



Minutes of the Society's AGM on Wednesday 18 March 2009
Alvechurch Village Hall

Items in order of agenda

1 The Chairman, Andy Humphries (AH), welcomed 39 members to the AGM and gave apologies on behalf of the following: *John & Jill Alexander, John & Brenda Davis, Ann Hudson, Frank Ott and Lorna Sage.*

2 **Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted unanimously. All matters arising were on this year's agenda.

3 **Motion to approve 2008 accounts**

AH reported that last year's subscription rise had not resulted in any loss of members. 2009 subscriptions had been kept at £10 for individuals and £12.50 for organisations. The Society had made a small profit on 2008.

Last year a proposal was made to consider applying to become a registered charity. Because of its low turnover, AVS would only have to register voluntarily and there was a long waiting list for organisations wishing to do this. The Chairman and Treasurer felt there were few benefits to set against a significant amount of work....and therefore had recommended to the Committee that the issue be deferred for 3/4 years. The word "Auditor" had now been replaced with "Independent Examiner" in the AVS constitution and other papers.

It had been a good year for the Society in membership terms....with several new members joining and others receiving a free year's membership for their daffodil planting efforts. Total membership was now 275.

A motion to approve the accounts was proposed by Martin Phipps; seconded by Jim Parker and passed unanimously.

4 **Motion to approve 2008 Annual Report**

After comments at last year's AGM, names and addresses of the membership had been removed from the back of the report in case Data Protection legislation had been breached. The membership list had been replaced with extra items of AVS news. AH explained it had been a very active year for the Society which had included special events like planting more than 5000 daffodils around the village and Beating the Bounds.

A motion to approve the Annual Report was proposed by Philip Aubury; seconded by Simon Raine and passed unanimously.

5 **President's Address**

John Sidwell (JS) said he was amazed to be reaching the end of his 3 year stint as President and couldn't believe how time had passed since he took over from Julie Kirkbride. He thanked the officers and committee for supporting him in his period of office. He was very pleased that new Committee members were coming forward, along with new members of the Society. He concluded that the Society was going from strength to strength.

He welcomed Philip Aubury as his successor in the knowledge that Philip has always been a strong supporter of the village and village issues. As a parting gesture, John presented the chairman with a gavel and anvil to keep future AVS meetings in order! John concluded by thanking Society members who had taken part in the daffodil planthe was sure this would really brighten up the approaches to the village.

AH responded by saying how well John had supported him in his 2 years so far as chairman. AH had looked back through AVS papers and John's name continually cropped up, often performing more than one officer role when needed. AH was pleased John had agreed to stay on the Committee and remain as a Vice-President of the Society.

Philip Aubury took over and said he was honoured to be the next President of the Village Society. He had previously been a member of Birmingham Parks Department for 15 years, then served for 20 years as Director of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, retiring in 2007. Philip is Chairman of the Birmingham Heritage Forum and gives lectures and presentations on a number of gardening and related topics. He has lived in Alvechurch for 25 years and has been a member of the Society for many of them. He concluded by saying we have a great village, now enhanced by wonderful new schools and a library.....and thanked the Committee and Society members for all the hard work they do for the community.

6 Election of Officers

AH noted that a number of extra names had been added to the list of Committee members willing to serve since the original agenda had been sent out. He also apologised that Jim Parker's name had been inadvertently missed off that listthis was especially embarrassing as Jim has been a longtime member of the AVS Committee ! The revised agenda had all these names added to it.

Philip Aubury supervised the elections

Secretary	Noelin Hawkins	Proposed Elizabeth Waters, seconded Martin Phipps
Treasurer	Kate Brennan	Proposed Pat Phipps, seconded Andy Humphries
Independent Examiner	John Alexander	Proposed Kate Brennan, seconded Andy Humphries
<i>AH noted that John Alexander is standing as a Committee member and, if elected, a new Independent Examiner will be "recruited"</i>		
"The Committee"	Names as on agenda	Proposed Philip Aubury, seconded Margaret Gardner

The Committee and Officers above were elected unanimously.

7 Any Other Business

Frank Molloy asked that a card be sent to Sylvia Cartwright, recovering from illness in Poole.....**AH will arrange.**

Peter Cottrell raised the issue of speeding in Old Rectory Lane. A pleasant country lane had become a race-track with cars and lorries churning up verges and occasionally causing minor accidents. AH said this is a problem in several other parts of Alvechurch and recommended that the issue be brought up at the next PACT meeting.

Margaret Gardner asked that a letter be sent from the AVS membership to the County Highways UnitJim Parker stressed that the letter should show the issue was raised at our AGM. **AH will arrange.**

AH reminded members of the AVS events programme from now till the end of the season and mentioned some important dates in the next month or two

PACT <i>walkabout</i>	Saturday 4 th April	10am The Precinct
Next AVS walk	Sunday 5 th April	Seechem and Newbourne Hill
Annual Parish meeting	Monday 6 th April	7pm, Village Hall
Next PACT meeting	Tuesday 21 st April	7pm, Village Hall
40 th anniversary Summer outing	Saturday 27 th June	Coach trip to Bletchley Park with Historical Society
40 th anniversary supper	Wednesday 8 th July	8pm approx at The Weighbridge (after the evening walk)

AH summarised a good year for the Society with rising membership, stable finances and some well-attended talks and walks. The Society's relationship with the Parish Council continues to improve and the 2 organisations are collaborating to bid for £50,000 of community funding to improve facilities and drainage at The Meadows.

Finally AH thanked all serving Committee members, Sylvia Parish for standing in as secretary for the AGM and the Society membership for their support over the past 12 months. He invited everyone to enjoy a glass of wine and encouraged them to join in a curling competition, organised by Martin and Pat Phipps.