

ALMELEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

Notes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 2nd July 2015.

Councillors present: Mr John Hope, Mrs Claire Price, Mr James Edwards, Mr Allan Payne, Mr Barry Hall, Mrs Liz Tucker

1. APOLOGIES were received from Mr Martin Skyrme
2. NOTES of the meeting held on 5 June 2014 were approved and signed.
3. MATTERS Arising – none were raised.
4. REEPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

1. Thank you to all the groups and stakeholders for attending our Annual Parish meeting and for supporting the development and sustainability of Almeley Parish.

I am sure we all have as our central aim, the desire to continue to maintain the development of Almeley as a living and vibrant parish. At the same time we need to be also aware of the pressures on local areas from central and local government. We will need to comply with standards and procedures set up as a result of Government requirements and legislation.

To this end we are creating our own Neighbourhood Development Plan, which will enable us to formulate our own ideas as a parish for the future.

We will need to adapt and respond to change and have a long-term view. We will need to continue to be aware of the demands for housing and of planners. And we will need to encourage more young people and their families to move in to our Parish, helping to create a balanced mix of ages and a lively community.

2. Almeley Parish Council

The members of Almeley Parish Council are the elected representatives of the people of Almeley Parish. As such their role is to work together and to represent and consider issues affecting the whole parish, fairly and without bias or prejudice towards different sections of the community.

To refer issues to the District Council.

To liaise with the District Council

To act as a conduit for the District Council

To act on Governmental directives and issues coming through the District Council

The village is very concerned with keeping up to date and up to date Information about parish meetings and events can be found online both on the village website

– www.almeley.net and also on the Village Facebook account.

In addition information is also put up on the 2 Parish Council notice boards (Almeley and Woonton) and is also in the Parish magazine Offatree News.

3. Annual review of 2014/2015

There were 6 meetings of the Parish Council over the last year and also 2 open meetings to update people about the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. There

were

7 members of the Parish Council in 2014/2015. James Edwards replaced Kevin Powell who resigned in April 2014.

This year there were 9 planning applications - last year there were 14.

4. Topics discussed this year included:

Rubbish Collection in Almeley and Woonton:

Collection of waste, replacement and maintenance of rubbish bins, suitable places for rubbish bins, costing of new bins, dog walkers and dog bins

Adopt a Telephone Box scheme for Almeley and Woonton: Transfer to PC from BT completed in 2015.

Lengths man scheme: discussions with Balfour Beatty representative. Tenders for the scheme. Mr. Watts from Brilley appointed as Lengthsman. Regular updates of his work.

Spearmash Common: mowing. maintenance of the common, dog fouling

War Memorial gardens: maintenance

Tenders for mowing Spearmash Common and the War Memorial.

Almeley Cricket Club: support and donation

Bus Shelter for Almeley

Defibrillator - now placed outside the Bells

Standards

Planning applications, including Intensive housing for pigs

Elections

Almeley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

Additional reports considered:

Herefordshire Consultation document re provision of services for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people

Closure of Eardisley GP surgery and local implications

5. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):

During 2014/2015

Collation of the evidence produced from the responses to the questionnaire

Formulation and initial drafting of the Plan

Open meetings with the Parish regarding updates re the progress of the Draft plan.

Discussions with members of Herefordshire Council.

Formatting and printing of the revised draft plan for consultation

Formal Consultations with members of the parish

Taking on board the comments and re-editing the plans

6. Grants:

Submission of grant applications for ring-fenced grants for the NDP project and for the Lengths man project.

7. Meetings:

Representatives of the Parish Council attended regular Committee meetings of the Village Hall Committee and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group.

Regular meetings with Herefordshire Council to discuss the progress of the NDP.

Open meetings were also held within the parish to discuss the progress of the

NDP

Also open meeting with Herefordshire Council for prospective candidates to discuss the election procedure and a hustings meeting for the parish.

8. Review of this year

The Village shop is now in its third year and has proved to be a great asset for the community. There is regular help in the shop from volunteers from the parish.

The Village Community Library continues to be based in the Church.

A successful Village Weekend was organised jointly by St, Mary's Church and by the Village Hall Committee in August, with open gardens and a fete.

The two BT telephone boxes in Almeley and Woonton are now owned by the Parish Council. It is proposed that there be a 'Friends of Almeley and Woonton Telephone Boxes' Group set up to help with their maintenance, development and promotion as parish assets.

