



REPORT OF THE PARISH CLERK FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD 14th May 2025.

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

Jonathan Shepherd (Chairman).

Paula Gwinnett (Vice-chair).

Pauline Ballard.

Edwin Brindley.

Richard Wood.

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	Social media. Alton Towers Liaison
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	
Councillor Dronzek	Parish cemetery

The last annual parish meeting was held on 8th May 2024.

During the year May 2024 to April 2025 there has been no change in the councillors.

From May 2024 to April 2025 the parish council held 12 meetings. There is one vacancy on the council.

One councillor attended every meeting and two councillors only missed one meeting.

The council as a whole had the following attendance rate. Eight councillors for twelve meetings is a possible 96 attendances.

There was a 75% attendance rate (72 attendances), exactly the same as last year.

Absence was due to:

- Holiday 5 occasions, 5.2%
- Illness 2 occasions, 2.1%
- Working 7 occasions, 7.29%
- Family reasons 10 occasions, 10.42%



During the period May 2024 to April 2025 the council undertook several projects.

1. The council made inquiries into the ownership of the Round House in the village and discovered that the council has ownership. The building is now fully insured and has a maintenance plan.
2. The council has arranged for all the public benches which require maintenance in the village to be repaired and treated.
3. The overgrown perimeter footpath in the parish cemetery has been cleared.
4. SMDC applied for and were granted £112,178.29 under Section 106, Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This money has been delegated to the parish council by SMDC and must be divided between the play space (playground) £49,905.24 and the playing field £62,273.05. The work is ongoing and will need final approval by SMDC.

County Councillor, Mike Worthington has again supported the council and has been a valuable source of help and consultation especially with regard to the on-going planning issues within the parish. Councillor Worthington was not re-elected to the County Council in the recent council elections, Alton PC thanks him for his past support and wishes him well for the future.

SMDC Councillor, Nigel Moulton has been a regular attendee to council meetings. Councillor Moulton continues to be a great help to the council, particularly in matters relating to SMDC. The council thanks him for his support.

The Parish Council precept has been increased for the first time since 2022 and now stands at £18,086.25p. Which means that a band D property is now charged £31.95 a year an increase of 34 pence.

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 and have increased their charges for the first time by 5%. 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), FIoL
Clerk to Alton Parish Council