



**Alvechurch Village Society**  
**Minutes of the AGM Meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2008**  
**At The Village Hall, Alvechurch**

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**Items in order of Agenda**

- 1 The Chairman, Andy Humphries (AH), welcomed all members to the AGM and gave apologies on behalf of the following members:

*Eileen McHugh, Lorna & John Sage, Barbara Waller, Jim & Joan Burton, Roger Hollingworth.*

2 **Previous AGM Minutes**

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted unanimously.

3 **Matters Arising**

AH gave a summary of events which had taken place in the village society over the past 12 months since taking office and gave an update on the following matters arising since the last AGM in March 2007

- Drainage on the Meadows – major progress has been made and the parish council is now examining the funding issues of draining part of the meadows as a plan has now been approved.
- Precinct – after much discussion in previous years, it appears that the plan to refurbish the precinct area of the village will finally commence in early April 2008 as the Trustees have agreed to fund the work. AH commented that promises had been made in previous years so it was prudent to wait and see if the work actually takes place.
- Waste matters – Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) cabinet meets week commencing 31/3/08 and it is hoped the cabinet will take on board some of the points raised in the previous report regarding wheelie bin collections and rubbish generally. The report is published on the BDC web-site although this is not the final report.

4 **Motion to approve accounts**

AH summarized the footpaths account and explained that the grant from Worcester County Council had been reduced by £200 as a result of the need for additional funds allocated to the flooding in the area. A new piece of equipment – a power auger – had been acquired by the team and the council is now considering giving training on this to enable AVS to get insurance and recoup the costs from Worcester County Council.

AH drew members attention to the overall loss within the accounts and advised that after a close examination by all committee members it was unanimously agreed that membership fees needed to keep pace with rising costs. With effect from 26/3/08 membership would therefore increase to £10 per person per annum. Life membership has also been abolished as this did not generate sufficient revenue stream for AVS. All current life memberships would hold. To reflect this change, the AVS constitution has been altered and committee will approve this at the April meeting.

The use of the word “Auditor” will also be changed to “Independent Examiner” for the next report and the members approved the change at the AGM.

Questions were invited from the floor and one member asked if the committee had considered applying for charitable status. AH commented that this had been done in the past but it was felt to be of no real benefit and that it was difficult and complex to register. However, the member stated that it might be worth reconsidering as the rules for charitable bodies were less complex now and AH agreed the committee would revisit this over the coming months.

AH drew members attention to the newly designed logo and asked for comments. All members stated that they were delighted with the new look Comments were made that the person who designed the new look had not been acknowledged in the annual report. AH noted the comment and said that he would note this in the minutes and would send a thank you letter acknowledging the work of Nick Day.

Another point had been raised regarding the insertion of the names and addresses of the membership at the back of the report as to whether this might be in breach of the Data Protection Act. AH said that the committee would reexamine this and once the information has been established, changes could be made in time for the next report.

The annual report was accepted by all members present.

## **5 President's Address**

John Sidwell (JS) presented his third address to the members and made reference to the new school & library facilities stating that it was a great asset to the village as a whole and it was hoped that the everyone residing in Alvechurch would make the most of it. JS thanked all the serving officers on the committee for their hard work for the way in which the society has been run over the past 12 months and special thanks were given to Sylvia Parish who took over as secretary in 2004 and now steps down from the role.

Thanks were also given to the membership without whom the AVS would fail to flourish.

## **6 Elections**

AH pointed out that errors had been made in the format in the agenda and that there was no need to elect a president or chairman as these officers stand for 3 years in their term of office. All others were proposed and seconded and a new officer, Noelin Hawkins was elected as the AVS secretary proposed by Jim Parker and seconded by John Sidwell. The committee was voted in on block.

Roger Parish (RP) is standing down from the committee having served a term of 9 years. He acted as St Lawrence Church representative and it is hoped that the church will provide a substitution in the coming weeks. RP was thanked for all his hard work and contribution over the years.

AH made an appeal to those present at the meeting for new members to serve on the committee and it is hoped that some new members may come on board in 2008

## **7 Any other business**

AH reminded the members of the great programme of events taking place over the coming weeks and thanked Pat Phipps for putting together such an interesting and varied programme. Lorna Sage had also been a strong and active committee member putting together an excellent walks programme.

AH commented that the AVS has been greatly helped by PACT and the Neighbourhood Group and feels that these new initiatives will benefit AVS although he appreciated that it is sometimes very hard to overcome general inertia. He also drew attention to the onset of technological advances in the village with the recent grant of £800 towards the AVS web-site and it is hoped to get the local schoolchildren interested under the wider remit of citizenship.

AH commented that the last 12 months had been positive and made a further appeal on behalf of the AVS for new recruits. Attention was also drawn to the fact that 2009 would see the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AVS and all suggestions and ideas would be welcomed.

The meeting ended with AH thanking all serving committee members and the current membership for their support over the past 12 months and inviting everyone to join in the curling competition which had been organized by John Alexander and his wife. Martin & Pat Phipps very kindly prepared the refreshments for members.