

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE
VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM ON WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2009**

PRESENT: MRS.M.MOODY (CHAIRMAN ALDERMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL), MR. J. HUTCHINGS (VICE CHAIRMAN ALDERMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL) DR. M. EDWARDS, MR. A. JENKINS, MR. J. MELVILLE, MR. M. MEADOWS, MRS. D. EVANS, MR.J .TAGG, MR. G. STYRING, COUNCILLOR I.SECCOMBE AND MR. C. DOBSON (SDC)

Before opening the meeting the CHAIRMAN welcomed Mr.C.Dobson from the Stratford District Council who gave a presentation on the new recycling procedures to be introduced on 1st April 2009. The CHAIRMAN thanked him for his attendance.

1. Any apologies received
MRS. G. HUDSPITH

2. Minutes of the Previous Assembly (2008)
The Minutes of the previous assembly were circulated and 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. Reports from the Parish Council Chairman - Mrs.M.V.Moody
In May 2008 after an uncontested election we found ourselves three members short. Mrs Hudspith Mr Mark Meadows and Mr Melville were co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Planning Applications

There have been twelve planning applications during the year

Bridge over the River Stour

At the beginning of the year we were still hearing about compulsory purchase orders and no new bridge designs. Ten years down the line we understand a new acceptable bridge has been made and delivered awaiting fitting when the land dries out. Thanks to the bridge committee and their supporters.

C72 (New Road)

In May 2008 we were still asking the same question as now, when is New Road to be repaired?

Following a number of accidents during this last winter we have renewed our attempts to get this road into the gritting schedules, to date without success. This complaint has been brought up at the Community Forum level, the Parish Council have not given up

The grit box opposite Hill Farm was written off in an accident recently. The Parish Council has re-sited and replaced it with a high visibility grit box

Website

During the year the computer project and website was up and running. www.alderminster-pc.gov.uk

Dog Fouling

After an article we placed in Village Voices regarding the reported problem of dog fouling in the village, the complaints have reduced.

Speed Limits

A 50 mile per hour limit has been implemented on the A3400 from Stratford to Alderminster and on the a 422 Bayberry Road from Ettington to Stratford

Flooding

The Parish Council chaired a meeting with Steve Haresnape from Stratford District Council and residents who had been flooded. Eventually the parish council were awarded £3200 to divide amongst those residents. The award was not retrospective.

Community Forum

A new scheme has been set up between Stratford District Council Warwickshire County Council, the Police and Health Authorities for Parish Council to air problems. These are also open to the public to speak. John Melville has represented our Parish Council at meetings so far.

Village Hall

The Parish Council has continued to support the village hall by way of a grant.

Church Clock

The Parish Council have continued to support the lighting of the church clock by way of a grant Stratford upon Avon Draft Core Strategy

Members attended an extraordinary meeting to discuss this document and a reply was forwarded.

Izzy Seccombe

Our District and County Councillor has kept us informed on matters of interest, particularly the Eco Town proposals and recently the Bulldog Bash.

AED

The Parish Council have agreed in principle to fund an automated external defibrillator, to be sited somewhere in the village. An informal public meeting will be held sometime in April, and which we hope residents will support, to listen to the Arrhythmia Alliance Charity who will demonstrate and take questions.

Village Survey

It is ten years since the Parish Council embarked on a parish appraisal. We are now looking for volunteers to help with a new survey of the village. Residents have been asked to help and see it through from start to finish.. A subcommittee will be set up if enough volunteers come forward

5. Report from the District Councillor - Mrs. Seccombe

There have been a number of significant issues in the last year involving the county division: Eco Town - which has seen a number of events, consultations, a Judicial Review which failed and we are about to go to Appeal on the result. Also a regional appraisal is to take place this year on the proposal.

Gypsy Encampment - illegal encampment at Darlingscott has been granted a 4 year temporary permission for 16 named families.

Tramway Cycleway - a proposal is put forward by Preston on Stour PC to look at developing this scheme. Very early days.

Safeguarding Children - Following the Baby P. scandal, WCC are in a reasonably secure position, but I cannot say the same thing will never happen here. We are working to ensure stability of social workers and good links with other agencies to minimise the risk.

The bridge of the Stour - at last this year we have seen action.

Recycling - big changes this year which have hugely improved recycle rates.

Wheely bins introduced, some problems in timing, but it is working .

Flooding - a flood grant was received by Alderminster to help the community over problems faced in July 2007.

