**ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PRESENT:  IN ATTENDANCE: | | Cllr. Gary Collier (Chair)  Cllr. Alan Haslam (Vice Chair)  Cllr. Dan Elliott  Cllr. Eric Robson  Emma Money (Clerk)  Nick Powell  Margaret Harris  Chris Shill | | Peter Brown  Ali Taylor  Verlie Eagles  Alec Davis | |
|  | **Item** | | **Notes** | | **Action** |
| **1** | **Welcome** | | The parish council chairman Gary Collier welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting, with special thanks to all the village groups who were represented. | |  |
| **2** | **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2016** | | These were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly | |  |
| **3** | **Chairman’s Annual Report** | | **Council Structure**  Over the last 12 months the structure of the Parish Council has changed considerably: 2 Councillors stood down at the end of 2016, the resulting Co-option process yielded 3 very good applicants for the 2 vacant positions. The 2 successful applicants, alongside Cllr Elliott have since completed a “Being a Better Councillor” training course and are putting their new skills into action with enthusiasm. The Parish Clerk of four years also stood down at the end of 2016, being replaced by Emma Money. She has also attended several training courses and is enjoying the challenge of the Clerk’s role.  **Development within the Parish**  The Parish Council has challenged the decision to allow the development of 11 houses at Clanna Lane and also the development at Knapp Lane. It seems inevitable that these planning issues will continue to be a part of Alvington Parish life for the foreseeable future.  The Neighbourhood Development Plan is now almost a year old and all Parishioners are reminded that they meet at 1.30pm on a Monday at the Village Hall, on a monthly basis.  **A48**  The footpath clearance along the A48 continues to progress although controlling the litter along the verge is a constant battle.  **Playing Field**  The playing field has had the benefit in the past year of some new play equipment, alongside the purchase of a Gang Mower. The Cricket Club look to have a busy season ahead of them and the Dog Training Club are hoping to make full use of the field this year. There are however several maintenance projects that need to be arranged to make the field a more usable space for all to enjoy, alongside tackling the ongoing issues of litter and dog fouling.  **Media**  The Alvington Website is now up and running and is regularly updated by the Clerk. As Cllr Smooker has stood down the Parish Facebook page is now closed: I hope that another Councillor will take up the challenge of producing a Facebook Page linked to the website so that information about the Parish is easily available to all.  **St Andrews Church**  As the Graveyard at St Andrews is now closed the Parish Council has responsibility for it. Alongside managing the green waste bins and grass cutting contracts, the last 2 years has seen extensive work completed on the various trees and shrubs. The planned annual maintenance plan is now in place, costing around £2,000 per year.  **Future Chairman**  I mentioned at the 2016 Annual meeting that it was my intention to resign from the Council this year. I would like to retract that statement and be clear that I am now stepping down as Chairman but wish to remain active as a serving Councillor for the Parish of Alvington. | |  |
| **4** | **Reports from local organisations** | | **Playing Fields Committee**  ER reported that as the newly appointed Chairman he has been contacting committee members in order to arrange a meeting which he hopes will go ahead within the next week or two. He also expressed his thanks to PS for the work he invested in the role during his time on the Council, and hopes to build on these foundations, improving the playing field for all users.  **Village Hall Management Committee**  Terry sent his apologies as he was unable to attend this meeting, however AH will represent the Council at Committee meetings. He reported that the next meeting is July 2017 when the finances will be reviewed. Items to be discussed at the next Committee meeting also include the attention needed in the carpark and the replacement glass needed in the Village Hall windows.  **Dog Training Club**  AT reported that she has only been able to use the field 4 times over the winter due mainly to bad weather. She would like to use the field much more than this but is also concerned about the amount of litter, dog fouling and other health and safety concerns at the field which she hopes will be addressed soon.  **Cricket Club**  NP reported that the Club are pleased to continue using the field but that they are concerned with the number of sticks lying around, the level of litter and dog fouling and also the need to resurface the car park to make it more acceptable for all users . | |  |
| **5** | **Annual Financial Report** | | The clerk presented the unaudited accounts for 2016/17. The balance of the Parish accounts as at 31st March is £9,431.67. This is £1,000 more than previously predicted, however it does include an NDP grant and the Parish has not yet purchased a defibrillator which would account for £1,000. In conclusion: the finances are stable at the level predicted by previous reconciliations during the year 2016/17. | |  |
| **6** | **Alvington Neighbourhood Plan** | | Alec reiterated that there are 20 members of the Steering Group but more help is needed in sharing the work required: the monthly meetings only attract 3-4 attendees: currently the group has been asked to write to businesses in the Parish, this equates to 56 letters as 10% of the population run a business, this is a lot of work for only 3 or 4 people. | |  |
| **7** | **Open Forum** | | AH agreed to succeed GC as Chairman with DE becoming Vice Chairman: all Councillors agreed: EM will contact GAPTC and check there is no minimal time served as a Councillor required before becoming Chairman.  AH and DE agreed to take on producing the Parish Newsletter between them as GC stands down. | | **EM** |
| **7** | **Future Meetings** | | 1. Annual Council Meeting. Wednesday 3rd May 2017 7.30pm. 2. Annual Parish Meeting 2018. Wednesday 4th April, 7pm. | |  |

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