



Minutes of 35th Annual General Meeting

Held on the 14th October 2008

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 20.00 hrs with 27 members signed in. A full list of those attending the meeting (names only) can be obtained from the secretary.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jill Robinson, Vickie Kemp, Jerry Janes, Ben Kemp, Andy Maddock, John Bounds, John Honnor, Lynn Kelly, Vernon Burford, Ernie Strangeways and Elaine Strangeways.

3. Minutes of 34th Annual General Meeting held 9th October 2007

- 3.1 Agree Minutes
The minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting were agreed.
- 3.2 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.
- 3.3 Signing of the minute book
The minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting were signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Greater Alton Churches Project

A brief but nevertheless excellent presentation was given by Rev'd James Croft assisted by Mr Brian Hubbard, explaining the reasons behind the bringing together of the Anglican and Methodist Churches in Alton and surrounding villages. James explained the pertinent points contained in the 'Final Report' which had been prepared by the working group, set up to look at the proposal to join Holybourne parish with the two Alton parishes, as well as Alton Methodist Church to form the Greater Alton Parish. James and Brian are members of the working group responsible for the production of this report. The report has been circulated to all residents registered on the electoral roll, with a questionnaire enclosed for further comments prior to finalising the report. The report recommends that the three Anglican Parishes in Alton and Holybourne enter into a covenant with the Alton Methodist Church, which together they will engage in mission and ministry to the Greater Alton Area. If the proposal is agreed by the Church Councils, a service of celebration will take place on January 4th 2009.

5. Annual Reports

- 5.1 Chairman's report.

Karen Bennett (KB) presented her report outlining the many successes that had taken place during the past year. Special thanks were given to David and Melanie for their assistance with functions held at the White Hart and members of the committee that had given their support and time in organising and assisting such events as the carol service, village clean up, picnic etc. KB welcomed Glynis Watts as the new EHDC Councillor, replacing David O'Donnell, who has retired due to business commitments'. It was regrettable that several cases of vandalism had been reported in the village. KB urged people to remain vigilant and report any unwelcome incidents to the police.

5.2 Treasurers Report.

Copies of the Treasurers report were distributed to the audience. Unfortunately Vickie Kemp (VK) was unable to attend this evenings meeting and therefore unable to personally deliver the contents of her report. However, the overall bank balance had gone down considerably during the past year due to the funds required in servicing the SHIFT and Pond activities. On the plus side revenue from advertising had assisted in leaving the balance sheet in the black. VK recorded her appreciation and thanks to Mr David Matthews, our Auditor, and recommended that he be adopted as the Auditor for the coming year. Voting unanimous.

5.3 Friends of the pond report.

Nick Cane (NC) reported a successful year with much work having taken place in vastly improving the general welfare of the pond and its inhabitants. Tree pollarding, new islands and the control of rats had been prime items in this year's agenda. Additional planting will take place this coming year, along with repairs to the road side timber fence. Testing the quality of the pond water had also been scheduled for the coming year.

5.4 SHIFT Report.

NC reported that 500 households in the village had been issued with questionnaires with 250 copies being returned. Those returned provided clear indication of the villages requirements. Principle points identified Road Safety along London Road, maintaining the presence of the public house and shop (post office) and over development of the village. The report is to be finalised and issued to the HVA for approval prior to submission to EHDC and distribution to the village. SHIFT has also worked with Alton Town Partners (ATP) on the Town Design Statement, copies of which were distributed. Currently SHIFT is working with ATP on a response to the EHDC Core Strategy. This includes the proposed Bordon/Whitehill development which potentially has both positive and negative effects on Holybourne and Alton.

5.5 Magazine Editors Report.

Barrie Lawrence (BL) thanked the writers and proof readers for their invaluable support over the past year. His aim for the coming year would be to involve all members of the village along with the introduction of a youth section, if possible a youth editor. BL asked all members attending this evenings meeting, to spread the word and encourage hiding 'Scribes' to commit pen to paper.

6.0 Planning and development

- 6.1 James Bull (JB) advised the meeting that currently most planning applications are for minor schemes; this is probably due to the current economic climate. Linden Homes were progressing with their project at 'The Depot' site. These were units for social housing occupancy. Persimmon Homes were yet to commence works on the site of Chandos Lodge.

7.0 Neighbourhood Watch.

- 7.1 Requests had been made to Alton Police for the Community Officer to attend this meeting and outline the requirements of organising and setting up these schemes. Unfortunately nobody was available to attend; handbooks were available for those interested in the idea. It was agreed to ask Alton Police to attend next months HVA Meeting and advise members how these schemes could be arranged.

8.0 Election of Committee.

- 8.1 Jill Robinson advised the committee she would not be standing for re-election. Andy Maddock, David Godfrey, Jerry Janes and Philip Croucher stood for re-election. Steve Downes and David Tomlinson stood and introduced themselves for election to the committee. Nick Cane proposed and James Bull seconded that all 'Re Standing' committee members are re-elected, voting unanimous.
- 8.2 Register of committee members available from the Secretary if required.

9.0 Election of Chairman

- 9.1 Karen Bennett was proposed by David Godfrey, seconded by Nick Cane and stood unopposed, voting unanimous.

10.0 HVA Members Open Forum

- 10.1 The problem of dog fouling continues to be a problem, with many sections of the village footpaths and lanes having unwanted deposits left by uncaring dog owners. Suggestions were made for wider publicity in the magazine, street furniture posters, notice board etc. The District Council were able to issue 'On the Spot Fines' if any offenders were identified causing this nuisance.
- 10.2 Complaints were received again concerning the high levels of rubbish being deposited by school children attending both Eggars' and Andrews Endowed.
- 10.3 Over hanging trees and hedges in Howard's Lane and London Road were causing further nuisance/damage to pedestrians and vehicles, despite letters being issued to residents from the local authority. Many properties were ignoring the request to trim or cut back their boundary hedging allowing free access.
- 10.4 We now have a Veterans Football Team playing fortnightly in one of the local leagues. Once a month these star studied 'Daddies' can be seen in action at the football/cricket playing field. More support will bring the necessary success they seek.

11.00 Any Other Business

- 11.1 No further subjects were raised.

12.00 Close of meeting

- 12.1 The meeting closed at 21-33 hrs for refreshments kindly provided by members of the committee.

David Godfrey
Secretary