

## ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Cllr. Alan Haslam (Chair)  
Cllr. Gary Collier (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Lisa Chidley  
Cllr. Richard Heys  
Cllr. Gail Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE: Meg Humphries (Clerk) Chris Chill  
Alec Davis John Wood  
Ali Taylor Keith Albon  
Tom Lockyer Margaret Harris

	Item	Notes	Action
1	<b>Welcome</b>	The parish council Chairman Alan Haslam welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting, with special thanks to all the village groups who were represented.	
2	<b>Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2017</b>	These were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.	
3	<b>Chairman's Annual Report:</b> This has been a difficult and eventful year for the Parish Council with 3 of the 5 councillors resigning (2 for health reasons and 1 due to increased travel for work). One of whom, Beverley Collier, sadly passed away at the end of 2017. In addition to this we unfortunately lost our Clerk as she opted to return to full time employment. We have, however, been successful in co-opting 3 new councillors (Lisa Chidley, Richard Heys and Gail Thompson) who have settled in well to their new roles within the community. Also we were fortunate to secure the services of Meg Humphries as our new Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.  During the year, unfortunately, we had to remove the play equipment installed at the playing field due to safety concerns raised following installation and again during the first annual inspection. The good news on this front is that the supplier has agreed to a full refund of the cost of purchase upon the return of the equipment. This refund will be ring fenced and put towards the purchase of new, more substantial, play equipment that meets all the requirements for public use.  Budget and expenditure control has also been a major issue during the last year as following the adoption of the grass		

cutting and maintenance of the church yard expenditure had been exceeding income. We managed to keep our expenditure under control through the year without seriously affecting our ability to support the community. It was, however, necessary to request an increase in the Parish Council precept for the year 2018/19 for the first time in a number of years. With the assistance of the cricket club who have volunteered to cut the grass at the playing field and the proposed changes to the grass cutting of the church yard we now believe we are in a much stronger position going forward.

Despite all the issues mentioned above the Parish Council, with the support of willing residents, have taken some significant steps forward during the last year. Thanks to the Steering Group the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has progressed well and is scheduled for completion by the end of the 2018/19 financial year. My thanks to all those on this committee for their hard work in moving this project forward. Funding for this has been generated through grants from Locality and has, therefore, not affected the Parish Budget.

A revitalised Playing Field Committee has been formed during the year now ably led by Richard, who has now adopted the chairman's role following Paul Smooker's resignation. Progress on securing funding for the long awaited replacement Pavilion has now been made but this is only the beginning of a major project for the village. A simple concept drawing has been prepared and funding generated from REACR (Wind Turbine) to enable the production of initial drawings in preparation for submission to planning.

Various meetings including one attended by the Memorial Hall Committee, Parish Councillors and the Playing Field Committee have been held to establish the general requirements of the hall. The drawings and concept are expected to be presented to residents at an open day, together with a scheduled update by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, in June.

Also during the year we were able to purchase the telephone box in the village which has now been fully refurbished thanks to Chris Shill who has worked very hard on this project. It is hoped that this will in future be used to house a defibrillator and a grant will be sought to complete the project. The opportunity to take control of the play area and allotments off Garlands Road has also been discussed with Two Rivers, this effort has been ably led by Lisa. The project

	<p>is progressing well and looks as though it will come to fruition in 2018/19.</p> <p>Again, thanks to a grant from REACR following an application submitted by the church warden, the church clock is working once more. Also during the year the church bells have begun ringing again thanks to the formation of a bell ringing group. It is a pleasure to report that they have gained the award for Bristol and Gloucester's tower of the year.</p> <p>Plans have also been set in motion to install village signs directing visitors to the Memorial Hall, Church and Playing field.</p> <p>On a more general note the council has dealt with a high number of planning applications during the year, some more contentious than others particularly the proposed Clanna Lane development which evoked spirited objections from residents and councillors alike. Council members attended numerous meetings associated with both planning and highways. Speed, volume of traffic and the state of the road &amp; footpaths through the village remains a concern and a particular focus of attention.</p> <p>There is much to do going forward into 2018/19 to complete the many projects and plans for village improvements but I wish to extend my thanks to the councillors, Clerk to the council and all those residents that have supported us during 2017/18 and enabled us to make real progress despite circumstances that have threatened to disrupt our efforts.</p>	
4	<p><b>Reports from Local Organisations:</b></p> <p><b>Playing Fields Committee</b>  Cllr Heys reported that the main piece of work for the PF Committee was first tranche of work (plan drawings and public consultation) followed by a formal planning application. The cricket club is now mowing the Playing Field, hoped to present a considerable saving. The Trim Trail has been well maintained and should pass the upcoming inspection (April/May) but does seem to be reaching the end of its life so may need replacing this year or next.</p> <p><b>Village Hall Management Committee</b>  Cllr. Haslam reported that the last Committee meeting had been in summer 2017. Window glass and some paintwork had been renewed, making the whole building more presentable. The Committee is keen to increase usage and Cllr. Haslam welcomed ideas in this respect. A parishioner raised the issue of the broken gate and possible roof deterioration, which Cllr. Haslam noted.</p>	

	<p><b>Dog Training Club</b> AT reported concerns about the amount of dog fouling on the Playing Field and suggested adding poo-bag dispensers, as well as the hazard of mud in the main gateway. It was agreed that councillors would discuss the mud issue during the standard meeting later that evening.</p> <p><b>Cricket Club</b> Nick Powell was not in attendance, so no report from the cricket club was received.</p>		
5	<b>Annual Financial Report</b>	The clerk presented the unaudited accounts for 2017/18. The projected balance of the Parish accounts as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March is £8,572.77. This is almost £2,000 more than previously predicted but this in part is due to the large backlog of VAT reclaims made in March. In conclusion, the finances are stable at the level predicted by previous reconciliations during the year 2017/18.	
6	<b>Alvington Neighbourhood Plan</b>	Cllr. Haslam and Alec Davis reported that the NDP open day planned for April would now be postponed until the summer because of the detailed process of consultation and other tasks. There are only four active members, so workload per person is heavy. Cllr. Haslam encouraged any support to share the load. Cllr. Thompson offered to join the group after 16/4 and could offer a couple of hours per week. The next NDP meeting is on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am and Cllr. Haslam stated that all are invited.	
7	<b>Open Forum</b>	Cllr. Haslam announced that Cllr. Collier had this evening tendered his resignation from the role of Councillor. This was accepted with regret by the council and parishioners, who valued his 11 years' experience as a councillor but wished him well. <b>ACTION:</b> Clerk to advertise councillor vacancy and liaise with Electoral Officer at FoDDC.	<b>MH</b>

		A parishioner expressed concern about the Globe car park, which is functioning as a cut-through for cars wishing to turn left towards Lydney, endangering pedestrians. <b><u>ACTION:</u></b> Clerk to add this issue to the May agenda.	<b>MH</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Future Meetings</b>	(a) AGM/Standard Meeting Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2018 7pm. (b) Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2018, 7pm.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Close</b>		

Signed:.....Chairman.

Date:.....