

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 in the Pavilion, Daddlebrook Road, Alveley, including an Open Forum, commencing at 7.30pm

001. PRESENT

Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker, Cllr. Mr. M Haddon, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble, Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter, Cllr. Mr. J. R. Taylor,

002. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D. H. Rawlinson (Clerk), Cllr. Mr. E. Lynch (Shropshire Councillor)

003. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr. Ms. P.M. Barker was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Potter, seconded by Cllr. Narburgh, and **unanimously elected** Chairman of the Council for 2021/22.

004. CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE

The Chairman's declaration of office was duly received, signed by the Chairman and endorsed by the Clerk.

005. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Potter, seconded by the Chairman and **unanimously elected** Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2021/22.

006. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Declarations were received from all Councillors and were duly signed by the Clerk.

007 OPEN FORUM

Cllr. Elliot Lynch was welcomed to the meeting as the new Unitary Councillor for the Alveley and Claverley Division. He advised that he already has four years' experience as a unitary councillor. He looked forward to working on his 'home patch' and indicated that his special interests are potholes and the internet.

The Chairman reported concerns amongst the residents of Lime Close regarding planned drainage works associated with the development of the Central Garage site. Cllr. Lynch agreed to work with the Chairman to clarify the position and to liaise with the residents.

Cllr. Taylor advised that the government funding scheme for rural broadband has now finished.

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The Clerk advised that he had received a number of emails concerning this year's national litter picking initiative which covers the end of May and the beginning of June. After discussion it was agreed that, in view of the significant informal work that is already going on in the area, and the continuing COVID restrictions, the Parish Council would not participate in the national scheme for this year.

The Clerk requested Cllr. Mrs. Potter to liaise with Mrs. Norgrove regarding a suitable date in September for the Romsley Parish meeting.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that there are now three vacancies on the Parish Council, and that, if these are not filled by the middle of June, Shropshire Council may order a further election.

008. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It **was resolved** to accept apologies for absence from Cllr. Miss I. D. Jakeman (personal) and Cllr. Ms. V. N. Voysey (work)

009. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Cllr. Mrs. Potter declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 14.1 – application by Severn Valley Alpacas.

010. AMOUNT OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

The Clerk reported that the Chairman's allowance in the 2020/21 municipal year was £200. Councillors noted that, following the introduction of virtual meetings and lockdown restrictions during the previous autumn and winter, it had been necessary for the Chairman to purchase an ipad for £350, and to enhance her telephone answering equipment in order to fulfil her duties. After discussion, Cllr. Narburgh **proposed** that the Chairman's allowance for 2021/22 should be £500. This was **seconded** by Cllr. Taylor and **carried** unanimously.

011. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH APRIL 2021

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2021 were a true and accurate record.

012. THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE.

The Clerk advised that legislation¹ provides that a Parish Council can exercise the General Power of Competence if:

¹ The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 (SI 2012/965)

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- The number of members of the Council that have been declared to be elected is equal to or greater than two thirds of the total number of members of the Council.
- The Clerk to the Parish Council holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council fulfils both these requirements. The Chairman **proposed** that the Parish Council should exercise the general power of competence for the 2021/22 municipal year. This was **seconded** by the Vice-chairman and **carried** unanimously.

013. PARISH MATTERS

On the recommendation of the Chairman, the Clerk was authorised to pay £100 to the Alveley Historical Society to support their continuing work in maintaining the village planters.

014. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the purposes of his report were:

1. To reorganise the business usually transacted at the annual Parish Council meeting, in order to comply with COVID -19 regulations and restrictions, and in particular to deal only with essential business.
2. To make appropriate adjustments to the future programme and business of Parish Council meetings.
3. To deal with immediate financial issues.

After due consideration it was **agreed** unanimously –

- (a) that the business listed at paragraph 2.5 of the Clerk's report, which Standing Orders normally require to be conducted at the Annual meeting, **be deferred** to future meetings as indicated in that paragraph.
- (b) to **cancel** the monthly Parish Council meeting originally planned for Tuesday 8th June 2021 and **convene** a special Finance meeting on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 7.30pm to deal with the Annual Governance and Accountability return for the 2020/21 financial year.
- (c) to **note** the financial information regarding the new financial year, to **approve** the attached schedule of vouchers and to **instruct** Cllrs. Narburgh and Mrs. Potter to initial the vouchers and sign the cheques to be paid.

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015. TO AGREE THE DATES FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS (JUNE 2021 – MAY 2022)

The revised calendar of dates was **approved** unanimously.

016. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. Planning Application received – to make recommendations to Shropshire Council

21/01716/FUL Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the temporary siting of one residential caravan as a rural worker's dwelling and associated works (retrospective), Severn Valley Alpacas Ltd, Valley View, Romsley.

The Clerk referred to planning application 20/04020/FUL for change of use, which was opposed by the Parish Council, but had been approved, and the more recent enforcement notice, which had given rise to this retrospective planning application. In the subsequent discussion, it was also noted that:

- There is significant local opposition to this application;
- There is no evidence that Alpacas need 24 hour on-site supervision;
- The land is in the green belt and is highly visible, especially from the west.

After discussion, the Chairman **proposed** that the Parish Council should recommend refusal of this application on the grounds that –

- (a) it is an inappropriate development in the Green Belt;
- (b) it will degrade the quality of the Green Belt in the surrounding area, especially given the prominence of the site;
- (c) no credible evidence is presented that there are very special circumstances in this case or that the proposed enterprise will enhance the welfare of the local community.

It is therefore contrary to paragraphs 143 and 144 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Core Strategies CS5, CS6 and CS17 in Shropshire's Local Plan.

This was **seconded** by Cllr. Narburgh and passed **nem con**.

2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed – none
3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council

21/01370/FUL Installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging point within the curtilage of a listed building, St Peter's Finger, Birdsgreen, Alveley.
Parish Council recommendation – approve, Decision – approved.

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

21/01258/FUL Conversion of first floor storeroom in detached garage block to home office with installation of roof lights.

Parish Council recommendation – approve, Decision – approved.

5. Other planning matters for information only

The Clerk reported that an appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision by Shropshire Council to refuse planning permission for application reference 20/03213/FUL – conversion of part of building to one live/work unit at the Stables, Applecross Equestrian, Alveley – has been dismissed.

017. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

New Councillor induction (ongoing)

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 – June Finance meeting.

Review terms of reference, membership and delegation to Committees – July meeting.

Tree planting/Christmas decorations.

Review Parish Council's Code of Conduct – September meeting.

Christmas tree and decorations – September meeting.

Climate emergency – September meeting.

Review of inventory of land and assets including office equipment and confirmation of arrangements of insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks – July meeting;

Review of the Council's complaints procedure – September meeting;

Review of the Council's procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018 – September meeting;

Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press / media – September meeting.

Review of standing orders and financial regulations – October meeting;

Neighbourhood Planning – October meeting.

Review of Parish Council's Health and Safety Policy – October meeting.

Review of Parish Council's Equality and Diversity Policy - October meeting.

018. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be a Special Finance meeting to be held on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 in the Pavilion, Daddlebrook Road, Alveley, commencing at 7.30 pm with no Open Forum.

The meeting closed at 20.42

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.