A team of Volunteers regularly help in the school with the 'Open the Book' scheme and the Walking group and Craft Club continue to be successful.

The timetable for the village bus service to Hereford was slightly altered, but the bus service continues.

And once again the potholes continue to be filled in and worn out again by traffic and the rain.

9. Our Thanks to:

We all know of people we have to thank for making this parish a success, but I would like to remind you of a few of them:

The Bells Village Pub and Shop

Lisa and Jason Hudson for all their efforts in running the pub and the shop and for supporting our local community. They are both greatly involved in caring for people in the parish through the many services they provide through the shop and the pub. They are unstinting in their involvement in caring for people in need and provide a much valued central information point for the parish. And thanks also to Jason and Lisa for agreeing to house the village defibrillator at The Bells.

Lengths man

Mr. Watts for acting as Lengths man for this year and for the work he has carried out throughout the parish.

Spearmarsh Common and the War Memorial Garden

Our thanks to Sandra and Allan Payne who re-tendered for the contract and continue to do the mowing and maintenance work on Spearmarsh Common and the War Memorial gardens.

Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee for carrying out the alterations and reparations to the Village Hall . Also for continuing to organise the many events that have taken place throughout the year, including the films, whist, lunches and the annual fete. Our thanks to the many local groups involved in making these events so successful.

Almeley Cricket Club

Our thanks to Almeley Cricket Club for their continued work in maintaining the Cricket Square and pitch on the Common. We wish the Cricket Club continued success in their matches.

NDP Working Group

Our thanks to the members of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working party for progressing the draft plan to its present edited state.

Parish Clerk

Our thanks to Greta Beresford for her work for the Parish Council as Parish Clerk. We have all benefited in many ways from her wide experience and her involvement with the parish.

Unsung heroes

And finally, but not least, our thanks to the many people who work behind the scenes, doing those extra little bits that make this Parish the community it is.

Thank you all for all you have done

Claire Price, Vice Chair, Almeley Parish Council.

Chair 2014-2015

5. PARISH ACCOUNTS were presented for information.

6. REPORTS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS

a. The Pathfinders.

2014 was a better year for the Pathfinders group.

Most of the walks and ambles suggested at the annual planning meeting on the 16th March took place due to kinder weather conditions overall. (Most members took ownership of organising an event, although there were more "ambles" than walks, it must be said, to suit the membership.)

I am pleased to report that Peter Hall has made a good return after heart surgery, and is running the group in conjunction with Dave McAndrew in the current year.

The group took part in the annual litter picking exercise in early April. The amount of litter collected appears to be declining each year, and the verges around the village are now rarely defaced by significant amounts of litter.

Around thirty or so group members attended an enjoyable annual lunch again at the Herefordshire Golf Club, Wormsley in February this year.

We are hoping more people will join us. We meet and walk on Sundays and Wednesdays from March through to October, usually ending up at the Bells for some refreshment and socialising at the end of each walk.

We are keen to encourage walkers of all age groups and walking abilities. To that end we vary the walks in distance and difficulty.

Anyone wishing to join our group, or just come along initially should contact either Dave (327916) or Peter (327259) for a copy of the current programme.

Peter Hall David McAndrew

b. The Women's Institute

Once again we have had a very full and interesting year. Membership has maintained its membership of 20 and we have welcomed visitors and guests to our meetings.

It was our turn to host the Group Meeting and it was well attended by surrounding WI's in the Weobley Group. Our speakers gave us information in their particular specialities and these included Rebecca Davis in Lino Printing, Heather Carrington in Forensic Science. Penny Platts is well known to the WI and gave us a talk on Half Timbered Houses in Herefordshire. Anne Goodwin lives locally and informed us of archaeology in her area spanning several centuries with photos and maps. Marysia Furlong showed us her quilting achievements and the colours, designs and workmanship were incredible. We had a couple of members' only meetings. One was a supper evening and everyone brought either a savoury or sweet dish. We find these occasions relaxing and enjoyable.

Our June outing was to a little known museum at Wormelow. The Curator has so much knowledge of Violette Salvo who was a SOE in the second Second World War. We know her more from the film 'Carve Her Name With Pride'. Virginia McKenna visits the museum on a regular basis at the anniversary of Violette's death.

We had our lunch in March year in Jules, Weobley.

