

West Alvington Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 2019

The Parish Council met in the village hall at 6.30pm. There were representatives from several village societies and clubs. There was an attendance of 7 Parish Councillors, 22 Parishioners, District Councillors Judy Pearce and Mark Long.

Apologies were received from Councillor Gill Green.

Chairman's Annual Report ~ The Chairman reported that she had only been in the role since January when she took over from Cllr. Margaret Kitt who sadly had to give up the role when her health declined. She will be sadly missed for her wealth of local knowledge having lived in the village her whole life. In the same year Mr Simon Wright retired after acting as Chairman for the last 15 years and being on the parish councillor for over 20 years. He worked hard for the parish and made a big difference in many areas, he kept us up to date with SHDC changes and knew where and how to apply for funding. We owe them both a big debt of gratitude. Our Clerk retired at the same time, but has since come back on a temporary basis to help us out after the new clerk left because of the overwhelming increase in parish council matters. We also lost two other councillors, Robin Ladkin who worked tirelessly for the parish council, was a superb footpaths officer and a planning guru and Alyson Smith who also was born and bred in the village, she was excellent at helping on the team raising funds with the Fun Day and Christmas Carol Evenings as well as many other things. New councillors came along in the form of Graham Johns, Didi Alayli, Tony Head, Liz Chin and John Walster. We welcome our new District Councillor Mark Long and we look forward to his support and input. I'm sure he will be guided by Judy who has regularly attended meetings and has advised with her great help and experience. Main issues this year have been grappling with the Neighbourhood Plan a joint venture with Churchstow and Kingsbridge. We did not have the time or resources in West Alvington to go it alone. There has been an increase in community spirit recently within the parish and we are working closely with the West Alvington Traffic Action Group (WATAG) who have highlighted the traffic speeds etc through the village. With the help of County Councillor Mr Rufus Gilbert who helped to achieve a SCARF survey we now look forward to the reclassification of the road to a B road. We must also thank PCSO Paul O'Dwyer for his work in supporting the WATAG and the School with the traffic calming reminder posters, thanks also to the children for doing some wonderful artwork. We are hoping for closer working liaisons with the school, Lesa Garside the head of the academy is keen for the children to be involved where possible. We are hoping to get a defibrillator for the village and have been promised funding from Cllr. Gilbert and Cllr Alyali is looking into other options for financing. The website has had a new look and is a work in progress. The Church has some new colourful planters for which we thank Keith Steer, it would be nice if we could achieve a West Alvington in bloom! Lastly, we are all volunteers and with everyone pulling together much could be achieved.

Time Out ~ Mrs Pat Wyatt gave a report on behalf of the Time Out Club. She said there was a regular attendance of 12 members, unfortunately there are no young people attending at present, even though the whole idea originated from a younger resident of the village who thought it would be nice if there was a social group for younger people. However, those who do attend have great fun and a good laugh. There are lots of different activities which take place, craft, puzzles, even some keep fit, as well as tea and cake. The club meets in the hall every other Monday and everyone is welcome.

Parish Tree Warden ~ Mrs Jeanne Hudson reported that she is the tree warden for the parish and has leaflets and current regulations if anyone is in need of them as well as any advice.

WATAG ~ West Alvington Traffic Action Group. Unfortunately, neither Andrew Pascoe or Peter Everitt were able to attend this evening. Cllr. Alayli gave a brief resume of the work that had been undertaken by the group since it began. This is mainly speeding issues, but the group has received a lot of support from the Parish Council, Devon County Councillor Mr Rufus Gilbert and even the children from the primary school have been involved with designing posters which have been made into signs and placed throughout the village. There was a SCARF data reading and a document was produced by Mr Everitt with suggestions on how to achieve traffic calming throughout the village.

This in turn sparked a status review and it seems that the road is to be reclassified from an A to a B. This in turn should bring its own positive results.

Horticultural Society ~ Mrs Sylvia Norsworthy, Chairman of the Horticultural Society gave a report about the works of the society. There are 2 shows a year, one in the spring which is held in the village hall and the

summer show which is held at Malborough village hall due to the size and the amount of exhibits that are shown. The HS fund raises throughout the year. They have several lunches held in the hall with raffle, and sideshows. The lunches are £7.50 per head and the average attendance is between 30 and 50 people. Anyone is welcome to attend the lunches and posters are put up notifying of when they are held.

Mrs Helen Rhymes said that she is in the process of writing a book called 'Your Village History' she has collated a lot of interesting facts and said that she too had learnt a lot about the village in her research. She offered her folder to anyone that would like to read the data gathered so far. Mrs Rhymes asked that if anybody had any documents relating to the history of the parish she would love to see them.

Cllr. Gilly Rossetti said that later in the year she thought it would be nice to ask Holly ?? who had given a talk to the WI about West Alvington if she would come along and give an evening talk which could be a village social event.

West Alvington Village Hall ~ Mrs J. Johns gave a report on behalf of the village hall committee. The hall continues to run smoothly and bookings have increased. The outside of the hall is in a terrible state, the windows are hanging in by a 'wing and a prayer', the outside cladding is in desperate need of repair or replacing. Some money has been allocated via the 106 from Homefield, but this is quite minimal and a lot more is really needed. A work party to decorate the inside of the hall would be appreciated and we hope to do this in the summer holidays.

There being no further reports the meeting closed. The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting being confirmed as 2nd April 2020 at 6pm in the village hall.

Signed Dated.....