

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 in the Arden Centre Alveley, including an Open Forum, commencing at 7.30pm

059. 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.

060. IN ATTENDANCE

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

061. OPEN FORUM

Estelle Stock from West Mercia Police gave a short presentation on Smartwater in the context of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative. She explained that the focus is on theft of property and that the aim is to combat 'travelling criminality' which is on the increase in the West Mercia area. She advised that 60 towns/villages in the area have adopted Smartwater and have subsequently experienced a significant reduction in crime.

She also clarified the financial package associated with 'We Don't Buy Crime'. There is a reduced charge of £8.90 per household for the Smartwater kit and display stickers. If the Parish Council commit to purchasing enough kits for 80% of households (760), the PCC will cover 25% of the cost, leaving the Council to pay 75% or around £5,100 (there should be no charge to individual residents). If 70% of the kits are then registered, the PCC will arrange and pay for warning signs to be sited around the Parish Council area. It was emphasised that the deterrent effect of warning signs/stickers was an essential element of the project.

In response to questions, Estelle accepted that one effect of Smartwater is to 'move on' crime, so that areas without Smartwater are especially vulnerable. She advised that the published 'shelf life' of kits was 5 years but that this was a conservative estimate. She was also reminded there are already signs in some parts of Alveley and that a number of Romsley residents registered for Smartwater in 2012.

Estelle was thanked for her presentation and assured that the Parish Council would give further consideration to Smartwater in due course.

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062. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

063. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None. .

064. MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were a true and accurate record.

O65. PARISH MATTERS

1. Environmental matters –

- (a) The Clerk reported that the contractor for grass cutting in the Closed Churchyard was seeking authority to exceed the number of cuts specified in the contract (13). After discussion, it was proposed by the Vice-chairman, seconded by Cllr. Voysey and **agreed** that the Clerk be authorised to approve up to two extra cuts per year for the remainder of the contract.
- (b) The Vice-chairman reported that the safety covering for the ground socket at the junction of Daddlebrook Road and Cook's Cross (which has previously been use to site the Christmas tree) is often out-of-place, creating a potential hazard. He volunteered to arrange for the hole to be filled in and this was **agreed**.
- (c) The Chairman agreed to meet with Cllr. Thompson before the next meeting to discuss a possible biodiversity project on the Recreation Ground.

2. Romsley Matters - Cllr. Mrs. Potter reported that the van at the bottom of Sham Lane has now been removed, and that the solar light for the defibrillator has been procured.

066. CODE OF CONDUCT – after consideration of the Clerk's report, it was proposed by Cllr. Voysey, seconded by the Vice-chairman and **agreed** to adopt the Shropshire Council code of conduct, suitably amended. It was further **agreed** to accept the other recommendations in the Clerk's report, namely:

- (i) The Clerk should arrange for the Register of Interests of Alveley and Romsley Parish Councillors to be published on the Council's website in accordance with Section 29(7) of the Localism Act 2011.

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- (ii) The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman, should submit a draft code a future meeting of the Parish Council for formal consideration and approval.
- (iii) The Council should incorporate in any new code:
  - (a) the requirement that a councillor must not participate in a discussion or vote in a matter to be considered at a meeting if they have any interest, whether registered or not, “if a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your consideration or decision-making in relation to that matter”; and
  - (b) a statement which specifically prohibits actions which ‘a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory’ (as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils).

067. SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE GOVERNANCE – after considering documents from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service arguing against the transfer of governance to the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, it was **agreed** to instruct the Clerk to complete a short survey in support of the Fire and Rescue Service’s case to retain its autonomy.

068. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS – some Members expressed concern that no documents, such as plans/elevations, were available for circulation at the meeting. A number of options were considered and, after discussion, it was **agreed** to use a projector to display relevant documents at the next meeting, and to accept Cllr. Mrs. Preece’s offer to provide a projector and to assist the Clerk in preparing for the meeting.

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council – to make recommendations.

(a) 19/03370/FUL Conversion of two traditional buildings to form two dwellings, associated curtilages, access and parking area including demolition of some buildings, Proposed barn conversion east of Shropshire Farm, Fenn Green, Alveley.

It was **agreed** to recommend approval.

(b) 19/03419/FUL Alterations to include insertion of dormer windows and replacement windows in connection with conversion of loft into additional living accommodation, Green Acres, Tuckhill, Six Ashes.

It was **agreed** to recommend approval.

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- (c) 19/03634/LBC & 18/03746/FUL Erection of single storey rear extension affecting a Grade II Listed building, The Coach House, Hall Close Farm, Alveley.

