**ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th September 2017**

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| PRESENT:  ATTENDING: | Cllr. Alan Haslam  Alec Davis  Margaret Harris  Nick Powell  John Wood  P. Brown | Emma Money (Clerk)  Lisa Chidley  Chris Shill  Keith Albon  Jen & Paul Smooker |

**At 7.30pm the meeting was opened by Cllr. Alan Haslam.**

* All comers were thanked for attending, it was explained that the Parish has had a Councillor Vacancy since April and due to various difficulties has struggled to raise a Quorum in the past 3-4 months.
* It was stressed that this meeting is was held as an Open Public Meeting, and that no Parish business could be conducted as 3 Councillors are required to be Quorate. However, both the Clerk and Chair felt a meeting to inform the Public was required.
* It was explained that Councillor Robson was taken ill on holiday in June. He is still experiencing complications with his health and has therefore resigned with immediate effect.
* Councillor Elliott, also the Vice-Chair, was unable to attend this meeting due to work commitments. He is now happily back to work after a period of illness, however, he has had to take employment out of the area, so has decided to resign at the October meeting.
* Councillor Collier, was not able to attend this evening due to the ongoing and severe ill health of his wife.
* The only Councillor present is Councillor Haslam. It was explained that this is a serious issue as it leaves the Council unable to make decisions or express a view on local issues. It leaves current projects unable to be progressed.
* It is hoped that at the next meeting, October 4th, Councillor Elliott and Councillor Collier will be able to attend, in which case the Council will be Quorate. It is hoped that by that time at least two candidates will have expressed an interest. It would be good to co-opt 2 new Councillors in October with the anticipation of advertising the Casual Vacancy caused by Councillor Elliotts resignation after the October meeting and then being able to co-opt a third Councillor in November.
* If however nobody steps forward then ultimately the powers and responsibilities of the Parish Council could be handed to the District Council.
* This may also mean that the Neighbourhood Development Plan would grind to a halt.
* As there is not currently a Councillor who resides on the Playing Field Committee, Councillor Haslam is happy to convene a meeting in a couple of weeks after his holiday BUT stressed that without a Council to report back to, powers will be limited. However current concerns and ideas for the future could be documented.

**Public Forum: Any questions or comments?**

* **CS:** How about delivering leaflets/fliers around the village?
* After some discussion: it was decided that the Clerk will design a flyer ASAP, and get all 3 Councillors to approve it by e-mail. She will arrange printing of 400 copies. CS, PS, LC all said they were happy to help distribute, so EM will contact them once printed as AH will be on holiday.
* The Clerk will also update the parish website with details of the current vacancies and contact the District Council to arrange advertising the Casual Vacancy of Councillor Robson, as per protocol.
* **PS:** Has the Council approached a very good candidate who was unsuccessful at the last co-option in February of this year?
* Councillor Haslam confirmed that he will speak with the previous candidate but is very much aware that this person is now very involved with both the NDP and Village Hall Committee now, so it may be that the Parish Council will no longer be of appeal.
* **PS**: Asked how is Councillor Haslam feeling about all these issues?
* Councillor Haslam confirmed he is keen to see the Parish Council remain in the Village, he wants both it and the NDP to succeed. However, if nobody comes forward it will not, he cannot do this alone.
* **LC:** Expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor: The Clerk will e-mail her a role description and take her details at the end of the meeting. The Clerk is more than happy to receive enquiries for anyone interested.
* **PS:** The Council has been in a spot like this before, hopefully enough people will come forward.
* **AH:** The process after a resignation is received is to inform the District Council and put a notice on the noticeboard, asking Parishioners to comment in writing if they require an election to be held. After 28 days if 10 or more people have not requested an election then the Parish Council can co-opt a new member. If there are more applicants than positions available then the existing Councillors must request a CV and covering letter and appoint the candidates that they feel have the best skill set suited to the role.
* **KA:** If an election is called will the Parish Council have to cover that as an extra expense?
* **AH:** Yes, more strain on our already small budget!
* **AH:** Thanked all for attending.

**8.30pm the meeting ended.**

**The Clerk will take the actions as outlined above and hopefully the leaflet campaign will yield some applicants at the October Parish Meeting.**

Signed:.......................................Chairman. Date:..............................