

ALPINGTON WITH YELVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting
Meeting on Monday 18 March 2019 at 7.30pm at Alpington Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Jeremy McNulty (Chairman), Kevin Gotts (Vice Chairman), David Whitehead (DW), John Lain (JL), Ivan Green (IG), Louise Taylor (LT) and Susan Stacey (SS)

Also Present: Emma Havers (Clerk), John Fuller (Leader of SNDC)
and 19 members of the public.

Jeremy McNulty opened the APM and introduced John Fuller who gave a brief talk on the state of the country.

1. Apologies: Were received from Barry Stone, Vic Thomson, Bernard Pitts and Patrick and Diane Thirkettle.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising – All matters arising were included in the following agenda.

4. Chairman's Report by Jeremy McNulty

JMc started by thanking the School for hosting us. The school has made many improvements in recent years and the efforts made by Mrs. Osborne and her dedicated team is reflected in their academic success and popularity amongst parents.

Thanks were also given to EH and fellow Councilors for their generous support and bountiful commitment in representing the best interests of our Parish.

Gratitude was also extended to District Councilor, Vic Thomson and our County Councilor Barry Stone who work incredibly hard on your behalf.

On 2nd May parishioners will be invited to vote in the local District and Parish elections. Whatever the outcome of the poll, we will be losing Vic Thomson our current District Councilor as the Ward boundaries will be changing and we become part of the Brooke ward. JMc passed on thanks to Vic for his hugely helpful support and guidance over the last 4 years.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Parish Council have not increased the annual parish precept contribution to householders, whilst the contributions to County and District have increased. It is likely though, that with the pent-up cost of running our parish a small increase is likely in our next budgetary cycle.

The Parish Council receive around £9,000 each year from the solar farm which is referred to as the Community Benefit Fund. This is used to sponsor community projects that we could not support from the precept alone. In recent years the Parish Council is pleased to report that the Community Benefit Fund has provided funding for a number of initiatives including supporting the Village Hall Committee with their capital works as well as many others.

5. District and County Councillor's Reports

Vic Thomson and Barry Stone were not at the meeting, their reports will be published online and put on the notice boards when available.

6. Parish Projects

Pond Project – SS spoke about the pond project, this is a 2 part project to minimise the effect on local wildlife. The large side of the pond has had the hedge trimmed and a large Ash tree removed. The Willow tree has been cut back and the post and railings have been repaired and repainted. SS Thanked JL for overseeing the work. The soil in the pond had been tested for contamination and was confirmed to be free of contaminants. This will be a future project to remove the mud from the pond as it would be difficult to remove it at this time of the year. This year the smaller half of the pond will be tackled, this will have to take place after September due to the wildlife in the pond.

JMc added that without the help of locals the PC can't afford to remove the mud from the pond and asked if anyone with a tractor would like to offer their services it would be greatly appreciated.

Play Area – DW reported that the play area project is yet to start but research has been undertaken in the form of a survey to find out what local children would like to have installed. The PC are responsible for the play area and will be paying for the works through the CBF funds as well as applying for funding which is currently being sourced. The PC will be looking to install new equipment including Springers, Basket Ball hoop and a nest swing. The first course of action to be taken with the play area will be replacing the bark to make it safe.

Website – KG spoke to parishioners about the possibility of a community website, the PC website has not been working for quite some time and needs replacing and it has been seen as an opportunity for the whole community to get involved as currently only 3 groups have their own website. This would provide a central place where all parishioners could find out about local clubs and community events all in one place, this could include links to other websites. The site would need to be maintained by someone but can have multiple authors so each group could take control of their own content.

Emergency Plan – LT talked about the new emergency plan that is being produced, LT thanked all those that replied to the questionnaire that had been delivered to people's homes and have been kind enough to offer their services in case of an emergency in the village. The questionnaires are currently being analysed and all data will be stored securely and kept confidential. Any parishioner who offered to help will be contact in the future.

7. Reports from Local Groups and organisations

Football Club – Report by David Bloomfield.

The club is continuing to grow with 60 members now, the club now has 3 sides, 2 on a Saturday and one on a Sunday.

The first team could be promoted and the second team are doing well. The Sunday team were unable to get into the under 19's groups and so are struggling slightly in the men's league.

The football club enjoyed many social events including a winter tour to Lithuania. David also noted that the pitch would need improving for the year ahead.

