

Alderminster Parish

Annual Assembly of Alderminster Parish

Wednesday 17th May 2017
Alderminster Village Hall 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr John Melville (Chairman of the Parish Council)
Cllr Geoff Smith
Cllr Mark Meadows
Cllr James Dignan
Mrs M Norman (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Cllr Penny-Anne O'Donnell and three members of the public

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near future.

The Parish Council continues to engage with Warwickshire County Council, for amongst other matters:

- Finding a solution to the flotsam issues in respect of SD61 and the back wash bridge.
- Maintaining the pavements and hedgerows along the A3400
- Repairs to verges
- Maintenance of the “White Bridge”.
- Clearing drains to prevent flooding
- Dissuading HGVs from using New Road.

There have been 15 planning applications considered during the period, three of which went to Committee where the parish was represented.

The Parish Council recognises the need and importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan to shelter Alderminster from future rapacious development and provide and protect the services the village needs. The Council has worked hard recently in completing the preliminary stages of implementation. More will be covered in the presentation that follows.

With regard to expenditure the Parish Council has given its support to:

- The church with a continuation of a grant to assist with the cost of floodlighting the clock, and a further contribution towards the repair of the clock.
- The production of Village Voices
- The Gardening Club and
- Alderminster Tots

The Parish Council has received an excellent report from the internal auditor.

Finally, I would like to thank all those involved in our village organisations and the production team of Village Voices. Together they make Alderminster what it is and why it is a desirable place to live.”

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Neighbourhood Plan Presentation – results of Parish Survey:

Cllr Smith expressed his thanks to all those volunteers who had distributed the surveys to all households. He had been greatly encouraged by the general response to the survey. The surveys were currently being analysed by the team in Stratford District Council and a further meeting would be arranged to disseminate the results to the public.

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Report from the County Councillor Izzi Seccombe:

Cllr Seccombe began by congratulating Cllr O’Donnell on her election to the District Council. The County Council was now reaching the end of its four year administration period, the last two years having been a challenging period. The Council was required to make savings of £92 million, a target which had been achieved largely through streamlining of senior personnel and streamlining of services. In spite of these cuts, the Council was still maintaining its front line services. Children’s Services were currently being inspected by OFSTED and Cllr Seccombe hoped for a positive result. Cllr Seccombe remained in post as Leader of the Council and was committed to encouraging businesses within the county to drive the economy forward.

7 **Reports from any Parish Organisations:**

Cllr Meadows gave a report on behalf of the **Alderminster Village Hall Management Committee**. Cllr Meadows said as follows:

“Fundraising throughout the past year has mainly been through the usual breakfasts and cinemas. Our thanks to all those who help cook, clean and serve at these events. The Committee held another quiz, this time in October, and it was attended by 13 teams. We are grateful to the Bentons for compiling the questions and marking them. This year we have made a surplus over expenses which counteracts the deficit of 2015/2016.

Within the past year the roof of the garden shed has been re-felted and Gill Hudspith dealt with the wasp infestation. The Village Hall Management Committee has many other ongoing maintenance issues. Happily, Adrian Ramskill and Peter Bragg have taken a hands on approach towards more of this work and we should see the improvements soon. Future big ticket items include the replacement of the kitchen cooker and renewing the fencing and gates at the sides of the hall.

Many organisations still continue to use the hall regularly. Now that there is a schedule in Village Voices we hope more people can appreciate how often the hall is used and the diversity of the users.

The Village Hall Management Committee is from representative members of the organisations within the village. It allows up to an additional 5 elected members at the AGM in April with a possible 2 co-options throughout the year. There are still vacancies for anyone wishing to get involved.

A big thank you goes to Debbie Fisher who has stood down as Minutes Secretary after 15 years. We are grateful to Patricia Bailey who has taken on the role. The other committee posts remain unchanged this year.”

A report was also issued by Ann Jenkins, Hon Secretary of the **Alderminster Gardening Club**:

“During the year we had a varied programme of speakers, some well known to us, one or two visiting the club for the first time, all providing both entertaining and informative talks on a wide variety of subjects. We began the year with Philip Aubrey giving some wise advice about conservatory and house plants. During the following months the subject included ideas for courtyard gardens, aromatic plants, winter colour and interest in the garden. Ken Whittaker returned in September with his sequel to the KW experience – an experience for us all! In November a fascinating talk on a new theme for us was given by Neil Munroe about the Seed Heritage Library.

During the summer months we went on three most interesting visits. In May we went on an evening visit to the lovely garden at Avon Pastures. In June we hit the big city, going to Birmingham Botanical Gardens for another early evening visit. We were given an excellent guided tour by the Head Gardener who made us almost forget the inclement weather by his enthusiasm and love for the garden. Several of the party were planning to make a return visit.

In July we joined with Mega on a full day visit to Lechlade, Kelmscott Manor and Buscot Park.

Fortunately the sun did shine on us that day; there was plenty to look at and enjoy, which along with our friendly coach driver, Peter Bragg, who gallantly volunteered to drive the Shipston Link Community bus, it was a very stress free day for everyone, especially the organisers.

August brought the fund raising event, A Safari Supper. Pat Hooton led the team of kind people who organised the event. We began with starters in the Village Hall, moved to 5 Campden Lawns for the main course, the weather being warm enough to eat in Pat and Pete's garden, followed by a short walk to Tithe Bungalow where Brenda tempted us with some delicious desserts. Feeling more or less replete, we moved back to the Village Hall for cheese, biscuits and other goodies. A most enjoyable and financially rewarding evening.

Being now two members short on the committee, and with grateful thanks for her input into the Safari Supper, Brenda was invited to become a member of the committee. We are very pleased that she agreed to join us.

The year ended with the traditional Christmas meal. This year we went for the first time to The Bell, Welford. The date we chose coincided with their Dickens evening. The staff were all in Victorian costume. Whilst we ate some very good food we were serenaded by a group of excellent singers. A perfect start to the Christmas celebrations.

During the first part of 2017 we have had our usual monthly meetings. We would like to express our thanks to the Parish Council for their grant of £500 to help with the ever rising costs of keeping the club running."

Alderminster Tots sent the following report:

"Alderminster Tots has a steady flow of regular parents and children attending our sessions which run Monday in term time from 10.00 am to 11.30 am. Ideally we would like a few more people but we are just about breaking even. Those who come each week seem to really value having a local group where they can meet other local parents.

The group is run by Caroline Dolan, Patricia Bailey and Karen Miller. Caroline has recently returned to full time employment and so no longer attends the sessions. However, she is still responsible for a lot of the behind the scenes work including responding to enquiries, updating social media, booking in visitors and applying for and managing grants. Patricia and Karen do a fantastic job of running the group every week, ensuring that the hall is set up and cleared away, welcoming new guests, dealing with the finances and weekly administration.

This year we have been delighted to secure two grants. The first, from Alderminster Parish Council enabling us to purchase a storage trolley to help smarten up the entrance hall to the Village Hall and making it easier to set the toys up. The second grant was a Smart Start grant from Warwickshire County Council. This grant has enabled us to purchase some basic soft play equipment, new drinking cups, non spill hot drinks mugs and funding for a visitor to the group once a month. The visitors to the group provide activities for the children such as cooking, sensory play, singing and art. We are always very grateful for their contribution and the children are delighted to experience something a little different.

We would like to thank Alderminster Parish Council and Warwickshire County Council for their financial support. We would also like to thank the Village Hall Committee for their continued support including recently providing a notice board which we hope to soon fill with pictures

and notices about what we do at Alderminster Tots.

In terms of our plans for the future, as such a small group it is difficult to plan too far ahead. We hope to continue running the group for as long as we can continue to break even and have enough help to run it. We would welcome any help from members of our community who would like to read stories to the children or run art sessions. For all enquiries please contact Caroline Dolan via email, alderminstertots@hotmail.com.”

Geraldine Ramskill, Chair of **MEGA** sent the following report:

MEGA has had another successful year culminating with our well attended annual Dinner/Bavarian evening in the village hall. Now with 53 members, MEGA has continued to grow as more and more local residents enjoy our monthly community events. The MEGA committee remains unchanged for another year and 2017/2018 programme has been circulated to members.

The 2017/2018 programme includes trips to the National Memorial Arboretum, Oxford Botanical Gardens (in association with the Gardening Club), Sezincote House and Gardens and Stratford Art Centre. There will also be a picnic at Monks Barn Farm, a skittles evening, a Beetle Drive and various guest speakers in the Village Hall.

Having again managed within budget, the membership subscription has been held for another year at £5.00.”

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm.

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