# **PARISH OF ALDBURY**

# ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT THE ALDBURY MEMORIAL HALL 29th April 2019 at 8 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

Present:

Cllrs Moore (in the Chair), Tollinton, O'Neill and Aldbury Parish Clerk.

Speakers:

Adrian Lee - Chair of Governors - Aldbury School

Philip Waine - Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer - Herts Police

Dacorum Borough Councillor Stan Mills.

5 members of the public.

## 1. Appointment of the Clerk to the meeting

Bridget Knight was appointed Clerk to the meeting

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Pearce, Juniper and McCarthy. Apologies received from Suzanne Stretton and Stuart Hartlib.

3. Minutes of Annual Assembly held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 to be signed as a true record It was proposed that the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 were

accepted as a true record. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

## 4. Chairman's Report

Cllr Moore gave his report about the Parish Council year. The Parish Council works hard to achieve value for money and takes a non-interference approach.

- GDPR the parish council acknowledged the regulations and worked to achieve compliance which lead to an IT strategy.
- IT Strategy the Parish Council has engaged an IT Consultancy and all Councillors have Aldbury Parish email addresses and their own area on Microsoft OneDrive which is GDPR compliant.
- Website this has been updated through the year with a new pond page added, the website is time consuming and an ongoing project.
- Parish Clerk the Clerk has responsibility for significant amounts of data and controls this confidentially and within GDPR compliance.
- Allotments at the start of the year there were a number of vacant allotment plots, now the allotments are fully tenanted. Aldbury Garden Club and Allotment Association now oversee the daily running of the allotments. The Diocese of St Albans owns the land and the parish council is the leaseholder. Sunnyside Rural Trust have undertaken several tasks and work is ongoing in the allotments.
- Planning during the year the parish council considered approx. 24 planning applications.

Signed: RMM lastly Parish Course Unit Waitwar 4 May 2021

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- Aldbury Booklet this has been reproduced.
- Playground equipment this has been reviewed and the council has received a £10,000 Awards for All Lottery grant towards the playground improvement project.
- Stoneycroft the neighbouring landowner has agreed to maintain the ditches and hedges to minimise the risk of flooding.
- Handy Person the council has appointed a Handy Person to undertake occasional jobs.
- Aldbury Warden the Warden visits the village on Friday's and gives the council a monthly report and highlights any issues.
- Newground Road the heavy winds in the middle of March blew the streetlight near Stoneycroft over. Councillors and volunteers dealt with the fallen streetlight and within 10 days a new light was in place. A resident commented how effective and pleased the residents are with the light.
- Cllr Juniper represents the parish on the Ashridge National Trust Committee.
- Black Bag Day this was very successful.
- Defibrillator this has been added to the parish council asset register.
- Road Safety the Police & Crime Commissioner project is ongoing, and the council looks forward to an update.
- New Parish Council Clerk joined in January after the previous Clerk left.
- Stoneycroft the last half of the year saw an increase in vehicle crime in particular.
- Herts CC flood risk strategy was circulated for comment last summer. The council considered the strategy in the context of the pond project and provided a fulsome response.
- Pond a joint meeting with Aylesbury Vale District Council, Pitstone Parish Council
  and Herts County Council took place in October. Pitstone Parish Council are
  investigating what they can do to prevent flooding from the Bucks end of Stocks Road.
- Finance, Audit and Governance matters take place annually.

#### 5. Update on Aldbury Pond

Cllr Moore gave the following update on Aldbury Pond on behalf of the Pond Working Group: The council has been successful in obtaining grants for the pond project. The first phase of the project was completed in July 2018 which removed the silt and vegetation.

Phase 2 involves Hertfordshire County Council Countryside Management Services are the Project Managers. With CMS advice and consultation, the council worked with the environment agency to make sure the project follows best practice.

The pond has a concrete base which was installed in 1950s to help Hertfordshire County Council maintain the pond. The concrete base is near the Stocks and has three layers of strata and the north end (Greyhound pub) has two layers. Discussions continue regarding what further action to take and CMS as project manager have struggled to find companies interested in the project but have obtained quotations for removal of the concrete base.

The decision on what action to take will be made by the new council after May and this will be one of the options to be considered.

The parish council was very pleased to receive the Environment Award from Dacorum Borough Council.

Signed: R Will Justy Parish Ceruil Chairman 4 Nlay 2021.

A resident asked whether the council will fill the pond with water if we have a very hot summer again, last year the pond was very low and not very attractive. Cllr Moore said this is a subject that will be discussed by the new council after May. The parish council has an annual provision and is creating a long-term pond fund for maintenance.

#### 6. Adrian Lee - Chairman of Aldbury School Governors.

The school is voluntary controlled, and the church own the building. The school is a Church of England School and welcomes pupils from every and no-faith families. Currently there are 92 pupils, the maximum the school can accommodate is 120. Funding is an issue and the Friends of Aldbury School and the May Fair help greatly with funding for the School.

Aldbury School has resisted the proposal to join a multi-academy trust and works closely with other village schools to share resources and minimise costs.

The Aldbury pre-school closed approx. 7 years ago. This has threatened the school with village children forced to attend pre-schools located outside of the village and several local families have chosen other village schools attached to the pre-schools for their children. Also, the demographic of Aldbury means that some local children attend private schools and Aldbury School misses the funding that comes with every pupil.

The school is opening a new nursery school in September which will be in classroom 1. The school through careful budgeting has been able to afford a new classroom.

With a budget of £70,000 a temporary building has been made for Year Six children. Aldbury School has a temporary planning consent on this building which will be reviewed next year, the School hopes to continue to use the temporary classroom as the school cannot afford a brick built permanent classroom.

Aldbury School nursery will be seeking to attract pupils from neighbouring villages which have had housing developments such as Pitstone.

Aldbury School Head and the governing body are aiming for an Outstanding Ofsted rating.

### 7. Philip Waine - Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer - Herts Police.

Philip Waine covers three district councils including Dacorum Borough Council. Initially Neighbourhood Watch was independent from the Police but now OWL Online Watch Link employs four staff. 33% of all households in Hertfordshire are members of OWL and the membership has gone from 70,000 to 150,000 in Herts.

In Aldbury 25% of residents are members of OWL, this could easily be increased, and he explained the benefits of membership.

OWL includes neighbourhood concerns and now gets involved in general crime fighting assisting the police. OWL works with neighbours and sets up networks where the police can be supported by resident's CCTV evidence and observations. In Chipperfield the residents have a WhatsApp group and a Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page which is very effective. Aldbury could have further signs and Neighbourhood Watch posters.

Cyber-crime is a big problem in the Dacorum area.

Signed: RMW lethy Parish Cavail Chairman 4 May 2021

Mr Waine reassured everyone that Aldbury has a very low level of crime and is a safe place to live.

The Chairman thanked Philip Waine and Adrian Lee for their very interesting presentations.

## 8. Meeting open to the Public

There were no questions and the public enjoy refreshments.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm Bridget Knight, Clerk to the Aldbury Parish Council

29th April 2019

Signed: All Coffy Parish Covail Chairmon 4 May 2021

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