure on the A442 and asked the Clerk whether he had received any prior notification of the work. The Clerk acknowledged that he received frequent notifications of road closures and diversions from Shropshire Highways. Some were given well in advance but others were at very short notice and were subject to last-minute changes. He could remember notifications in recent weeks relating to Arley Lane but was not aware of roadworks affecting the A442 at this time. Cllr. Voysey and Cllr. Mrs. Woodward confirmed that they had not seen any communication about this closure.

050. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It **was resolved** to accept an apology for absence from Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble (personal).

051. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter declared a pecuniary and prejudicial interest in agenda item 11.1 (planning application 20/04020/FUL Severn Valley Alpaca Ltd.)

052. MINUTES -

(i) MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2020.

It was **agreed** unanimously that these were a true and accurate record.

(ii) SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020.

The Clerk reported that these had not yet been finalised and would be presented to the next monthly meeting.

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053. URGENT PARISH MATTERS

None.

054. VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Clerk referred to his report and advised that Mr. Richards was not yet on-line and could therefore not attend the meeting. His recommendation that Mr. Richards' application should be deferred to a future meeting was **agreed**. With regard to Mr. Fry's application, the Clerk reported that he had received a text message from Mr. Fry which indicated that Mr. Fry wished to withdraw his application. Subject to any further communication from Mr. Fry, the Clerk's recommendation of no action at this time was **agreed**.

055. PARISH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS –

The Parish Council considered a number of vacancies which had been deferred at the previous meeting and **agreed** the following appointments:

(a) CHARITABLE TRUSTS:

- (i) Alveley Charities – Cllr. Mrs. Potter was appointed to serve with Cllr. Stanton.
- (ii) Whittall Meadows Trust – Cllr. Narburgh was appointed to replace Miss. Jakeman.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – The Chairman proposed the appointment of Cllr. Voysey. This was seconded by the Vice-chairman and **agreed** unanimously.

(c) PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – The Chairman reported that, at the previous Parish Council meeting, there had been consensus that a membership of between five and seven was appropriate, but this had not been formally resolved. After further discussion the Chairman formally proposed that the membership of the Committee should be up to seven. This was seconded by Cllr. Voysey and carried unanimously. The Chairman reported that Cllr. Noble wished to be on the Planning Committee; this was **agreed** and other Councillors were requested to register their interest with the Clerk outside the meeting.

(d) BRIDGNORTH AND SHIFNAL AREA COMMITTEE – Parish Council representatives – Cllr. Mrs. Hall and Cllr. Noble were appointed to replace the Chairman and Mrs. Preece.

056. BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – The Clerk invited Parish Councillors to consider a donation to the 2020 Poppy Appeal under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. He advised that, in recent years, a donation of £200 had been agreed, but suggested that the donation might be increased for this year, given the restrictions which the Coronavirus Pandemic would impose on fund-

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raising by all charities, including the British Legion. A donation of £250 was initially proposed but, after discussion, the Chairman formally proposed a donation of £300. This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hall and was **agreed** unanimously.

057. REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ALVELEY, SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020 – The Clerk confirmed that there would be special arrangements this year, with a socially distanced gathering adjacent to the Village Green. Councillors confirmed their wish for a wreath to be presented on behalf of the Parish Council and, after consideration of the designs available, it was **agreed** to opt for a 17 inch circular wreath of red poppies
058. PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT – The Parish Council considered a proposed addition to the approved Code drafted by the Clerk. Cllr. Voysey raised a number of objections to the proposed wording. After discussion it was **agreed** that Cllr. Voysey would submit an alternative form of words to the Clerk and that this would be considered alongside the original proposal at the next Parish Council meeting.
059. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS.

Cllr. Mrs. Potter withdrew from the meeting.

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council since the Agenda closed.

20/04020/FUL Change the use of land from agricultural grazing land (for alpacas) to a mixed use of alpaca trekking and agricultural grazing land, and associated works, Severn Valley Alpacas Ltd, Valley View, Romsley.

Cllr. Narburgh drew attention to a number of inaccuracies in the documents provided in support of this application. He also pointed out that the site is subject to an enforcement notice because its current use is in breach of the original planning permission. In his view, this meant that the application should not be allowed to proceed at this time. Other Councillors supported this view and expressed concern that the applicant proposed to use neighbouring bridleways for alpaca trekking. The consensus was that the proposed alpaca trekking enterprise would not be sustainable in practice. After further discussion, the Vice-chairman formally proposed that the Parish Council recommend refusal of this application on the grounds that it is an inappropriate development in the Green Belt and is unsustainable. This was seconded by the Chairman and **approved** unanimously.

Cllr. Mrs. Potter rejoined the meeting.

2. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council since the Agenda closed.

20/03213/FUL Conversion of part of building to 1 in no. live/work unit, Stables at Applecross Equestrian Centre, Alveley.

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Parish Council recommendation – no objection as long as the application meets Shropshire Council's conditions for live/work accommodation in the green belt.
Shropshire Council decision – refuse.

3. Other planning matters – the Parish Council **noted** –

- (a) That retrospective application 20/02669/FUL for use of land as a travellers' caravan site comprising 3 in no. caravans on land adjacent to the Round House, Fenn Green, was to be considered at Shropshire's Southern Planning Committee on 20th October 2020, with officers recommending refusal.
- (b) That an application has been made for re-pollarding work on a protected ash tree at the Woodlands (off Bridge Road).

060. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR – the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable Cllr. Mrs. Woodward to speak.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward referred to the earlier discussion under agenda item 1. regarding roadworks on the A442, and suggested that these were probably on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. This would account for the lack of advance notification.

She then referred to the briefing note that had been circulated in advance. This covered a number of local issues and is attached to these minutes. Discussion focused on the future of Alveley Industrial Estate, and the statement by Shropshire Council officers following a recent exempt report to their Council. This indicates that discussions are taking place between Shropshire Council and a group of tenants at the Industrial Estate, and that one of the preferred next steps is a meeting involving the Parish Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward confirmed that, at a meeting in 2019, she had been briefed confidentially by Shropshire Council officers that the possible sale of Alveley Industrial Estate was being considered, but emphasised that this information could not be made public.

Cllr. Voysey expressed the view that the Parish Council should have been consulted much earlier in the process, preferably before any report to Shropshire Council. It seemed that a decision had been made in advance of consultation, not the other way round. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward appreciated and shared these concerns. During subsequent discussions, she confirmed that consultation meetings would be 'virtual' and that they would be open to all Parish Councillors. Finally Cllr. Mrs. Woodward provided an update on the vehicle (mobile catering van) which had been parked on the green next to 2 Chapel Lane, and had been the focus of complaints from nearby residents. She advised that the vehicle has now been moved onto the drive, but is concerned that the towbar interferes with the adjacent footway, and will continue to investigate.

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061. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Clerk reported the results of Cllr. Noble's initial research into the possibility of using the Royal Mail to deliver the newsletter . The Royal Mail website indicates that local items such as the newsletter will be delivered for about £70, but three weeks' notice of the intended delivery date is required. Cllr. Noble's suggestion is that articles are put together during the rest of October and throughout November, with a view to having the completed newsletter ready to go out before Christmas. Cllr. Noble has also indicated that he is willing to retain his editorial role.

Cllr. Voysey made clear his support for this proposal, given his longstanding misgivings about relying on residents to access the Parish Council website. Related issues such as printing costs were also discussed. In conclusion the Parish Council **agreed** in principle to adopt this approach for the next newsletter, subject to detailed costings being provided by the Clerk.

062. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Bank Reconciliation at 30th September 2020 – the reconciliation statement was **noted**.

2. Clerk's Salary and Expenses -

The Parish Council **noted** the Clerk's reports on the April 2020 pay award and his expense claim for the first six months of the 2020/21 financial year.

3. External Audit Certificate, 2019/20 Financial Year

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, have now issued the external audit certificate for the Council's 2019/20 accounts. He also confirmed that there were no issues that the External Auditor wished to raise.

He also presented a draft of the "Notice of conclusion of audit" which details the public's right of inspection. This notice, along with Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the AGAR must appear on the Council's website by 30th November. The Parish Council **noted** the report and **approved** the draft Notice of conclusion of audit.

4. Invoices for Approval and Cheques for Signature

The Vice-chairman proposed that the Council **approve** the schedules of invoices and direct payments, subject to the Poppy Appeal donation under Section 137 being increased from £200 to £300. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs. Potter and **approved** nem con. The Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. Potter were instructed to sign the cheques and supporting vouchers after the meeting.

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063. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Vacancies for Parish Councillors

Parish Council newsletter

Footpaths and Rights of Way Officer

Closed churchyard

Climate emergency – possible presentation by Cllr. Alan Wilson, Vice-chairman of SALC on Shropshire Carbon Action Partnership to December meeting.

064. FUTURE MEETINGS.

It was **confirmed** that the next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be the monthly Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 3rd November 2020. The format/venue of this meeting will be determined by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, but it is likely to be a 'Zoom' meeting in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting closed at 20.51.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.