



Committee and Date

ALBRIGHTON AND
COSFORD AREA LOCAL
JOINT COMMITTEE

15 July 2009

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**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 15 JULY
2009 AT THE RED HOUSE, ALBRIGHTON**

Responsible Officer Adrian Dean

e-mail: Adrian.dean@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252893 Fax 01743 252713

Committee Members Present:
Shropshire Council

Malcolm Pate
Stuart West

Parish Councils

Gerry Bew – Tong Parish Council
Paul Lusk – Albrighton Parish Council
Fred Shelley – Donington With Boscobel Parish Council
Bob Tummons – Boningale Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Mike Morris, Lead Officer
George Edwards, Support Officer
John Hodgkinson, Community Working Manager – Southern Area
Andrea McWilliams, Community Regeneration Officer
Adrian Dean, Senior Committee Officer
Phil Crossland, Assistant Director Strategic Highways and Transport

West Mercia Police:

PC Rod Salt
Sgt Richard Bailey

There were approximately 13 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: that Mr M G Pate be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

ACTION

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

ACTION

RESOLVED: that Mr P Lusk be appointed Vice Chair for the ensuing municipal year.

3. Welcome and Introductions and Introduction to the Purpose of Local Joint Committees

3.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including members of the public.

3.2 The Chairman said that the Local Joint Committee (LJC) has a budget of £21,000. He said that the committee also has a role in scrutinising the decisions of Shropshire Council, the Parish Councils and in Police and Health issues.

3.3 The Chairman added that these LJC's have a direct link to the Cabinet at Shropshire Council.

4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public Question Time

5.1 A number of questions were received from members of the public present at the meeting they were as follows:

5.2 Question 1 – Plastic Recycling

5.3 The questioner said that the recycling of plastics has been a problem for some time and that there is evidence of public demand and Albrighton Parish Council had provided bring banks. He said that the difficulty has been that the facility was very well used and that plastic bottles were left all around the skips. In view of this, the skips were removed. He said that he had spoken to Shropshire Waste Partnership and was aware that a kerbside collection service would not be available for about 2 years and he hoped that Albrighton would not be at the end of that programme of rolling out the service. Could Veolia the service providers be asked whether they can provide bring banks?

5.4 Phil Crossland said that he would discuss this with the relevant officers and respond to the committee

PC

5.5 Mike Morris suggested that a representative from the service provider (Veolia) could be invited to the next meeting.

PC/MM

5.6 Question 2 – Housing Repairs**ACTION**

5.7 The questioner said that he had become aware that a tenant had reported that a roof vent from a gas appliance had become damaged and was leaning over. He said that although this had been reported to the Council some weeks ago, that the repair had not yet been carried out. The questioner expressed his concern about the matter and asked why the repair had not been carried out?

5.8 Mike Morris asked that the questioner provide further details at the conclusion of the meeting so that his complaint could be investigated.

MM**5.9 Question 3 – Planning Permission**

5.10 The questioner asked about why a planning application in the Newhouse Lane/Cross Road area of Albrighton had been approved although Albrighton Parish Council had objected to the application. He also said that the planning committee had visited the site during the half term school holidays and that the full extent of the issues regarding traffic around the school would not have been seen on that occasion. He suggested that this may have been because the planning officers and planning committee now met in Shrewsbury. He felt that this had been a waste of time and said that the only recourse was to take a case of maladministration and ask the Ombudsman to investigate.

5.11 The Chairman said that the same planning officers were dealing with applications and that the Planning Committee continued to meet in Bridgnorth to determine applications. He also added that he was arranging a meeting involving the Council, the school and other interested parties including the Cross Road residents. He said that the meeting would be held in the first week of September so that the traffic chaos can be seen.

5.12 The questioner asked should have occurred before the application had been determined?

5.13 Phil Crossland said that the Council as Highway Authority would have responded to consultation by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on the application and that the grounds for refusal would need to be strong enough to be upheld at appeal. He added that it is for the LPA to determine whether an application can be refused on amenity grounds.

5.14 **Question 4 – Clerk of Works**

ACTION

5.15 The questioner asked whether the Council employed a Clerk of Works to oversee works to repair pavements and roads? He added that work had been undertaken outside Sheldon Court, Ash Grove, Albrighton and that loose chippings had been left all over the pavement. He also said that the pavement had been damaged by a roller and that he was concerned about the damage caused and the effects that freezing weather would have on the damaged surface.

5.16 Phil Crossland said that Technicians check work undertaken to ensure the work is carried out properly.

PC

5.17 **Question 5 - One Stop Shop/Parish Council Offices**

5.18 The questioner asked what progress had been made on providing a One Stop Shop/Parish Council Offices in Albrighton. He was aware of a possible site but that access was difficult because of the need to provide suitable access. He suggested that if the pavement were to be raised that this would reduce the difference in height between the pavement and the access and that this might help to resolve the issue.

5.19 The Chairman said that the access door would also need to be widened and that raising the road level would not be enough. He also said that the old Library building next to Lloyds Bank could be considered and that this would be investigated further.

5.20 Mike Morris said that proper access and facilities would need to be provided and that he would refer the issue to the appropriate Assistant Director.

MM

6. Partners and Communities Together (PACT)

6.1 PC Rod Salt, West Mercia Police, gave a brief explanation of the PACT process. He explained that the monthly PACT meetings gave people the opportunity to raise any issues of concern with the police.

7. Explanation of The Constitution of Shropshire Council Local Joint Committees

7.1 Fred Shelley expressed his concern that under the Committee's Constitution the Chairman had to be a member of Shropshire Council.

7.2 Mike Morris explained that the Joint Committees had been established under the Local Government Act 1972 and because the committee is a committee of Shropshire Council the Chairman has to be one of its members.

**8.1 Explanation of the Financial Rules for Local Joint Committees
- How funding will be allocated
- Cut-off Dates for Applications**

ACTION

8.2 Mike Morris, Lead Officer, introduced this item and set out the process by which organisations could apply for funding from the £21,000 budget available. He said that applications would be dealt with quickly and should be sent to him. The cut off date for applications to be considered at the next meeting is one month before the next meeting. He said that applications for assistance could come from a variety of organisations for many items.

8.3 The Chairman said that the committee would be asked to consider at its next meeting the cut off date for applications. He also said that he would seek clarification on the commitment that the committee could give to groups such as the local Arts Group, the Musical Theatre Group and the Jazz event at The Harp Pub who had in previous years received grants towards the cost of their events.

9. Item for Discussion

9.1 Road Safety Issues and Improved Traffic Management

9.2 The committee received a presentation from Phil Crossland, Assistant Director Strategic Highways and Transport at Shropshire Council on the work that has been carried out to improve road safety and is to be undertaken by the Council to help further improve the safety of roads under its jurisdiction in Shropshire. At the conclusion of the presentation, he answered questions raised.

9.3 In answer to a question raised about whether the road surface would be brought back to an acceptable standard following the works by two utility companies, Phil Crossland said that he would look into this as there may be a requirement for the utility companies to properly reinstate the road.

PC

9.4 With regard to the overgrown Hawthorne Hedge in Cross Road, Phil Crossland said that he would contact the owner and see if it could be trimmed back.

PC

10. Confirmation of the Name of this Local Joint Committee

10.1 A number of names for the committee were suggested. Fred Shelley said that the committee should not make reference to Cosford as this was not the name of the parish. Gerry Bew said that Tong Parish Council had said that the name of the committee should include reference to Tong.

10.2 The Chairman asked those present if they supported any of the

