

**Committee and Date**

Albrighton Area Local
Joint Committee

18 March 2015

Item No

3

Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2014
AT THE RED HOUSE, HIGH STREET, ALBRIGHTON**

Community Action Officer: Andrea McWilliams

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Committee Members Present

Malcolm Pate	– Shropshire Council
Stuart West	– Shropshire Council
Phil Harrison	– Albrighton Parish Council (substitute)
David Thomas	– Boningale Parish Council
Hugh Kirton	– Donington with Boscobel Parish Council

Officers present:

Andrea McWilliams, Community Action Officer

Also in attendance:

PC Nick Allbutt	- West Mercia Police
Gareth Whitaker	- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
David Beechey	- Albrighton Parish Council (Place Plans)

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: that Councillor Malcolm Pate be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED: that Councillor Stuart West be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sylvia Pledger.

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

5. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman also announced that Shropshire Council had secured funding in next year's budget (2015/16) for up to £40,000 of highway works to be undertaken on alterations to the entrance to Station Road off the A41. This would be subject to the successful conclusion of negotiations relating to the future of the temporary ramp.

6. Confirmation of Notes

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meetings held on 5th February and 18 March 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

7. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) – West Mercia Police and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

PC Nick Allbutt updated the meeting on the latest crime statistics for the area. He advised there had been no difference to the levels of crime following the streets lights being turned off at midnight. Malcolm Pate advised that if there are areas of concern where anti-social behaviour was an issue, the lighting situation could be looked at on an individual basis.

PC Allbutt also confirmed that he would arrange for the crime statistics to be included in future issues of the parish magazine.

A parish councillor expressed some concern about a possible racial related incident and PC Allbutt agreed to investigate the issue.

PC Allbutt also announced his retirement from the service after 34 years. The Chairman and members present thanked PC Allbutt for his commitment to the village and wished him well for the future.

Gareth Whitaker, Watch Manager at Albrighton, gave an update on behalf of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that there was currently a major refurbishment underway at the station and there was also a recruitment drive on to increase retained firefighters, of which there were currently 9.

Community fire safety was still a priority for the elderly and vulnerable and information for anyone requiring this service could be found on the website.

8. Broadband Update

To note the latest update received from Connecting Shropshire.

9. Review of Parish Plan Priorities

Councillor David Beechey introduced the Place Plan priorities and asked the meeting to consider the current level allocated to each priority. Feedback from this meeting would be fed into the next Parish Council meeting when they would consider all comments and complete their annual return to Shropshire Council.

The following amendments were recommended for consideration by the Parish Council within their response to Shropshire Council.

Albrighton Parish

- **The Civic Society requested that the following paragraph be added to the Place Plan relating to the village infrastructure:**

“A key objective expressed by many residents in public meetings is that Albrighton retains its village status and atmosphere. To this end, and in order to limit demands for further infrastructure development, particularly in relation to flood management, water supply and sewage disposal, roads congestion and car parking, and on other public services such as schools and medical facilities, future developments of more than 10 housing units be required to adhere to a housing density appropriate to its village ethos, to not exceed that already existing in Albrighton, that is less than 15 units per hectare.”

- *Regeneration of Sheldon Court* - amend category from KEY to PRIORITY following concern that affordable housing provision was not addressing the lack of available social housing
- *Secure funding for basic shop front repairs and redecoration* – delete
- *Provision of public toilets* – that consideration be given to adding this as a priority following the closure of the current toilets on the Crown car park
- *Independent review of traffic and parking* – that consideration be given to adding this as a priority based on the potential expansion of housing and industry in Albrighton and Shifnal.

Boningale Parish

- *St Leonard's Priory* – delete (not in area)

Donington with Boscobel Parish

- *Management of Local Nature Reserve* – amend category from KEY to PRIORITY

Tong Parish

- *Improved rubbish & recycling facilities* – delete

The meeting was advised that if other groups had views that they wished to be considered in addition to this, they were welcome to write to Shropshire Council's planning policy service direct with their comments. Comments were requested no later than 5th January.

10. Other issues of concern raised at the meeting

Housing Allocation Policy – some concern was expressed about the policy around the allocation of housing for local residents'. Councillor Malcolm Pate assured the meeting that members had expressed their own concerns about the emphasis of "local" on the points system to ensure it was loaded for local people. He asked that if there were specific issues of concerns about individuals that he would take details and investigate further on behalf of the particular resident.

Land at Loak Road/Worthington Drive – clarification was sought about why development on this site would not be supported by Shropshire Council. The Parish Council confirmed that planners had suggested that as this was classed as an exception site, development would not be permitted.

ACTION – that Richard Fortune be asked to explain and reconsider this decision.

Brief guidance on difference between Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans, Place Plans – a request was made that a layman's guide of the various local "plans" be made available.

ACTION – that Planning Policy be asked to provide this and circulate to the parish council, library and parish magazine.