



REPORT OF THE PARISH CLERK FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD 11th May 2022.

During the year the following councillors served on the parish council:

Jonathan Shepherd (Chairman).

Paula Gwinnett (Vice-chair).

Pauline Ballard.

Edwin Brindley.

Elizabeth James (resigned August 2021).

Richard Wood.

Sylvia Hollins.

Diane Gardner (resigned June 2021 so only attended the May meeting).

Nicholas Conway (co-opted July 2021).

Adam Dronzek (co-opted October 2021).

Special responsibilities of the Councillors:

Councillor Shepherd	Chairman of Alton Parish Council. Councillor Shepherd is on the bank mandate.
Councillor Gwinnett	Vice-Chair of Alton Parish Council. Footpaths and environmental issues following the resignation of Cllr Gardner.
Councillor Brindley	Councillor Brindley is on the bank mandate.
Councillor Gardner	Footpaths and Environmental Issues. Resigned June 2021.
Councillor Ballard	Represents APC on the Alton Village Hall Committee.
Councillor James	Responsibility to liaise with Alton Towers. Resigned August 2021 (moved out of the area).
Councillor Wood	Responsibility for Highways and Road Safety issues. Attends the parish assembly meetings on behalf of the council. Is on the bank mandate.
Councillor Conway	Liaison with Alton Towers Resort
Councillor Dronzek	Joined the council in October 2021

The last annual parish meeting was held on 5th May 2021 by video conference because of restrictions imposed due to the Corona virus pandemic. Parish council meetings face to face recommenced in June 2021.

During the year May 2021 to April 2022 there were two resignations and two new co-opted members. There were councillors who on occasion had to miss meetings due to being infected with Covid 19 and one councillor who was shielding from Covid 19 or unwell for a number of meetings.

From May 2021 to April 2022 the parish council held 13 meetings (one was an extraordinary meeting in June 2021 to discuss a planning application). For the year due to resignations the council was one councillor short i.e. eight instead of nine councillors and for four meetings down to seven councillors, this despite co-opting two new members and co-opting a third



person in April who will join the council in May 2022, (as of May 2022 the council is back to full strength).

One councillor attended every meeting and three councillors only missed one meeting and one of those was due to a Covid infection. The councillors as a whole had an 81% attendance rate, back to around pre-Covid levels (84.24% in 2019), a further 11% of attendance was lost due to unavoidable sickness or work commitments. The attendance was well up on the previous difficult year, which was 57%.

During the period May 2021 to April 2022 the council undertook several projects.

1. The Alton village sign on the approach to Alton from Denstone on the B5032 was replaced as the old sign was damaged and old. Alton Rural Regeneration Group donated £500 towards the total cost of over £1,000.
2. A new parish council website was developed and has now been launched. All agendas, minutes, accounts and details of the council are published on this site. <http://www.altonstaffs.co.uk/>
3. Over £600 was spent on replacing some of the planters in the parish and this work is on going.
4. The council donated £1,500 to the village hall committee to help with the repair of the boiler at the village hall.

Our County Councillor, Mike Worthington has again attended most of the monthly meetings and has been a valuable source of help and consultation especially with regard to the on-going planning issues within the parish.

SMDC Councillor, Hayley Plimley has now returned to council meetings following a period when she could not attend most meetings. Her help and advice is also appreciated.

The Parish Council precept has been increased this year by 4.94% to £17,225. Which is a low increase of £1.53 a year on a band 'D' property from £30.97 to £32.50.

Buxus Green the company who maintain the grounds in St. Peter's Church Yard and the parish cemetery and also attend to the lengthsmans duties have had their contract extended. The council are pleased with the work carried out.

To replace councillors who resigned, the parish council welcomed three new councillors. In July 2021 Nicholas Conway and in October 2021 Adam Dronzek were co-opted onto the council and Holly Kelsall was co-opted in April 2022 and will take her seat in May 2022.

The council accounts continue to be managed on-line and the system is working well, saving time and money. This is monitored monthly by the council and bank statements are signed by the council.

I would finally like to thank all councillors for their help and support during the year and in particular to Councillors Shepherd and Gwinnett, the Chairman and Vice-Chair.

Selwyn Burton BSc (Hons), PGCert (Man), FInstLM
Clerk to Alton Parish Council