

**Minutes of the Alderholt Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.00pm, in the Village Hall, Station Road, Alderholt**

**Present**

**Alderholt Parish Council;**

Cllr Gina Logan (Chairman), Cllr A Hibberd, Cllr M Smethers, Cllr J Simcock, Cllr K Murton, Cllr S Archer Mrs M Humby (Clerk) Mrs K Brooker (Assistant Clerk)

**Speakers;**

Leanne Colverson- Air Ambulance

Mr James Grazebrook- Chairman Alderholt Solar Farm Community Fund

Ms Sophie Kempthorne - Good Energy

Claire Hewitt (Executive head) and Kathryn Cousins (Head Teacher)-St James' First School

Ian Cole-Alderholt Recreation Association

Norman Jones- Alderholt Village Hall

PCSO 5120 Robin Morgan

Approx 32 members of the public

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Walker and County Councillor S Butler

Refreshments and handouts of the agenda and minutes from last year's meeting were available on arrival.

**Welcome from the Chairman**

Cllr Gina Logan welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of last year's Annual meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved and signed.

**Annual Report from the Chairman**

Copy of report attached to the minutes.

**Presentation; Leanne Colverson- Air Ambulance**

Leanne Colverson, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Funding coordinator gave an informative and interesting presentation on the workings of the Air Ambulance which receives no direct funding from the Government or lottery and is entirely dependent on public support. The Parish Council has provided grants in the past to the D & S Air Ambulance and will be considering a 2016 grant application at its next Policy and Finance Meeting in June.

**Speaker; James Grazebrook**

James Grazebrook introduced himself as a local Alderholt resident who had been asked to lead the new Alderholt Community Fund which is being set up with money provided by Good Energy Ltd, who operate the new solar farm at the top of Blackwater Grove. He is helped by Norman Jones, Mike Whiteley, Roy McCrudden and Kate Mason.

The new community fund will start operations in July. Good Energy has committed £200,000 to this over the 30 years of the solar farm contract. Initially they committed just over £7,000 to pay for fencing and gates for the new Scouts land. In addition they will kick start the fund with two payments totalling £12,500 in July, followed by £6,250 every year until Two thousand and fifty four. Each year this sum will increase in line with inflation.

James, Norman, Steve and Roy act as Trustees. Any group in the village can apply for funding, small or large. The important thing is that you are asking for money for a voluntary group that is doing good. It can be for young people or for old. It can be for physical well-being or for those less-able. It can be for social development or for outdoor activity. You can apply for £50, or £3,000. We will look at the applications regularly, and support as many as we can.

The fund will be launched at an afternoon party at the solar farm in four weeks time, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Admission is free. There will be all sorts of activities with clubs and groups in the village, not least a tour of the actual solar farm with an explanation of how it works. I urge you all to come. I have left invitations on many of the seats in the hall and there will be another invite in the Village News next week.

Shortly after that we will launch the web site. This explains how the fund works, and how to apply. The web address will be in the June issue of Village News.

The fund sets out to do good work. Everyone here tonight can help make sure we achieve this!

**Speaker; Sophie Kempthorne**

Sophie Kempthorne thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to attend this meeting, introducing herself as an employee of Good Energy who is the community liaison link. Good Energy is a 100% renewable energy supplier who has set up one Solar Farm in Alderholt and has planning permission for a second. The Community Fund is their way of saying thank you to the community. They have currently added to the Blackwater Grove Solar Farm by planting hedging and saplings around the boundary and installing bat boxes across the site. They will be creating a wild flower meadow to increase bio diversity; will have sheep grazing and a bee colony on the site. She welcomed residents to attend the party on 28<sup>th</sup> May to see for themselves what has been achieved and hoped that the Monies from the community fund would deliver long and lasting benefits for the community.

**Speakers; St James' First School**

Claire Hewitt introduced herself as the new executive head for both St James' First School Alderholt and Six Penny Handley First School and had been in post for 2 weeks. Kathryn Cousins had been acting head since September 2015. They thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to attend this meeting. The school has recently changed to an Academy and they are both extremely proud of the school and the quality of staff who teach within it. They have had a drop in numbers from 120 to only 85 pupils which has a direct impact on funding. They are currently investigating the cause of this some of which they believe to be down to the location of middle and upper schools in the surrounding areas. They want to increase the community links and are very positive about the opportunities for the future.

