

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the  
Albrighton & District Civic Society  
held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 2pm  
at 32 High Street (PW's house)**

Present :

Dave Slatcher – Chairman  
Rod Smith – Secretary  
Mike Pitchford - Treasurer  
Mike Bolton  
Roger Rudman  
Dave Williams,  
Peter Woodman

The Chairman welcomed Suzanne Jarvis to observe and participate at the meeting

**1. Apologies.** Peter Illes, David Beechey (ex-officio Donington-with-Boscobel PC)

**2. Minutes of Meeting** of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved.

**3. Treasurer's Report.** – MP reported that the bank balance was £2425.17 which included £820 from calendar sales so far.

**4. To consider progress in regard to following main issues**

a. 2024 Calendar. DS reported that Sales had gone very well and that there were about 49 copies with the four outlets, the Harp and DS/RS yet to sell. **ACTION: RS** to send copies of the Calendar Poster to **DW** who would ask the Harp to put them in a prominent position.

Committee agreed with MB's suggestion that if any calendars remained in January that they could be sold at a discount.

b. Review of Planning Applications. MP reported that he had asked Sharon Downes (SD) if she would take on the task of making a first review of planning applications and she had agreed. MP and PW also wished to be in this subcommittee. This would avoid the many simple and non-controversial applications having to be reviewed by the whole committee. It was agreed that this subcommittee of three would make a first review and would only notify the main committee of any Applications a) if any one of them felt that was necessary and b) if an application was for a large or unusual proposal.

**ACTION: DS** would check the Chairman's email a couple of times each week and would forward all applications to the three subcommittee members.

**ACTION: SD, PW, MP** - As we only meet once each month it may be that a deadline for sending comments to SC may mean that the subcommittee would need to circulate any Applications and their views to all committee members between meetings.

a. Parking in Albrighton. PI could not attend but had provided this report.

*"Some feedback from last week's Pc meeting.*

*1-Nigel reported the highways budget had benefitted from extra revenue from the cancellation of HS2 Birmingham to Manchester and hoped both Station Rd and the High St would be done during 2024.*

*2-An extensive paper on the impact on the traders following the car park changes was considered culminating in a decision to seek a meeting with Marston. I lodged the request and benefit of the Civic Societies input.*

*3-Costings would be secured from SC to install some Vehicles activated Signs showing the speed of approaching cars as part of a raft of traffic calming measures.*

*4- Boningale Homes' proposals relating to the play area and open spaces at Millfields would be subject to a financial appraisal. An offer to enhance the amount of parking, providing 20 spaces around the school, was welcomed subject to acceptable design provisions.*

*5- cooption of 2 councilors (to APC) would be facilitated early in the new year."*

It was reported that APC Cllr Merick had surveyed many shops and traders to learn how the new charging at the Crown car park had affected trade - traders reported a drop of between 10 and 50% with the average being 15%. The committee felt that this was having a large detrimental effect on the village and making it less viable. It was agreed that while SC had been obliged by the brewery to end their lease of half of the car park, they nevertheless had a responsibility to support the village and maintain its mix of houses, shops and businesses. It was reported that SC Cllr Nigel Lumby had contacted the brewery to arrange to meet their senior management and it was felt that a joint effort comprising NL and representatives of both the Parish Council and the Civic Society should be present so that the brewery would be in no doubt that residents, their customers, were very concerned. **ACTION:DS** would discuss with Cllr Lumby.

If the Brewery did decide to remove the charging, then it was also felt that SC should be asked to discuss with the Brewery the situation of reinstating their lease so that there would be some future security.

d. The lack of repairs to roads and footpaths.

See PI report in item 4b.

e. Social Media. It was agreed to have a Facebook page. **ACTION: DW** agreed to set this up. **ACTION: RS** to advise Shaun Meredith-Jones, our webmaster and ask him to contact DW with any suggestions/advice.

f. Award to a resident who has made a significant contribution to the community. MP's suggestion for an annual award at the AGM was agreed. A list of potential candidates will be kept by the Secretary, and all are asked to send suggestions over these next months.

## **5. Matters Arising**

a. RS reported that John Whalley had raised concerns with him about traffic issues on Bowling Green Lane between the Loak Rd/Elm Rd roundabout and Old Worcester Rd (D A Roses).

**ACTION:** it was agreed that **RS** and **DW** would meet Mr Whalley to learn more and would report back.

## **6. Any Other Business**

a. DW and MB said that the 5.30pm start of meetings was very helpful to them in being able to attend meetings.

b. The committee was very pleased that Suzanne Jarvis accepted our invitation to join the committee. Her co-option was proposed by PW and seconded by DW.

**7. Next meeting: - 5.30 pm on TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at 31/32 High Street  
(Second Tuesday due to New Year).

Following Meeting will be at 5.30pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (first Tuesday each month)

## ***Note for your Diary***

Public Meeting & AGM is at 7.30pm on  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at the Red House

All future AGMs are on the second Monday of October