**ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 15 May 2017

**Present**: Christopher Langley (CL), Alex Mann (AM), Nicolas Rose (NR), Will Palmer (WP), Robin Gilbert (RG), Bill Vaudrey (BV). Darren King (DK)

**In attendance**: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk: Christine Block (CB), District Councillor.

**Members of public**: None

**Chairman’s welcome**:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**District Councillor’s report**:

District Cllr. Christine Block reported that by 2019/20 local council grants will be cut so that they will have to raise most of the revenue themselves. SCDC is in a reasonably good position because of the businesses in this area and they are able to keep the rates levied. A lot of houses are being built in the district and the council will receive a supplement from the government. This does mean however that more development will be seen in the villages in the future. Policies in a Neighbourhood Plan will carry a lot of weight regarding planning decisions so it would be a good idea to consider this, perhaps joining with other nearby parishes. More responsibility will be passed down to parish councils in the future. The government has given money to SCDC for affordable housing in coastal areas with a high number of second homes, Bawdsey is one of these, however the condition is that the money can only be spent by a Community Land Trust. Cllr. Block is arranging for an officer from SCDC to meet with representatives from local villages to explain more about this scheme.

**Chairman’s report:**

The chairman reported that the Queen’s 90th birthday was celebrated in the village with an event on the recreation ground at a cost to the council of £167. Every child living in the village under the age of 12 were given a commemorative medal. A letter received from the queen in response to birthday good wishes sent from the chairman on behalf of the village is displayed in the entrance of the village hall.

The chairman thanked DL and RC for their hard work in organising another successful fete which raised £2399. A Christmas lunch (Turkey & Tinsel) was held for the elderly in the village at a cost of £340. The same weekend a coffee morning with Santa’s Grotto for the children was held raising £100.

The chairman thanked all who took part in the Litter Pick, unfortunately this was mainly councillors, and noted that an earlier date next year would be better as the verges were overgrown making the task difficult.

Two questionnaires have been sent out to all households during the year (Housing and Emergency Plan) and the return on each was about 25%. Responses have been noted.

The Terms and Conditions for use of the recreation ground by Sutton Heath Football Club have been reviewd increasing the rent to £200 per annum

New signage has been erected on School Corner in an attempt to reduce accidents.

All the allotments are in use and the chairman thanked DK for his work in setting these up.

A new storage container has been purchased and is situated behind the pavilion, the first one received was in poor condition and after a short time was leaking, this was replaced at no cost.

The precept has been increased to £6000 for the coming year, only one resident questioned this and an explanation has been given.

**Presentation of accounts for year ending 31 March 2017**

All present had been given sight of the summary of the accounts. The clerk explained that the Capital grant (£4578) was for work done on the village hall in the previous financial year but was not received until 1 April 2016. The balance at the bank at the end of the financial year was £7556.

**Open Session**

WP stated that as the accounts showed the expenses of the village hall were higher than the income the Parish Council should consider raising the rent. The chairman stated that this will be looked at in the coming year.

Signed………………………………………….

Dated……………………………………….