**Speaker; Ian Cole Alderholt Recreation Association (ARA)**

Ian Cole introduced himself as Treasurer, secretary and Trustee of ARA. He explained that the ARA, is an umbrella organisation, set up 40 years ago who maintain the recreation ground financed by football and cricket team and Alderholt PC. Their aim is for the recreation ground to be used as much as possible especially for sport.

There are currently 3 men's football teams of which the 1<sup>st</sup> team is currently playing in the Bournemouth Premier Division which is the highest level in the clubs history. There are 2 adult cricket teams of which the Saturday team play in Division 2 of the Hampshire Regional West Division. Colts are an important part of the cricket set and presently run an under 17 and under 15 side in the New Forest Colts League.

The Tennis Club looks after the tennis courts and run coaching sessions on a Saturday and club night on a Thursday.

The Sports Club, affectionately known as “the shed” provides the social side for the sports teams and is a non profit making members club.

The Pavilion has been redecorated inside and out and the football club have put in drainage on their main pitch.

The recreation ground is used by many in the community including dog walkers, joggers and people just out for a walk. In the Amanda Harris Recreation Ground, there is a play area with lots of equipment and multi use games area. There’s also a youth shelter and basketball hoop. Recreate also hold their festival at the recreation ground every year.

Ian gave thanks to all the volunteers who do hours of work in keeping everything going, with special thanks to Bob Manston who cuts the grass, picks up litter and generally keeps the recreation ground looking great.

### **Speaker; Norman Jones Alderholt Village Hall**

Norman Jones listed the achievements of the village hall in which over £100,000 has been spent in the last 8 years.

- New doors and porches funded by Alderholt Parish Council and Synergy.
- Refurbished entrance lobby
- New boiler and radiators-installed and paid for by Good Energy
- First wedding reception held in October 2015
- Successful quiz and curry nights and beer festival
- Full house for the Forest Forge Hansel and Gretel performance
- Thanks to the Parish Council for the Christmas Tree and lights located outside the parish office in the hall grounds
- The Monthly market has been relaunched by John and Sarah Zebedee
- The fortnightly Bingo sessions had a hiccup in attendance but have now come back and Tasha and Jean are now making the cakes.
- The drainage problems have now been resolved

Norman made an appeal for a new Chairperson. With Roy and Sarah moving away from the village there is currently no Chairman and he is standing in the role until the AGM in October. The committee also require additional volunteers to help with the management of the hall.

In 2018, it is the Village Hall’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and they are planning a celebratory event on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018. They hope that Lord Salisbury, who originally opened the hall will attend

Current projects are to install new long term effective lighting and to purchase new chairs Applications for funding for these are in place and it is hope to achieve these in time for the golden jubilee in 2018.

### **Open Questions:**

The Chairman invited open questions from the floor which included the following;

- The St James’ School 30-4-30 appeal raised £23000-£24000 which has purchased a replacement server and all hardware in the central area and iPad’s for each classroom are to be purchased.
- The Church are organising an open forum on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the EU referendum. They hope to have at least 1 MEP in attendance.

Meeting ended 8.25pm

## **Annual Report from the Chairman**

I wasn't able to attend last year's annual Parish meeting and I have only been Chairman of the Parish Council for the last couple of months taking over from Roy McCrudden, and wish to note our thanks for his work with and for the council since 2012.

I will do my best this evening to cover all the salient activities that have occurred in the last year.

Firstly we are very fortunate in Alderholt to receive fantastic support from our dedicated County Cllr Steve Butler who ensures that we continue to have our local issues raised and well represented at County level, and I wish to thank him.

Thanks also go to our District Cllr Ian Monks who continued to represent and serve us well, up until December last year. As you may be aware I was duly elected in March as the ward member for Alderholt and will raise local concerns and represent you at district level.

We are extremely fortunate to be looked after by a clerk who not only has a depth of knowledge that seems to know no bounds, but who also keeps both myself and my fellow councillors on track in terms of legal compliance, as well as ensuring that meetings are conducted in a format where discussion is open, honest, representative, fair and where possible with a little humour, whereupon I wish to thank you Maria.

