

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 7th June, 2011 at 19.30 hrs in the Village Hall

Council Members: Paul Cole, Derek Kendle, Brigitte Webster, Spencer Hoy, Tracey Waples & Mandy Hutley (Clerk)

Parishioners: Liz Davis, Mike Davis and Dean Palmer

ACTION

1. The meeting was opened by the Parish Council Chairman Paul Cole. He welcomed and thanked those attending and then introduced the members of the Council and the Clerk, outlining their various duties and responsibilities.

2. Chairman's report on last year

The Council had a relatively quiet year and gave its attention to the ongoing matter of the playground and various footpath issues.

There were two main aims for the year.

To prepare for the Election and to progress the Playground Project, which was presented later in the meeting as a particular item.

The results of the Footpath Enquiry are awaited. This was well attended in the early stages, when the path from Patmore Heath to Patmore Hall Wood was discussed.

In May the elections were due but regrettably, nobody from the village put their name forward. Spencer Hoy decided to step down and was thanked for his 4 years of hard work; particularly in respect of the sourcing and siting of our new village signs and for pursuing EHDC on road repairs and safety matters.

The Council still wishes to attract further members on a co-opted basis and the Chairman asked that any interested parties should contact the Clerk.

The Council's yearly Precept remains at £6,905 and is likely to be set at the same figure for the foreseeable future. It was decided to continue making a small donation to the Stop Stansted Expansion group.

The Council will concentrate on raising its profile and improving its communication through the village website. There was a short time when the monthly Agendas and Minutes were not being posted and this is a valuable site for disseminating information.

The Chairman then thanked all of his colleagues, for giving of their time and effort over the last year.

3. Financial report

Derek Kendle, the Financial Officer, explained that the Council has 3 streams of income. The annual Precept, a grant for litter-picking and the income gained by allowing cabling to run across Parish land (Wayleave).

The main expenditure is a donation to the Parochial Church Council, the annual Audit fees and the Clerk's salary.

The litter-picking grant has not been spent but is held in reserve for this purpose.

There is both a current and a business account, with a total balance in the region of

£19,000.

4. The Playground project

The Chairman gave a short presentation on proposed work to the playground.

When the existing Parish Council took over, the Playground Committee had already disbanded and it was thought a sum of between £60 and 70,000 would be required to carry out the required renovation. This would be achieved by fund-raising and donations.

A formal inspection of the existing equipment was arranged and it was found to be basically sound and safe but in need of minor work.

It was realised that the initial sums would never be attainable and the project was reconsidered as a 2 stage initiative.

Repair and renovate the equipment, to provide a safe and useable playground for the community.

Cost up and provide a slide and a surrounding fence and single gateway. Total funding required approximately £6,500

There is now £6,500 available from the Parish Council, a donation from the Artshow, and the funds given by the previous committee.

A sub-committee was formed to investigate additional funding and a bank account opened.

The ground clearance has already started and it is thought the whole project could be completed in 4 months, depending on the weather. In accordance with Health & Safety regulations, the retaining shuttering and infill of bark round the play equipment will be removed. The surface will be grass throughout and besides the slide, a picnic table and a swing seat will be provided.

5. Parishioners questions

Mr Palmer queried the positioning of the perimeter fencing and was assured that it would be pest-proof, with a single access gate and will not affect the footpath.

Mrs Davis suggested an opening event should be held, which was warmly approved for consideration.

Mr Davis raised the issue of the footpath from the village to the church having been planted and not sprayed out or cut. A letter will be sent to the Landowner requesting that this be rectified as soon as possible. . PC / MH

The footpath between the school and the village hall is also badly overgrown. The Countryside Access Officer at HCC will be contacted - MH

The meeting closed at 20.30 hrs

Signedõ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ..

Dateõ õ õ õ õ õ õ õ ..

Paul Cole
(Chairman)