We still support the village weekend, supplying the cream teas. We held our Macmillan coffee morning at The Bells. It was well attended and very kind of Lisa and Jason for allowing us to use their facilities.

Our Christmas party was held in the village hall this year, where we were entertained by Stuart and Di Brain. They gave us a very enjoyable time, and we had a lovely Christmas tea afterwards.

Some of our members have had a difficult time with personal problems this year, and we have tried to support and comfort them at a trying time; it shows what a close knit community we are.

Our programme secretaries do an excellent job of finding speakers of interest and other activities, making it an enjoyable time for all who attend.

Susan Knight

Secretary.

New Committee: President	Mrs S Tuffs
Vice President	Mrs E Hughes
Secretary	Mrs S Knight
Treasurer	Mrs G Beresford
Programme Secs .	Mrs E Hughes
	Mrs A Davis
Press Sec.	Mrs S Smith
Member	Mrs K Mash
Member	Mrs S Basden

Susan Knight
Secretary

c. Almeley Craft Club.

The Craft Club continues to thrive and not much has changed from last year. We have had a slight drop in Membership so new Members are welcome – as are children (in the school holidays) if accompanied by an adult. Our meetings alternate between Monday afternoons one week (2.00pm to 4.00pm) and Tuesday evenings the following weeks (7.00pm to 9.00pm). However, the last Monday afternoon in the month we hold our meeting at the Bells and Lisa provides us with delicious tea/coffee and cakes, at a very reasonable cost.

The Club finances are good and we occasionally try to arrange trips and meals out. Our last trip was to the Needle Museum, Redditch, which was most interesting and which was partly subsidized by the Club. We are aiming to have another trip some time in September; a venue has yet to be decided.

The Crafters continue to make items for the Shoe box Charity. The standard of work is excellent, and much appreciated; as are the items made for display board and cabinets in the Village Hall.

We continue to demonstrate our work – at various venues such as the Wembley Ploughing Match and the Eardisley Show, as well as Kington Court and The Weir Nursing Home.

Margaret L. Brindley.

d. Almeley Village Hall

Use of the Village Hall is good. The kitchen gets a lot of use from which there is a good income. A fund raising scheme has been set up to improve the kitchen. A grant has been received to renew the two fire doors. New facing has been placed on one side of the hall and new facia is planned. The oil tank has been replaced. Flicks in the Sticks continues to be popular, and the Sunday lunches. A defibrillator has been provided for use in the village.

Allan Payne.

e. Almeley Primary School.

Mr Maund reported a very successful year in the school. Numbers have increased from 59 in 2014, increasing to 71 in September this year. The increase in numbers is very good for the school; obviously we are providing what is needed for the children.

There has been a change of staff. Miss Geary married and is now Mrs Jennings.

There has been an inspection recently. The school is inspected every four years by OFSTED. They were very impressed and could see that we have moved forward since the last visit and the teaching has improved. We have a wide curriculum and have managed to reach five county finals which, for a small school are very successful. All children take part in some sport. The children also have opportunities in music and all have some experience. A peripatetic music teacher has been employed. The school choir continues visits Kington Court and has taken part in small activities locally.

Outings are arranged for the children and people are encouraged to come into the school: Open the Book and readers for the children. Without volunteers the school would not be as successful as it is. It is gradually growing and developing and to continue to do so in the present economic climate young families need to be encouraged to move into the community to keep the numbers up.

Mr Maund expressed thanks for use of the village hall and to the cricket club for all that is done to enable the school to use the common for outdoor activities. He also thanked the community for its support.

Matthew Maund

Head of School.

Mr Hope offered congratulations to Mr Maund and his staff.

Almeley Cricket Club

Mr Blant said that although he does not live in the village he was pleased to be here. He said that there is a need to bring people into the Club. He had decided that play was no longer possible for him, but found himself as Director to the Club.

The Club is struggling with numbers, Shobden and Hay on Wye had closed, but the one in Hay has since reformed. The Club plays in a number of venues; up to 70-80 miles away.

The Club still has one first team. He said that the Club would like to see more people at cricket matches. He thanked the Parish Council for the £300 donation and to Jason at The Bells who provide such excellent refreshments and hospitality.

Martin Blant.

Discussion among residents included apple-tree spraying after dark, which is done to avoid threatening bees and other insect life. The process of reviewing planning applications, tourism, restoration of the pond on the road to Lyonshall and the placing of a transformer on the common.