During the past year Maria has been very ably assisted by Kerry Brooker who is proving her value to the council in an ever increasing way, so my thanks must also go to Kerry.

We have said goodbye to Kate Mason, Shelley Lane, Jan Briddick and Roy McCrudden, and welcomed Kate Murton, Stuart Archer and Martin Smethers to the Council.

So what have we done in the last year or so:-

We set our annual budgets at the end of the year and are pleased to say that we have been able to keep the precept at no increase.

### **Allotments**

The Parish Council installed nearly 100m fencing and a new entrance gate in order to secure the boundary, and at the request of tenants removed the water trough and installed a tap. The tenants have agreed independently to address the drainage issues on their plots, and as a Council we have liaised with DCC Highways to get the drain outside allotments onto the Capital Maintenance List for further works. There are currently 27 tenants occupying 32 plots and we have 3 on the waiting list so the allotments are proving to be a very popular asset in the village. Let's hope we have a good growing season!

### **Rifle Range**

The project is moving forward in order to lease the land to the local Scout group so that they can convert it and use it as a camp site and thriving scout facility. Working party discussions are proceeding and all the necessary paperwork is being drawn together and it is anticipated that the lease can be drawn up in the foreseeable future. I wish to thank Cllrs Hibberd, Smethers and Archer for their local knowledge and commitment to this project.

## **New Sports and Social Club Pavilion - referred to as the Recreation Ground Re-build Project**

Work continues on the best way forward of providing this much needed facility. I myself have been leading the working party ably assisted by fellow Cllrs Simcock and Murton as well as Ian Cole from the Recreation Ground Association and representatives of the sports clubs and the Alderholt Sports & Social Club. Once we have established a way forward we will be holding an open morning here in the village hall to present the project, plans and methods of funding the scheme.

### **Planning**

This continues to be an active part of the council and has been led for most of the year by Cllr Briddick who chaired this to an exemplary standard.

EDDC has moved to electronic planning and this came into effect on 6<sup>th</sup> April this year. As a result the Parish Council has invested in new IT equipment to enable us to work more efficiently. There have been numerous planning applications throughout the year, the most notable being:-

- The 7 new houses which are now under construction on Ringwood Road next to the Co-op. We are working with the Co-Op and the developers to ease the car parking.
- The Solar Farm at Crossroads Plantation which has been successfully installed and a second solar farm that has been given approval on land at Warren Park Farm.
- 4 detached bungalows on land behind No14 Camel Green Road
- The surplus Stores site for 89 houses which having been granted permission, is still ongoing as a result of government changes that has prompted the developer to apply for a variance with regards to the social housing. The local authority is dealing with this. There has been some activity on the site to remove trees etc in advance of the bird nesting season which began on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The planning committee continues to meet every three weeks if applications are submitted, my thanks go to all those who sit on this valuable committee.

If that is not enough we have also:-

- Helped and supported St James's PCC with groundwork repairs around the War Memorial
- Continue to help the Alderholt Recreation Ground with an annual grant to help maintain the rec.
- We pay for a dog warden to help keep our village clear of unwanted waste
- Purchased a new notice board outside this building for all Council and associated notices
- Purchased the Christmas tree lights and completed installation works to allow us to have a tree outside the village hall every Christmas – the enthusiasm and compliments for the Tree were very welcome
- Contributed to the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations by providing the commemorative coins for the children at St James school and I was delighted to take part in the Tea Party Celebrations last Thursday.
- We supported a number of organisations with grants, including this year's Recreate Festival, the CAB and WOTS coach in the community etc.
- We entered the County Best Kept Village Competition again and were delighted to win the EDDC Best Kept Village section.

The community Speed Watch group having had a break is now reconvened and working for the benefit of the village to reduce the levels of speeding traffic.

It remains for me to thank once again Maria and Kerry for their help so far and hopefully their ongoing support over the next year to the new chairman. And lastly I wish to thank all councillors for the time, effort and knowledge they have imparted selflessly over the past year and ask that they continue with our ongoing projects and good work.

Gina Logan  
Chairman  
Alderholt Parish Council