



REPORT OF THE PARISH CLERK FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD 10th May 2023.

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

Jonathan Shepherd (Chairman).

Paula Gwinnett (Vice-chair).

Pauline Ballard.

Edwin Brindley.

Richard Wood.

Sylvia Hollins.

Nicholas Conway

Adam Dronzek

Holly Kelsall

Special responsibilities of the Councillors:

Councillor Shepherd	Chairman of Alton Parish Council. Footpaths and environmental issues Councillor Shepherd is on the bank mandate.
Councillor Gwinnett	Vice-Chair of Alton Parish Council. Website monitor.
Councillor Brindley	Councillor Brindley is on the bank mandate.
Councillor Kelsall	Liaison with Alton Towers Resort and social media.
Councillor Ballard	Represents APC on the Alton Village Hall Committee.
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	Parish cemetery

The last annual parish meeting was held on 10th May 2022 the first 'face-to-face' meeting since the Covid pandemic.

During the year May 2022 to April 2023 there was one resignation on 14th December 2022, Councillor S. Hollins who has since sadly passed away.

From May 2022 to April 2023 the parish council held 12 meetings. Since December 2022 the council has had eight councillors and has carried one vacancy.

One councillor attended every meeting and one councillor only missed one meeting. Councillor Hollins due to ill health was only able to attend one meeting before she resigned in December.

The council as a whole (not including Councillor Hollins who was unwell after May until she resigned) had the following attendance rate. Eight councillors for twelve meetings is a possible 96 attendances.



There was a 76% attendance rate (73 attendances), slightly lower than last years 81% (the equivalent of 5 attendances). 8% of attendance was lost due to unavoidable sickness or work commitments (about 8 attendances).

During the period May 2022 to April 2023 the council undertook several projects.

1. The council donated £1,000 to St. Peters Church to assist with the repair of the Church clock.
2. The council applied for and received £425 from SMDC as a grant towards the Queens Jubilee celebrations. This was handed to the Alton Community Events Group (ACE) to help to pay for parish public events.
3. The council paid £590 for new planters at the war memorial.
4. The council paid £159 for flowers around the parish.

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 did not stand in the recent council elections, but she did donate £300 from her Community Initiative Fund to help with the purchase of a new Alton village sign on New Road. The council thanks her for her help over the last four years.

The Parish Council precept has not been increased this year and remains at £17,225. Which due to a small increase in homes in the parish is a slight reduction of 26 pence on a band 'D' property from £32.50 to £32.26.

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

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 like to thank the council's accountants the Ford Partnership for help and advice throughout the year.

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