

**ALTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Parish Meeting,**  
**Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes, 7.00, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**

**Present:** Ben Owen, Polly Carson, Steve Hepworth, Robert Carpenter Turner, Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Debby Lester (RFO), Charles Reiss (Clerk). Apologies: none.

**031/18**      **Election of Chair:** Steve Hepworth, as senior PC member present confirmed the office of Vice-Chair vacant following the resignation of Peter Emery. He wished to record the PC's thanks for the outstanding service Peter Emery had contributed to our community for more than 30 years. It was well done and much appreciated. Having thanked Ben Owen for his service as Chair for the past year, SH proposed he be re-elected. Seconded Alex Oliver. Agreed unanimously.

**032/18**      **Election of Vice-Chair:** Polly Carson, having agreed to serve, was proposed Ben Owen, seconded Steve Hepworth. Agreed unanimously.

**033/18**      **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting on May 11, 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not covered by the agenda: none.

**034/18**      **Chairman's report:** Ben Owen summed up planning applications, some with a positive outcome but others still contentious. He looked forward to a possible reopening of the Barge Inn and continued success for local arts events. Parish Council finances remained stable but cost pressures were likely to rise. Verge cutting had been reduced to a minimum and fly tipping appeared on the increase after hours at recycling centres were cut. He thanked PC members and officers for their efforts. The full text of the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports is attached as an annexe and on the Parish website.

**035/18**      **Treasurer's report:** Debby Lester, Responsible Financial Officer, reported that the year which opened with £9,159 in hand ended with a "healthy" £13,593 (although £861 of that was ring-fenced to maintain the springs at Alton Priors). The precept was held unchanged at £5,000 for the second year in a row. Members questioned whether the value of the playground equipment, set at some £41,000 for a number of years, should be reduced to allow for depreciation. Agreed that this be reviewed, and discussed at the July PC.

**036/18**      **Dates of next Annual PC Meeting and Parish Council meetings for the year:** Next AGM proposed May 9, 2019. Scheduled PC meetings July 12, Aug 30, Nov 8 and, next year, Jan 17, March 7. 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 7.21pm