Twig – Report read by Ivan Green

The club has had a successful 2018 and currently has 35 members. The club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The club arranged for motivation speakers to come in about various topics of general interest throughout the year where husbands and male friends are welcome if the subject is of interest.

The club continues to take advantage of the local restaurants and enjoy trips to the theatre, museums and other places of interest. The next even is a crab supper being held on 27th April 2019 at 7.30pm.

Members are also welcome to join the Craft Club where members take part in craft activities, these meeting are arranged fortnightly and take place in members' homes, as well as this they have a monthly Scrabble Club and a monthly ramble in the country in Norfolk or Suffolk. The current membership fee is £15 plus £1 each month for refreshments and raffle.

Carpet Bowls – Report by Christine Lain

The club had been running for 8 years and enjoyed a membership of 27 with an average turnout of 16-20 members each week. Meeting take place every Friday at 1.30pm and finishes at 4.30pm

with tea and coffee breaks. The club also has competitions with other local clubs which will involve going to the other clubs to play. As always the club welcomes all newcomers. The club was sad to report that Donald Park has passed away.

Parish Charities– Report by Doug Ratcliffe

The history of the Alpington and Yelverton Parish Charities can be traced back to 1970 and is now known as the Alpington Fuel Allotment. The principle source of income is the rent from 13 acres of arable farmland near Hellington Corner. Total income for the financial year ended 31 October 2018 amounted to £2,586. Historically help for the poor in the villages would have been through the provision of a coal allowance however nowadays this is distributed as a cash gift around Christmas time with 16 households getting £1600 last year with a further grant of £500 to help parents facing financial difficulties meeting the cost of school outings.

Painting Group – Report by Morris Wright

The painting group has between 9-11 members and has been running for 15 years, there is a wide range of knowledge and it is very enjoyable. Members will get together and paint on alternate Tuesdays for 2 hours.

History Society – Report by Mary Fewster

Membership has increased and is now at 37 with attendance regularly in the region of 30. The mardle evening in January member brought a variety of photographs and memorabilia for the subject of 'High days and holidays' They were able to recall holidays and special events from their past. Members also watched a television programme which showed the village outings organised by Abigail Bilham with commentary from John Lain. Other talks that have taken place include 'Frolic, Fervour and Fornication', 'The history of plant life', and 'And then the guns fell silent'. There was also an outing to Carlton Colville Transport Museum.

Church – Report by Mary Fewster

The Church is still very active and holds 3 Sunday services a month with 20 regular attendants. The church holds many other events including prayer mornings, bible study and a community café.

Friends of St Mary's Church – Report by Mary Fewster

The friends continue to be active and well supported, and through the steady membership the 200 club, this gives a regular income stream as well as money raised by the tombola and the popular coffee mornings. The friends were able to donate a sum of £2500 to help with the repair and maintenance of St Mary's Church. After assisting in the major building works in 2016 there is still a designated sum in the P.C.C funds which is being considered for restoration of another window that is close to a century old, it is hoped this work can be completed by 2020 as the will be the 10th anniversary of the friends group.

Village School – Report read by Kevin Gotts

The school have had another happy and successful year, the school has seen pupils participate in musicals, cultural and sporting activities. The school has also been selected to represent South Norfolk in cross country running.

This year the children and families have raised enough money to buy a defibrillator which will be housed at the school. The school are keen to make this available to the community in the village and this will be positioned on the outside of the school connected to a power source.

Oil buying scheme – Report by Kevin Gotts

The bulk oil buying scheme currently has around 50 parishioners connected, the more that join the scheme the deals are better. There is a minimum buy of 500 litres and this is often invoiced giving 6 weeks to pay.

Litter pick – This year's litter pick will take place on Saturday 6th April from 9.00-11.30, volunteers will meet at the Village Hall and then be designated an area to carry out the litter pick.

8. Parishioners Questions – Does the change in boundary effect planning? JMc responded that the change is purely for the electoral wards and this will have no effect on any planning applications etc.

Why can the village not have food waste bins? John Fuller informed the parishioners that half of the local residents have brown compost bins that could accept some form of food waste, if the Council were to add food bins onto this it would cost an additional £120k per year to run and this would have to be passed onto the community which would be a 10% increase on council tax to implement.

Why are they builders not building small bungalows that are needed?

The council are unable to specify what type of homes are built unless the development has more than 25-30 homes, development on this scale hasn't happened in the village therefore the council have been unable to enforce the types of homes being built.

9. Next Meeting the Parish Council Annual General Meeting to be held Monday 20 May 2019

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm