

**ALTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Meeting, Coronation Hall,**  
**Alton Barnes, 7.00, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

**Present:** Steve Hepworth, Peter Emery, Polly Carson, Ben Owen, Robert Carpenter Turner, Alex Oliver, Debby Lester. In attendance: Councillor Paul Oatway

**043/16**      **Election of Chairman:** Peter Emery, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Steve Hepworth for another year of outstanding work. Asked whether he was prepared to continue, SH said that he would do so but that next year, after five years in the post, he would like at least a 12-month break. Steve Hepworth was then proposed as Chair by Peter Emery, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner. Agreed nem. con. He then took the chair.

**044/16**      **Election of Vice-Chairman:** Peter Emery agreed to serve for a further year. Proposed SH, seconded Polly Carson. Agreed nem. con.

**045/16**      **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous AGM on May 14, 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**046/16**      **Matters arising not covered by the agenda:** None.

**047/16**      **Chairman's report:** SH outlined a heavy workload, with no fewer than 33 Parish Council-related meetings during the year, of which he had attended 28. The proposed Neighbourhood Development Order for Honeystreet sawmill had also involved a very large amount of time and effort. SH thanked Councillor Oatway for his work on behalf of the parish and praised the parish website, maintained by Robert Carpenter Turner. Issues still to be pursued included Speed watch, where new volunteers were needed; the lack of high-speed broadband; and the continuing fight to save the Eveleigh Recycling Centre. The long failure to develop the historic Honeystreet Wharf site was a cause of great concern. Full text of Chairman's and Treasurer's reports is attached as an annexe.

**048/16**      **Treasurer's report:** Debby Lester, Responsible Financial Officer, reported a much-increased year-end surplus, up from £2921.67 to £8736.80. However £2787.22 of this sum was ring fenced, including £1237 for the purchase of a defibrillator, and a £1550 grant associated with the Neighbourhood Development Order.  
The precept, up from £2400-£4000, was still below that of other local similarly sized parishes with fewer commitments such as the White Horse, the War Memorial and the playground. An unexpected expense could strip the surplus but at present the balance was healthy, with a

realistic eye on future expenses and income. The annual governance statement was signed by the Chair and the Clerk. The accounting statements were approved and signed. SH thanked DL for a very thorough job.

**049/16**      **Dates of next AGM and Parish Council meetings for the year:** The Chairman proposed next AGM May 4, 2016. Scheduled pc meetings July 14, September 15, November 10 and, next year, January 12. Additional meetings *ad hoc* as required. All at the Coronation Hall 7.30pm, except the AGM at 7pm. Agreed nem. con.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 7.20pm

