

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD IN  
ALDERMINSTER VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH 2010 AT 8PM**

**PRESENT:** PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MR.J.HUTCHINGS, PARISH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN MR.J.MELVILLE, PARISH COUNCILLORS MRS.M.MOODY, DR.M.EDWARDS, MRS.G.HUDSPITH AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH

**1. Any apologies received**

MR.A.JENKINS, MR.M.MEADOWS

**2. Minutes of the Previous Assembly (2009)**

The minutes had been circulated and were accepted as a true record by those present. The CHAIRMAN signed the minutes book.

**3. Any matters arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. Report from the Parish Council Chairman – Mr. J.Hutchings**

Mr. Hutchings reported that during the last twelve months the Parish Council had considered eight planning applications within the Parish. The plans for the Long Marston development and the proposed development on the Shipston Road out of Stratford upon Avon for a supermarket park and ride and road improvements had also been considered as these developments would have a major effect on our local infrastructure. The C72 has finally been resurfaced but this has only increased the speed of the traffic on this road which is an ongoing problem especially on the south side. The Parish Council have over the years tried to overcome this problem but to no avail. Local residents have approached the police at the last Forum meeting and have been promised help in the form of a speed check to try to overcome this problem. In line with other villages in the District provision of a defibrillator and training for responders is about to come to fruition, thanks to Maureen Moody for the time she has put into achieving this service. A committee has met under the direction of John Melville and is formulating a way forward to produce a Parish Survey. The Millenium bridge has finally been completed and the bridge is being used although there are still some ongoing problems. Grants have been made to the Village Hall and the PCC for lighting the church clock and the Parish Council have agreed to maintain the two wheelchairs that have been bought for use in the parish. Finally I would like to thank Mike Moody as Clerk for the sterling work he carries out on our behalf and for the support of my fellow councillors and our County/District Councillor.

**5. Report from the District Councillor - Mrs. Seccombe**

Mrs Seccombe was not present.

**6. Report from the County Councillor - Mrs. Seccombe**

Mrs Seccombe was not present.

## **7. Reports from any Parish organisations**

### **Village Hall Report - John Melville**

I was elected onto the Village Hall Committee (VHC) as the Parish Council Representative in July 2009 following a brief involvement with the Village Hall '50 Club'

During my association with the VHC I have witnessed that the Village Hall has been managed well by just a few for the benefit of many and other than the annually repetitive comments regarding the cost of heating no complaints have been received.

Over the period the hall and its users have benefited from the VHC decision to carry out essential maintenance, repair and replacement work which included, but is not limited to - Tree work and fencing around its boundaries, a secure, new and improved shed which houses the emergency equipment and more recently the two wheelchairs, a new pedestrian access path with security posts, economy spotlights replacing the old incandescent type and replacement humidification equipment. Collectively these improvements have taken their toll on the village hall reserves.

The wish list of planned necessary expense/investment for the current/next period includes - Resolution of electricity cost/charging equation - high priority

Acquisition of audio video equipment and screen

Redecoration of main hall - In three levels of priority and dependent upon what funds are remaining and/or can be raised

High priority - ceiling

Next - Walls above dado

Next - Walls below dado

Next - Woodwork

For the long haul there remains the perennial question of what is to be done with the car park and how it is to be funded.

The main sources of income to the Village Hall have changed over the years with the successful sponsorship of events by other village groups forcing the village hall to rely mostly upon letting fees, breakfast income and the '50 Club'. In those respects I can report that the lettings are buoyant with most weekday evenings

accounted for by Village groups and third parties, however daytime bookings with the added loss of the computer class remain light and unsatisfactory making it convincingly essential that the hall has to be kept presentable if we are to maintain and improve our letting situation and preserve the Village Hall for future generations. The breakfasts are well supported and the volunteers increasingly overworked, accordingly they would welcome anyone interested in helping. The '50 Club' is now back on track with a full and fully paid up membership.

Looking ahead, the committee continues to struggle with the ever rising electricity costs and the torturous battle with balancing them with competitive letting charges. The Village cinema is a newish venture which continues to be popular with, on occasions, children's films shown in the preceding afternoon. The free Tea and Chat in the afternoon of the third Thursday of each month is also popular with regular attendees, again helpers would be welcome. A new Village Hall sign has been ordered and a one off extra ordinary income is anticipated next year by way of the hall hire fee for the forthcoming elections.

The Village Hall can be identified as a focal point for the village, second only to the church as being at the heart of the community, a facility there to welcome the majority who wish to be involved either now or later or happy to respect the wishes of minorities who prefer their own company. The village Hall is undoubtedly an asset to the Village but without the support of the

community through all user groups including the Parish Council the VHC will be prevented from guaranteeing its survival.

#### **Investment Club - John Melville**

The 25th March 2010 will mark the 7th anniversary of the Bell Alderminster Investment Club (BAIC).

