

ALBURY PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 6 May 2008 at 7:35 pm in Village Hall

Those Present: Paul Cole, Spencer Hoy, Tracey Waples,
Brigitte Webster, Vivien Gardner (Clerk)
Public: Reg Crafter, Liz Davis, Phil O'Flaherty, Peter Simpson,
Pam Blevins, Martyn Wright, Derek Kendle, Cristina
Fielding, Jeremy Donaldson.

ACTION

Paul Cole opened the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked all those who were present for coming. Those present were encouraged to join in and put across their views.

1. Parish Plan Actions: it was discussed that whilst the Parish Plan was a good working document, to achieve everything would be impossible. The Parish Council felt that at present their efforts be put into the following 3 items:

- 1) Affordable Housing
- 2) Road Safety
- 3) Footpaths

All seemed to agree.

2. Status Report Affordable Housing.

BW opened introducing herself and informing us of her intentions. BW went on to report:

- Back in December a letter was sent to every household to give the opportunity to comment on the proposed Albury Affordable Housing project at High Hall. We received 10 replies: 9 opposing – 1 supporting.
- From the data collected the outcome showed clear opposition, for the following reasons:
 - i. Lack of footpath
 - ii. Lack of infrastructure nearby
 - iii. Dangerous access onto a busy road with a blind corner
 - iv. Saving green field sites from development to safeguard rural character
 - v. Loss of sunlight during winter months for properties directly opposite
- Opposition was also expressed on the whole idea of newly built affordable housing, due to:
 - i. Lack of evidence for the need
 - ii. Too few amenities within the village
 - iii. Infrequent public transport links
 - iv. No realistic employment opportunities inside or near the village
 - v. Increase of motor traffic on an already over used country lane
 - vi. The fear of new housing estates on a bigger scale
 - vii. Concern about Albury beginning to lose its charming rural views

With all of the above evaluated the Parish Council asked Aldwyck Housing Association to assist us in the matter of looking at alternative sites, as long as they meet their criteria and can be identified within a reasonable time. We put forward the currently unused playground next to the village hall, as it ticks the most boxes in terms of infrastructure and safe access. However in their most recent communication in April, they have asked us to pay for the survey, the cost in the region of up to £3000. Obviously we are also interested in any other possible sites between the village hall and the school which are potentially available and not obstructing anybody's immediate views (preferably brownfield sites).

Discussion took place, many still voicing the opinion of the real need but it is a done deal (inherited from old Parish Council). The use of old playground site should be checked out as the land was given, under what criteria? It was also thought that Aldwyck should be paying for the survey not us. A lively discussion ensued. The Parish Council feel that with the development of these 7 units the 'potential need' for affordable housing in the village will be fully met for now and the foreseeable future and **will not** support any further projects of any scale.

3. Road Safety

Albury PC are working together with EHDC and Herts CC Highways.

TW informed us that she was in contact with Ian Thompson, as we already have a Parish Plan a copy is to be given to Ian to enable him to assess what measures can be put in place. Once it has been established what we can use, the villagers will be consulted as to what they want. The continual use of the lane by large lorries was also a concern, what about weight restrictions? Peter Simpson pointed out that if a 40 tonne lorry comes from a rural location, then they are permitted to go through the relevant lanes of that location. 'Park & Stride' was mentioned: use of the village hall car park by school mums, then walk to school.

Footpaths

Which, where, when. It was clear that some people have a lot of knowledge and others have none. It was also clear that some new signs and arrows had been appearing. A Definitive Map was available and it was suggested that Jez put a link to access it on the Albury website. Also suggested was to start a 'Village Walk', to generate more interest. A pre selected route be picked and a date advertised when anyone can join in (possibly a refreshment break along the way). TW to organise (help appreciated) and inform Newsletter and website. TW

4. Reports from clerk – financial

Community Account: £ 6151.99

Business Account: £ 5206.10

Bills to pay: T. Jarvis – Litter Picker

R. Crafter – Refund for paint etc

P. Cole – Refund for copies of Parish Plan

Allianz Insurance – Insurance renewal

Agreed that these plus any others that turn up prior to next meeting be paid.

5. Selection of Parish Council Logo. Some of the children from Albury Primary School drew pictures, 11 in total, which were put on display. The Parish Council and the public make a selection of their preferred design.

Number 11 received the most votes. A thank you will be sent to the children and the chosen picture used as our Parish Council Logo.

AOB:

Pam Blevins brought to our attention The Albury Art, Craft and Photography Exhibition on 13 + 14 September in the Village Hall. A village calendar was also suggested.

Attention to the footpath to school, write to Herts CC Highways. SH

Latest position on by pass – to be looked into.

Latest position of Flight Path Plans – pamphlet available on display.

Thanks go to The Village Hall Group for the lettings and the need to encourage more use. Reg Crafter for all his work around the village. Pam Blevins for all her hard work in producing the Albury Newsletter. If there is anyone else that we need to thank please keep us informed.

PC thanked all those present for coming.

6. The meeting closed at 8:45 pm