

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st December 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.

082. PRESENT

Cllr. Mr. K. R. Stanton (Vice-chairman), Cllr. Ms. A. Buffey, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble, Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter, Cllr. Mr. J. R. Taylor and Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey

083. IN ATTENDANCE

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

084. OPEN FORUM

Cllr. Allan Wilson, the Chairman of Shropshire Climate Action Partnership, gave a short presentation on the work of the Partnership. He emphasised that the membership of the Partnership is county-wide and multi-disciplinary and that its sole purpose is to achieve zero carbon across Shropshire by 2030, by promoting action which benefits the community as well as the climate.

Cllr. Wilson highlighted the relationship between increasing levels of carbon in the atmosphere as a result of burning of oil and coal, and global warming. He pointed out that climate change has already destroyed half of the world's plant and animal species. He advised that the UK's statutory climate change target is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, but that Shropshire Council and the Climate Action Partnership have a more ambitious 'zero carbon' target date of 2030. He briefly outlined the pace of greenhouse gas reduction that is required nationally and locally, and highlighted the key sectors such as transport and domestic heating.

Finally, Cllr. Wilson gave examples of practical measures taken by local councils to reduce emissions, and the range of support/advice that is available to organisations and individual householders. In response to questions, he talked about the progress towards providing an adequate system of charging points for electric cars. He also confirmed that Parish Councils could sign up to the 'zero carbon' pledge. He was thanked for his presentation, and requested to forward copies of his slides to the Clerk for circulation to all Parish Councillors.

085. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It **was resolved** to accept apologies for absence from Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker (personal) and Cllr. Mrs. J. M. Hall (personal).

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086. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward declared a personal and pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.1 (Work to crown reduce 1 no Ash Tree).

087. MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2020.

Subject to the addition of Cllr. Noble's name to the attendance list the minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record.

088. URGENT PARISH MATTERS

Alveley Industrial Estate

The Clerk referred to a briefing note that he had circulated to all Councillors following a meeting with Steve Law of Shropshire Council regarding the future of Alveley Industrial Estate. He sought advice from Cllr. Mrs. Woodward on the classification of this information. The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Mrs. Woodward to speak and she advised that, in her opinion, the matter remained confidential; however, she agreed to confirm this with Steve Law.

Membership of Planning Committee

It was **confirmed** that the Committee would comprise:

Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey (Chairman)

Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble

Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter

Cllr. Mr. J. R. Taylor

Chairman and Vice-chairman of Council (ex-officio)

089. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Cllr. Voysey declared a personal interest in this item, and undertook not to participate in any financial discussions/decisions.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Adrian Voysey (Website host) to join the meeting and speak. The Clerk thanked Mr. Voysey for the work he had already done. He advised that the format and content of the Accessibility Statement were governed by statutory guidance. Discussion then focused on the areas of non-compliance and, especially, the need to replace the Fabrik software. After due consideration, the Parish Council **agreed** with the Chairman's proposal to authorise Mr. Voysey to carry out further work on this up to a value of £300.

090. PARISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PLAN 2021/22

The Clerk referred to his report and proposed that, in view of the continuing uncertainty regarding COVID-19 restrictions, the Parish Council should consider agreeing the detailed Plan at Appendix 3 of the report, as a basis for budget planning. The Chairman endorsed his advice that the draft Plan would need to be

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reviewed when the extent of restrictions and the composition of the new Parish Council were clearer after the start of the new financial year. The Parish Council **agreed** that the proposed development and training plan for 2021/22 should be agreed in principle as a basis for budget planning.

091. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS.

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council –

20/04318/FUL Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the siting of a static caravan, Royal Oak, Alveley, WV15 6LL.

It was noted that this was a retrospective application, that the caravan has been on site for a number of years and that a Certificate of Lawful Occupation had been sought previously but not granted. After discussion, the Chairman **proposed** that the Parish Council should register no objection, subject to the caravan been used solely as temporary accommodation for staff working at the Royal Oak. This was **seconded** by Cllr. Voysey and carried **nem con**.

20/04334/FUL Erection of one residential dwelling for ancillary accommodation (following demolition of garage building), Paper Mill, 121 Alveley, WV15 6HE.

The Clerk advised that there had been preliminary consideration of this application at the previous Parish Council meeting (minute 076.2 refers). It was also pointed out that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) report stated that the proposed development is in a functional flood plain, is therefore considered to be more vulnerable and should not be permitted. After discussion, Cllr Voysey **proposed** that the Parish Council should recommend rejection of the application because the proposed development is in the green belt, is vulnerable to flooding, and does not enhance the environment or provide any economic or community benefits. This was **seconded** by the Chairman and carried **nem con**.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward left the meeting.

20/04571/TPO Works to crown reduce 1 No Ash Tree and wood to be removed back to healthy growth, protected by the Salop County Council (Alveley) TPO 1973, 48 Bridge Road, Alveley, WV15 6JU.