The inaugural membership consisted of 15 members of the 20 allowed under its constitution.

Over the years there have been very few changes albeit that the membership once peaked at 18 in number, there are currently 14 members of which 11 are founder members.

The Club meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Bell Public House from where the Club takes its name. As would be expected the Club has experienced both good and bad investments and most would agree that there has been a lot shared and a lot learnt from those more knowledgeable. The gained experience and good management of the club has prevented the economic catastrophe of the past couple of years having a too adverse effect on the value of its portfolio.

The Club is now an established and serious proposition with investments in excess of £30,000.00 whilst the monthly meetings remain friendly and only as formal as needs be to remain credible.

#### **Footbridge over the River Stour - Dr. Mary Edwards**

At the time of writing the last parish report, we were still waiting for the bridge to be constructed. It is, therefore, satisfying to be able to report that, on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009, the village was able to celebrate the opening of the bridge with an informal ceremony attended by, among others, a photographer and reporter from the Stratford Herald. In June, another celebration took place in the Village Hall, courtesy of the Parish Council, where our guests were Martin Fry with Mrs Fry, our local councillors, and Mrs James with her daughter Rachel.

Since its opening, the bridge has been used by both villagers and walking groups from the area. The final part of the bridge project viz. the display boards indicating the walking routes made possible by the bridge, has yet to be completed. Progress is being made, however. The design of the lecterns has been agreed and these will be fabricated in steel by Toby Harness. Graham Wright has generously agreed to fund the means of displaying the maps on the lecterns.

However, WCC has requested that we make a payment for any further work in connection with the bridge project. Nevertheless, we expect to be able to report by next year's Parish Assembly that these displays will be in place.

#### **Friends of St Mary and the Holy Cross - Dr. Mary Edwards**

The Friends have continued to raise money for the fabric of the church and the preservation of the churchyard. Events that have raised funds during the past year include a summer outing to the Cotswolds where we visited a stately home; our regular Family Quiz that is always stimulating; a riotous Bangers and Beetles evening and a stall at the Summer Fete selling Christmas cards, greetings cards, tea towels showing the church and home-produced jams and pickles. To date, the Friends have raised more than £16,000 to contribute to the expenses incurred by the PCC in maintaining the church building.

#### **Monday Evening Group Alderminster (MEGA) - Mrs. Gill Hudspith**

This club meeting in the Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month is open to anyone who pays a subscription of £5.00. The 2009 membership stood at 41, we met 7 times in the Hall with a variety of speakers ranging from Falconry to Antiques. The club has several favourite events such as a Burns night which replaced a New Years Eve function, Treasure hunt and skittles. The 2010 AGM has taken place, the accounts show a healthy balance of £1769.70, the committee consists of Jane Jones(Chair), David Lockwood(Treasurer), Gill Hudspith (Secretary),

Rita Meadows, Geraldine Ramskill, Liz Preston, Jim Meadows and Peter Pullinger(new for 2010). The programme for 2010 is mostly in place and will be out to members in the next 2 months.

#### **Gardening Club - Mrs. Gill Hudspith**

This club was 10years old in 2009, meets once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the Village Hall.It has a small but enthusiastic membership but operates under a higher cost level as good speakers rarely charge less than £50.00 per talk, so it made a loss last year but still has a healthy bank balance of £890.00.The programme for 2010 is out and includes 2 afternoon/evening outings, a joint meeting with Ettington and Radway and a day outing jointly with Mega to Malmesbury(Abbey Gardens) with our main fundraiser the coffee morning on 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7, Campden Lawns.There were a few changes at the 2010 AGM, the committee being Anne Davies(Chair), Angela Meadows(Treasurer), Jackie Trevis(Competition), Gill Hudspith (Secretary), Arthur Jenkins, David Jones and Pat Hooton(new for 2010).

#### **8. Any matters raised by electors of the parish present.**

Mrs. Gill Hudspith spoke of her concerns regarding the small concrete bridge over the backwash to the River Stour on SD61. There is now a drop at each end of the bridge which could cause difficulty to some members of the public using the route. There is also a large amount of tree debris blocking the pipes under the bridge. The Clerk said that he had reported the matters to the County Council but would do so again to see if repair work can be carried out sooner rather than later.

Mrs. Maureen Moody said that another parishioner had mentioned the notice board by the Church that public funds had supplied to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The parishioner said it was not big enough and in a bad state of repair. Mrs. Moody did not agree and said that many notices were either from out of the village or businesses advertising their businesses which is not really what the notice board is for and she suggested that it just needed cleaning up and a coat of preservative. Those present agreed with her sentiments and Mr. Jim Tagg said he would ask a local tradesman who is to repair the gate to the churchyard to renovate it at the same time.

#### **9. Closure**

The CHAIRMAN thanked those present and for the reports that had been given and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.