

Alvingham Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

Held on 7th March 2017

Present: Councillor N Ashley (Chairman)
Councillor S Shucksmith
Councillor A Graves
Councillor R Wahlberg
Councillor G Cummings

Apologies: Councillor D Buckley

In Attendance: Councillor D McNally

Clerk: Mrs S McFarland

The Chairman declared the Annual Parish Meeting open and extended a warm welcome to everyone present. The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2016 which had been circulated prior to the meeting were declared to be a true record, proposed by Councillor Shucksmith and seconded by Councillor Graves.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous year's minutes which needed discussing

Treasurers Report

Councillor Cummings reported that the balance in the bank is currently £1748.11 and there are no cheques outstanding. Progress has been made towards transferring the bank account and Councillor Cummings should soon be in possession of everything he needs to fully carry out his treasurer's duties.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. He reported that since last year we have welcomed 2 new members to the Council. Suzanne our new Clerk who he felt is coping with the post admirably. He extended his thanks to The Clerk. Gordon Cummings has also joined as a treasurer and a member of the council. He is obviously going to be an active member of the Parish Council. So far he has already organised a village meeting to make Parishioner's more security minded and be the eyes and ears for the over stretched police. He has also organised tonight's earlier meeting trying to improve the broadband service for the village. That meeting was extremely well attended and Gordon is to be congratulated for his efforts.

In the past year we have experienced a few issues with the speed sign but hopefully these can soon be resolved. We have been fortunate to acquire the telephone box which has been painted. No decision has yet been made on the best use for the telephone box and this is something that should be addressed in the coming year.

The roads have continued to be a bit of a nightmare. Whilst it seems some funds have been allocated to improve things this is a long way short of what is really needed.

During the year several new dwellings have been built, with more in the pipeline. This will definitely improve the village housing stock. The Chairman is a bit worried that the younger generation brought up in the village are priced out of the village and he is unable to think of a solution for this problem.

The new district plan linking certain villages together has been proposed. The Chairman doesn't think we have come out too well as we have been linked geographically rather than socially.

Our footway lighting has been a bit of a headache this year with the District Council trying to off load the running and maintenance costs onto the Parish Council. We obviously declined the offer and with a bit of luck will soon have LED lights with the running and maintenance costs remaining the responsibility of ELDC.

We have managed to hold down our rate precept for the coming year to the same as last year and hopefully we will maintain this trend in the following year. This really will depend on the grass cutting costs which must increase in the coming years for several reasons.

Finally the Chairman extended his thanks to his fellow councillors for their input during the past year, not forgetting the new Clerk who he thought was doing a first class job.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk was pleased to report that her first year as Clerk has passed pleasantly and without incident.

There have been 6 meetings all of which have been well attended by all council members. The minutes have all been recorded correctly and displayed on the notice board and the village website. We have continued to see an increase in the amount of correspondence received electronically with only 18 items having been received via the post this year out of a total of 105.

It has been a busy year coordinating notices for the EU referendum and complying with the transparency code. The Clerk was pleased to report that we are now fully compliant with the Transparency code with all minutes being uploaded onto the village website www.alvinghamvillage.co.uk .

There have been 4 successful planning applications. We have said farewell to Councillor Gleeson who retired from the Parish Council in July and having advertised the post in the correct manner welcomed Councillor Cummings in December.

Open Forum

There were no matters for discussion, there being no members of the public present at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their continued support of the Villages' affairs and declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm.