

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the  
Albrighton & District Civic Society  
held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 2pm  
at 32 High Street (PW's house)**

Present :

Rod Smith – Secretary  
Mike Pitchford - Treasurer  
Peter Illes  
Suzanne Jarvis  
Peter Woodman  
Shropshire Cllr Nigel Lumby

RS reported that Dave Slatcher had a bad case of flu and had passed onto RS his notes and comments for him to chair the meeting. RS welcomed Cllr Lumby especially as there were a couple of items for which he would be able to provide updates and advice. As Cllr Lumby and PI had to leave at 6pm for an APC meeting they spoke regarding the items on Parking and Road Repairs.

**1. Apologies.** Dave Slatcher, Mike Bolton, Roger Rudman, Dave Williams, David Beechey (ex-officio Donington-with-Boscobel PC). DB advised that a 5.30pm start is difficult for him.

**2. Minutes of Meeting** of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Title to be corrected from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Dec and were then approved.

**3. Treasurer's Report.** – MP reported that the bank balance was £2645.17 which included £1040 from calendar sales so far.

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

a. 2024 Calendar. DS report showed that there were 23 copies unsold with most being at the Emporium and Hardware Shop. Sales of the 2023 calendar carried on into January so it decided that copies would be left with these outlets. These 23 included 9 copies with DS and 4 copies with RS. The committee agreed to DS's proposal that complementary copies should be given to those who had provided photographs and so copies had been given so far to RAF Museum. **ACTION RS:** recipients of complementary copies to include Bowles Club, Cricket Club, Geoff Catlin, Richard Wright. Any copies left by approx. end of January would be given to the Air Ambulance Charity.

It was agreed that we would start work on organising the 2025 Calendar to be ready to sell them at Fayre Day. **ACTION: RS** would gather together the photographs not used so far ready for the next meeting

b. Review of Planning Applications. No Applications were brought forward by the sub-committee except that MP reported that approval had been given to BH's application for 43 dwellings at Millfields (phase 3).

c. Parking in Albrighton.

Crown Car Park. NL reported that he had asked for a meeting with the brewery and this request had been passed to Paul Gill, who it was understood was director for their pubs. NL said that he would be accompanied to the meeting by DS (Civic Society) and Cllr D Merrick (APC) and another APC Cllr. However, whilst the brewery agreed to the meeting, they had said that they would not be removing the parking charges.

Several residents had commented that they wondered if, after a certain time and when it was obvious that there were not many vehicles were using the car park, the brewery would announce that it was closing all or part of the car park and developing it for housing etc. ie these residents were very skeptical about the brewery's intentions.

Several members said that while they understood that SC had had to cancel their lease that nevertheless SC had a duty to support the village to ensure its viability which included having an environment which was helpful to shops and businesses. It was felt that SC should pass on the suspicious views of residents, their customers, to the Brewery and seek its assurance that the car park would not be turned into housing. At the very least it was felt that SC should make clear to the Brewery their responsibilities to the community of which they are part and from which their customers come.

SJ wondered if a section of the north side of the High Street should be allocated for residents with parking permits to ensure those living along that side had somewhere to park. This item would be included on the February agenda.

PW reported that Albrighton Development Action Group (ADAG) had discussed with Boningale Homes the possible provision of a car park area as a drop-off for parents bringing children to school – this was an area in phase 2 at the boundary with phase 3 and which was currently a small, landscaped area and so did not ‘take away’ land from BH’s site. It was about 20m from the rear of the school land and only needed a short footpath. The area did not entail vehicles driving too far into the Millfield site. BH were receptive to the proposal, and it was agreed that ADAG and BH would seek a joint meeting with St Mary’s school Head. PW reported that he had contacted the Head’s assistant several times by phone and email but that the Head would not respond.

NL reported that APC were negotiating with BH to provide about 20 parking places for use of parents taking children to St Mary’s and these would be in phase 4 at the north end of the Millfields development and only accessed by driving through the development from Kingswood Road.

d. The lack of repairs to roads and footpaths.

The damaged concrete surfaces outside the shops (Hardware – Estate Agent – Butcher etc) had been repaired by SC with bitumen to remove the trip hazards which had caused several old people to have falls and injuries. The committee felt this was a very helpful and asked NL to pass on our thanks to SC (even though it had taken about 3 years since the issue had been raised). However, several temporary barriers remained and were laid flat causing a trip hazard and looking an eyesore. RS reported that on 5<sup>th</sup> January Graham Downes (SC Highways) had come and had erected four of these barriers around the tree root of the tree which had previously been cut down and its metal surface grill. He said that the bitumen team did not have the equipment to deal with the root and grill. NL had asked SC to remove the barriers and he expected that the root/grill would be dealt with then, but NL thought that the other trees may not be replaced.

Previously the Society had received assurances from SC that they would discuss with APC tree warden and replace all the trees with a more suitable variety with root guards to avoid future damage to the surfacing. This item would be included on the February agenda.

NL reported that he had chaired a working group for Albrighton Parish Council into the Place Plan review and he made the following comments:

SC stated they had a renewed push to complete CIL based projects in the county.

We undertook a consultation exercise involving a public meeting and on line survey.

We submitted the following projects which are subject to review by SC and at this stage don’t necessarily mean their inclusion.

Abney Ave Play area refurbishment and inclusion of adult gym.

EV street charging

Keeping our community accessible- Dropped kerb project.

Pathway/cycle way linking Cosford to Albrighton

Swimming Pool Rebuild Plan, linking infrastructure CIL into existing project

Traffic Calming/ Crossing points High Street and Station Road.

e. Social Media. SJ reported that she and DW as co-administrators had worked together to set up a Facebook page for the Society and now wanted to have links to our website. SJ said she would make some suggestions to update the website and would report back with comments.

f. Award to a resident who has made a significant contribution to the community. Two names were suggested, and the Secretary added these to the list of potential candidates. Members to suggest other names to add to the list.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

a. RS reported that he and DW had met John Whalley who raised concerns 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 as this was a SC Highways issue, RS would now ask Cllr N Lumby if he could look into the matter

#### **6. Any Other Business**

none

**7. Next meeting: - 5.30 pm on TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 31/32 High Street**

Following Meeting will be at 5.30pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 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