The District Council Planning Committee will reduce down to one committee for the District for a trial period. This is due to the reduction in planning applications being submitted that need to go to a planning committee.

The Police are seeking to have the 10 year licence previously granted to the Bulldog Bash revoked following the trouble between groups resulting in the M40 murder of a biker. They are seeking help from Parish Councils who are affected.

6. Report from the County Councillor - Mrs.Seccombe

Councillor Seccombe's report on County Council matters was included in item 5. Above.

7. Reports from any Parish organisations

(a) Bridge on Footpath SD61 (Dr. M. Edwards)

Since the last report to the Parish Council Assembly of March 2008, considerable progress has been made. The 3-monthly public meetings attended by Martin Fry of WCC, instigated at the 2007 AGM, have continued to the present and consequently it has been possible closely to monitor the developments in the process of the bridge construction.

The twin-track approach adopted after the disappointing result of the Public Inquiry of June 2007 led to the issue of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in May 2008 for the purchase of land to permit the construction of the bridge in its new location. Objections were expected and in June a formal notice of intention to hold a Public Inquiry into this matter was issued by the Department for Transport. The other aspect of the twin track involved negotiations with the landowners and a search for a new design for the bridge while keeping the CPO in abeyance. Fortunately, informal discussion between WCC and the landowners, together with the submission of a new bridge design, resulted in agreement. Licences for access to the site were signed in September and the CPO was halted. The necessary permissions from the Environment Agency and the local council were in place and work began on the foundations of the bridge in October 2008. It was hoped that the bridge would be completed by Christmas 2008 as it was reported by Martin Fry that installation would take only two weeks after the foundations had been laid. This hope was not fulfilled. The backwash bridge was completed in December 2008 and nearly all the items on the "defects list" have now been rectified. However, the further prediction that the bridge over the River Stour would be in place by the end of February has not been fulfilled. It seems that bad weather and delays in the contractor's schedule have postponed completion. At the time of writing this report, we still await the final work of bridge construction to take place.

(b) Friends of St Mary and the Holy Cross Annual Report 2008-9 (Dr.M.Edwards)

The Friends continue to raise funds for the preservation of the fabric of the church building. At the 7th AGM in March 2009, our Treasurer was able to announce that to date we have been able to contribute in excess of £17,000 to various building projects. We raise funds by means of events such as our annual Quiz and the Bangers and Beetles evening, as well as by the sale of Christmas cards and tea towels. We are grateful for the support of all those who make contributions in various ways to this important project.

(c) Gardening Club (Mr. A. JENKINS)

The Gardening Club continues to flourish with about 20 members enjoying talks, visits to outside gardens and centres. A full programme has been arranged for the forthcoming year.

(d) Village Hall Report (Mrs. M. MOODY)

The Village Hall is continuing to thrive albeit without a chairman

We have lost the computer class booking, due to lack of numbers attending, which we will miss financially. Whilst the evening bookings continue to keep running, we need to encourage bookings in the day. We are looking into power point projection equipment so we can take business conferences. This will involve major funding.

I managed to get a 50% grant towards our latest project - the new footpath complete with posts to protect the path and people using it. Hopefully the car park resurfacing topup will be next. We are replacing the old worn out shed. A new larger shed has been ordered which the Parish Council will pay for out of the money they hold for us by way of grants. The shed, being larger, will hold the emergency equipment which is being provided to the Parish Council by the Warwickshire County Council.

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

Mrs. Evans spoke the work with the South transept of the Church which will allow for meetings to be held in the Church. They are looking at providing history lessons in the Church for local schools when it is completed. The Churchyard is to have an open day in April and it is hoped to

show it off as a nature reserve and to encourage people to visit it. Also schools will be encouraged to visit the churchyard as a nature reserve.

Mr. Styring spoke of the problems the residents of Alderminster Farm Barns have with flooding. He had inspected the bridge over the Wimpstone Road and had pointed out to the Environment Agency the poor state of the second channel under the bridge. It was quite badly blocked and did not allow a good flow of flood water. The Environment Agency were not receptive to his complaint and he asked if the Parish Council could write to support his complaint. Mr. Meadows said that whilst he was sympathetic to his complaint, improving the flow at this bridge would possibly cause further problems downstream at other bridges and that the Parish Councils downstream should be consulted so that a joint request could be put to the Environment Agency for improvement all along the river. Those present thought this was a good approach to make. It was also suggested that Mr. Styring should attend a Community Forum meeting to put his case to that Forum and to seek their backing.

9. Closure

There being no further matters, the CHAIRMAN thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.