



Committee and Date
Albrighton Area Local Joint
Committee
18 May 2011

Item
6b
Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALBRIGHTON AREA LOCAL JOINT
COMMITTEE HELD ON AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2011 AT THE
RED HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ALBRIGHTON.**

Responsible Officer Adrian Dean
e-mail: Adrian.dean@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252893

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Malcolm Pate

Parish Councils

David Beechey – Albrighton Parish Council
David Murray – Tong Parish Council
Fred Shelley – Donington with Boscobel Parish Council
Bob Tummons – Boningale Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Mike Morris, Lead Officer
Andrea McWilliams, Community Action Officer
Adrian Dean, Senior Committee Officer

There were approximately 40 members of the public present at the meeting.

49. Welcome and Introductions

49.1 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and said that this was an opportunity for those present to say anything about Shropshire Council services.

50. Apologies for Absence

50.1 Apologies for absence were received from Stuart West.

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51. Declarations of Interest

51.1 The following personal declaration of interest was made:

Member	Interest	Reason
M Pate	Report 10 grant application from Albrighton Village Halls Trust – Red House	Wife is a trustee of the Red House

51.2 The following prejudicial declarations of interest were made:

Member	Interest	Reason
D A Beechey	Report 10 grant application by Albrighton & District Civic Society	Member of the Albrighton & District Civic Society
D Murray	Report 10 grant application by Albrighton & District Civic Society	Member of the Albrighton & District Civic Society
M Pate	Report 10 grant application by Albrighton & District Civic Society	Member of the Albrighton & District Civic Society

52. Notes

52.1 A letter was submitted to the chairman at the meeting on behalf of Mr Rod Smith setting out remarks that he felt had not been recorded in the notes of the meeting held on 28 September 2010. In view of these comments and to give officers the opportunity to consider the issues raised, consideration of the notes of the meeting held on 28 September 2010 was deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

53. Comments, Questions and Suggestions from the meeting held on 28 September 2010

53.1 The comments, questions, suggestions raised at the meeting on 28 September 2010 and responses were noted.

54. Partners and Communities Together (PACT)

54.1 The chairman introduced PC Jess Hindley who had recently taken over from PC Rod Salt. She said that she had been joined by PC Michelle Morris and that CSO Jacqui Fletcher was continuing in her role.

54.2 PC Hindley reported on speeding traffic, theft and Burglaries and on

dog fouling. She said that Glen McGrandle (Street Scene Manager) from Shropshire Council was also at the meeting should anyone have any concerns or wish to report anything.

54.3 In response to a question, Jess Hindley confirmed that she is trained to use the speed gun. It was also suggested that speed checks be undertaken during busy morning and evening times.

54.4 PC Hindley reminded the public about the police surgery being held between 9.30am and 11.30am on 31 January at the Methodist Church.

55. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

55.1 Dave Dickens, from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service highlighted some of the issues raised in the Fire Service's Local Joint Committee Briefing Note that had been circulated at the meeting. The issues concerned the changes that would be necessary for the service to reduce its budget whilst endeavouring to protect frontline services. He added that the Brigade was the third best performing in the Country and that the service had been compared to metropolitan brigades which had resulted in a much larger reduction in budget.

56. Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Hospitals in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

56.1 The chairman introduced Pam Bickley, Director of Patient and Community Engagement, NHS Telford and Wrekin and Prof. Rod Thomson Director of Public Health from Shropshire County PCT.

56.2 Pam Bickley outlined the issues set out in the consultation document and solutions available so as to continue to provide an effective service in the area. She said that the consultation process ends on 14 March 2011 and that any comments made during the meeting would be noted and included in the consultation.

56.3 In answer to a question raised, Rod Thomson said that there was a Bill going through Parliament that would decide on the future of Primary Care Trusts and the result would be known in March 2013. He also said that building a new hospital between Shrewsbury and Telford was not a practical option.

56.4 One person suggested that the dilemma that Shropshire has is that a small to medium size hospital cannot provide all the services as well as it would like and that there is a constant battle as to which site services should be sited.

56.5 Concern was expressed improving parking at the hospitals should be considered as part of the proposals. This may seem a minor issue but for others parking at a hospital can be a major issue.

56.6 Rod Thomson said that he could provide statistical information with regard to targets and in particular in relation to major infections.

56.7 The chairman thanked both Pam Bickley and Rod Thomson for their attendance and for answering questions raised.

66. Census 2011

66.1 Alistair Bates (Census Area Manager for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin) was introduced and gave a brief presentation about the 2011 census. He said that the census was being held this year and explained when it would commence, what the form looked like, what is required when completing the form, how to return the form and how to obtain help to complete the form.