It was **agreed** to recommend approval

2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed

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

After discussion, it was proposed by the Vice-chairman, seconded by Cllr. Voysey, and **agreed** to recommend approval.

3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council – noted:

19/02647/FUL Erection of extensions to existing ancillary building, Annex at The Gables, Romsley. WV15 6HW.

Parish Council recommendation – Approve; Decision – Approved

19/02740/FUL Erection of a single-storey front extension, and new dormer windows to front and rear, Ivydene, Fenn Green, Alveley.

Parish Council recommendation – Approve; Decision – Approved

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

19/02368/FUL Erection of single-storey extension to side, 164 Kingsnordley, Bridgnorth, WV15 6EU.

Parish Council recommendation – Approve; Decision – Approved

19/014871/FUL Application under S. 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of toilet block, shower block and change of use to glamping and touring caravan site, Royal Oak, Alveley, WV15 6LL.

Parish Council recommendation – Approve with conditions; Decision – Refused

5. Other planning matters – none were raised.

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

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward referred to discussions with the Alveley Cricket Club regarding traffic signage along the access road to the new cricket ground. Her preference for

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a 'beware' sign showing horses, riders and pedestrians, and for the existing sign to be relocated nearer to the junction with the A442, was supported.

With reference to minute 055.2 of 9<sup>th</sup> July, Cllr. Mrs. Woodward advised that she has completed the Alveley section of her prioritised schedule of highways problems, that she will provide the Clerk with a copy for circulation to Councillors, and that she is seeking a reduction in the speed limit on the A442 through Alveley from 40mph to 30mph.

She also advised that she is continuing to pursue the issues of surface water in Romsley View and the problems for motorists and pedestrians caused by hedges, most have which have now been resolved by Shropshire Council Highways.

070. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – Councillors were reminded of the schedule of proposed articles at minute 052 of 9<sup>th</sup> July and the target date of 10<sup>th</sup> September for submission to Cllr. Noble. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward volunteered contributions on hedges and parking. Some Members remained uneasy about the decision to publish the Newsletter on the Parish Council website and it was suggested that more should be done to promote the website.
071. STREET LIGHTING – SIGNS ON LIGHTING COLUMNS – the Vice-chairman's report highlighted the potential problems arising from signs being attached to street lighting columns. In such cases, exposure to strong wind could, over time, weaken the welds in the columns and even cause distortion. After discussion, it was **agreed** to accept the proposed policy statement and to apply this with immediate effect to all Council owned property.
072. TO RECEIVE A FINANCIAL REPORT.
1. Examination of Quarterly Accounts to July 2019  
Cllr. Miss Jakeman and Cllr. Thompson confirmed that they had examined the quarterly accounts from April to July 2019 in accordance with minute 056.1 of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019. As well as reconciling a sample of paid invoices with the Cash Book, they had validated the figures in the latest bank reconciliation statement. They reported that no discrepancies or irregularities had been found.  
The Council **noted** their report.
  2. Deposits and bank balances 2019/20 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – these were **noted**.
  3. External Audit of Accounts 2018/19  
The Clerk reported that, following the publication of the dates for the exercise of the public's right to inspect the accounts, no member of the public had chosen to exercise that right. He also confirmed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2018/19 had been reviewed by the Council's

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external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, and that they had raised no issues of concern. The Council **agreed** to note this information.

4. Insurance Arrangements

Further to minute 056.5 of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the Clerk reported that, after careful examination of the detailed options, and further discussion with Came & Company, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairman, decided to accept a quote of £1,071.84 for the first year of a three-year period of cover with Inspire (AXA). The cost exceeds the approved budget provision by £21.84 and takes account of the increased physical asset valuation arising from the street lighting replacement programme.

The Parish Council **agreed** to endorse this course of action.

5. Bank reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – the statement was **noted**.

6. Invoices for Approval and Cheques for Signature

Two schedules of invoices/direct payments were received. The first dealt with payments approved and cheques signed outside the meeting in accordance with minutes 056.3 and 056.5 of 9<sup>th</sup> July. The second dealt with more recent direct payments and invoices still to be paid.

The Council **agreed** to approve both schedules of invoices/direct payments and to instruct the Chairman and Vice-chairman to sign the invoices and cheques still to be paid.

7. Budget Monitoring 2019/20 - it is was **agreed** that a detailed report be deferred until the next monthly meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

073. ITEMS FOR OCTOBER AGENDA.

CCTV (presentation by representative of West Mercia Police)

Budget monitoring

Closed Churchyard

Website

British Legion Poppy Appeal

Smartwater

074. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next monthly meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 commencing at 7.45pm preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm in the Arden Centre Alveley.

The meeting closed at 21.05.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.