It was **agreed** that, in line with normal practice, the Parish Council should recommend approval.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward rejoined the meeting.

2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed – none

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3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council – to note

20/04009/TPO Carry out re-pollarding works to 1No. multi-stemmed Ash tree reducing height of the tallest stems to a point in line with the current height of the shortest pollard stem. All regrowth resulting from previous pollarding works to be removed to leave as a balanced finished pollard protected by The Salop County Council (Alveley) TPO 1973, Beech Trees , The Woodlands, Alveley, WV15 6LQ.

Parish Council recommendation – none; Decision – approved.

20/01889/FUL & 20/01890/LBC Conversion of existing attached barn to extend living accommodation and associated alterations; erection of detached 3 bay car-port, The Haybarn, Hall Close Farm, Alveley.

Parish Council recommendation - no strong objection on planning grounds, but concerns about scale of development and impact on neighbour's privacy.

Decision – approved, including condition that fixed windows with obscure glazing are used on one side of the building.

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

20/04164/FUL Erection of first floor extension over existing ground floor rear extension, together with internal modifications to ground floor layout, Woodlands, The Woodlands, Alveley, WV15 6LQ.

Parish Council recommendation – approve; Decision – approved

5. Other planning matters - none.

092. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

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

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward referred to the Local Plan Review. She advised that she would be raising questions at Shropshire Council's Cabinet in respect of the proposed new site in Tasley because of its likely effect on traffic along the A442. She also intended to request that the proposed appropriation of green belt land in Alveley be reviewed in the light of the Certificate of Lawful Development for the 'Butts' caravan site. This would lead to a significant increase in new homes, which could well reduce the need for housing development elsewhere in the Village. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward shared the Chairman's concern about the pace of future development.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward advised of further COVID-19 grant funding for small businesses and undertook to provide details to the Clerk. Finally, she expressed the hope that the new tier system which was about to come into effect would be supported locally, notwithstanding the restrictions and difficulties it imposed on everyone.

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093. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Clerk gave a verbal update on progress in setting an achievable timetable for the next newsletter, given the Parish Council's previous decision to use the Royal Mail 'Door to Door' service for distribution. He advised that the key dates were –

18th December 2020 – Target date for articles to be submitted.

13th January 2021 – Target date for newsletter to be edited and printed.

Week commencing 25th January 2021 – newsletter to be distributed.

He sought agreement for this timetable but with discretion to delay publication until the week commencing 1st February, if necessary. He advised that Royal Mail would distribute the newsletter to all properties in the 'WV15 6' postcode area. Royal Mail advise that this takes in some 1,630 properties, a number of which are outside the Parish Council area.

The Clerk also sought authority to spend up to £350 on printing and circulating the newsletter. He proposed to seek quotes for printing the newsletter from Bridgnorth Print Services and Badger Print.

As editor of the newsletter, Cllr. Noble agreed that the timetable was tight but indicated that it was manageable for him.

There was brief discussion of the topics that might be covered in the newsletter, and all Councillors were invited to submit ideas and suggestions.

The Parish Council **resolved** –

- (i) To approve the above timetable, including the target date of 18th December for articles to be submitted;
- (ii) To authorise the Clerk to spend up to £350 on publication and circulation of the newsletter.

094. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's report was received and:

1. Bank Reconciliation at 23rd November 2020

1.1 The Parish Council **agreed** to note.

2. Invoices for Approval and Cheques for Signature

2.1 A schedule of invoices/direct payments was appended to the report. The Parish Council **agreed** to approve the schedule and to authorise the Chairman and Vice-chairman to sign the cheques to be paid.

3. Internal Audit Arrangements for 2020/21

3.1 The Clerk reported that Mrs. Hackett of SDH Accountancy & Audit Services is available to carry on as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2020/21. He

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advised that Mrs Hackett has quoted £250 for this work, and noted that her bill for 2019/20 was £280.

3.2 The Parish Council **agreed** to appoint Mrs. Hackett of SDH Accounting as the Council's internal auditor for 2020/21

4. Street Lighting

4.1 The Clerk reported that Parish Council's electricity supply contract for street lighting expires on 31st January 2021. The contract is currently with SSE Business Energy. The Clerk indicated that he is having some difficulty in obtaining competitive quotes, and undertook to provide a written report to the next Parish Council meeting on 5th January 2021.

4.2 The Parish Council **agreed** to note the position.

095. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Parish Council newsletter
Footpaths and Rights of Way Officer
Parish Council Action Plan
Street lighting

096. FUTURE MEETINGS.

It was **confirmed** that the next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be the monthly Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

It was **noted** that the Annual Finance Meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 19th January 2021, commencing at 7.30pm.

Both will 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 20.50.

The Vice-chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.