66.2 He also advised that the personal information would not be disclosed for 100 years and added that the statistical information was very important in calculating the level of grant awarded to authorities based on population for the provision of services.

67. Funding Applications

67.1 RESOLVED:

(a) That the following grants be awarded from the large grants budget:

1. Abney Avenue Park Improvement – to improve the play area - £1,000.00
2. Replacement of Tong Parish Hall Ramp - £2500.00
3. Albrighton Village Halls Trust – Red House Improvements – Window frames and replacement kitchen - £2,500.00
4. The Albrighton Trust Site – Improvement to Horticultural Training/Therapy - £1141.86

(b) That the following grant be awarded from the Community Chest:

1. Albrighton Traders Association – Membership Directory Pamphlet - £250.00

67.2 The Chairman advised that the application submitted by the Albrighton & District Civic Society could not be considered at this meeting as three of the members had declared a prejudicial interest and would have to leave the room during its consideration. This would leave only two members present which is less than the 3 required for a quorum. (One other member would have been able to

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vote but was unable to attend and had submitted his apologies). The Chairman said that in accordance with the Local Joint Committee Constitution that the application would be referred to Cabinet for determination. He reported that the three members who would have been able to vote on the application had met and asked that their proposal for the application be sent to cabinet for consideration.

67.3 The Chairman also said that the Local Joint Committee grants budget had been reduced by 50% for 2011/12 as part of Shropshire Council's need to reduce expenditure by £76m over the next 3 years. He said that any of the committee's budget for 2010/11 that was unallocated would be carried forward to the next financial year.

68. Public Question Time

68.1 One of the people present congratulated Shropshire Council for continuing to provide its refuse collection service during the recent severe weather. It was agreed that the committee write to the Council to pass on these comments. MM

68.2 A point was raised about the green telecommunications boxes located in various places in Albrighton which are in a poor state and are in need of painting. The questioner asked that the telecommunications provider be asked to tidy up the boxes. MM

68.3 Another person expressed concern at the length of time it had taken for repairs to be carried out on central heating systems in council properties. It had left the tenants without heat for up to 2 weeks during some of the coldest weather for many years. The chairman said that someone from Tenant Services would be invited to attend the next meeting. MM

68.4 Concern was also expressed that under the choice based lettings system Council properties were being let to people from outside the area whilst local residents were being overlooked. It was agreed that an officer from this service be requested to attend the next meeting.

68.5 A question was also raised about one of the comments made in the letter from Mr Rod Smith referred to at paragraph 52.1 above. The Chairman reiterated his earlier comment that the contents of the letter would be considered by officers and the minutes brought back to the next meeting of the committee.

68.6 With regard to the skateboard park, concern was expressed regarding the cracks that had appeared in the concrete. It was agreed that Martin Stephens be asked to comment on this and report back to a future meeting. MS

68.7 A local resident commented that some 6 or 8 months previously he

had made a presentation with regard to the need for additional parking in Albrighton. He expressed concern about the lack of progress being made. The Chairman said that the Council does not have a budget to carry out this work nor does it have any money to spend on a car park. He said that the Council does need to look very carefully at its expenditure.

68.8 The Lead Officer reported that a check had been made of the Council's land ownership in the area and there was nothing suitable for use as a car park. He had been advised that checks to the Land Registry could be costly and Shropshire Council were not able to bear this cost

68.9 The Lead Officer reported that Shropshire Council could support the work of a community group to undertake a survey of car parking but could not fund this or undertake the task themselves.

68.10 Concern was expressed that people were shopping elsewhere rather than in Albrighton because of the lack of car parking space and the condition of local roads but there also appears to be a body of opinion that there wasn't a parking problem in the town.

68.11 The Chairman agreed that Highways be requested to reconsider their previous decision to carry out a survey.

MM

68.12 A member said that Albrighton Parish Council had previously helped fund highway pothole repairs in the village but was not able to continue to provide the funding.

68.13 A resident reminded the meeting that in March 2010 he had asked that foliage that had grown over street lights in Cross Road be removed. He said that the foliage had not been cut back and asked that this be looked at again.

68.14 In response to a question the Chairman said that he would find out why the village walkabout that should have taken place recently had been cancelled.

69. Items for consideration at future meetings

69.1 The following items were raised as issues to be considered at future meetings:

1. Choice Based Lettings/Tenant Services
2. Village Green access road

70. Date of next meeting and deadlines for grant applications

70.1 It was noted:

- (a) that the next meeting will be held at a time and on a date to

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be agreed.

- (b) that the deadline for grant applications will be approximately one month prior to the next meeting.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date: