

# ACT

# Draft



## Althorne Community Together

Developing the Parish Plan & Village Design Statement

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**AGM Meeting Wed 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**7.30 pm**

**St. Andrew's Church Hall**

### Minutes

#### Present:

Janet Cloke, Lorraine Collins, Mary Davies, Phil Davies, Geoff Ewers, Mavourneen Foreman, Stella Meesters, John Slade, Patricia Pye, Sally Winter, Ursula Benjafield, Lynda Bugg (taken from those signing the attendance list)

**Apologies:** Sherie Plumb, Brian Noye, Rosemary Deed, Lewis Broad, Paul Burgess, Sharon Parker

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Guest speakers:</p> <p>The meeting opened with two presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jackie Longman, Conservation Officer at Maldon District Council, spoke about Conservation Areas and the Local List of buildings of importance. During questions, the point was made that not all householders would welcome their house being listed or in a conservation area. Jackie pointed out that people who own and live in a heritage property have a duty to maintain it appropriately. She made the point that if people in Althorne thought there was a need for a conservation area or areas, they should draw the relevant area on a map and submit it to her for consideration. Phil Davies also expressed the view that the Althorne Village Questionnaire did not show that people wanted a conservation area. However, a workshop showed a clear interest in a conservation area and Stella Meesters suggested that this could be clarified by a further investigation.</li><li>David Coleman, Planning Policy Officer at Maldon District Council, gave an update on Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements. Central Government has not yet made clear all the detail on Neighbourhood Plans and this was not likely to happen for about 6 months. Village Design Statements would require close partnership between the village and MDC.</li></ul>	<p>Villagers</p> <p>ACT Steering</p>

## **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wed 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

The draft minutes having been previously circulated were agreed.

## **3. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman, Janet Cloke, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received as noted above.

## **4. Report from the Chairman 2010/2011**

The Chairman gave an account of the group's activities since the last AGM.

She acknowledged achievements and the Chairman's report covered the following topics:

- There had been changes in the Chairman, Secretary, webmaster and venue (The chair had been rotated, Paul Burgess had undertaken recording the minutes of meetings, Lewis Broad had taken over as webmaster. (Thanks in particular were due to Owain North for letting ACT have the website free of charge)
- The group had worked with the youth of the village to obtain grant funding
- ACT had consulted with various agencies
- A complete list of properties in Althorne had been compiled
- ACT was monitoring the Parish Plan
- The Chair particularly thanked Althorne Parish Council for their input
- The Steering Committee had undergone training at RCCE

The Chair ended by mentioning the successful completion and launch of the Parish Plan in January 2010

## **5. Report from the Treasurer 2010/2011**

The Treasurer, John Slade, gave out and explained a detailed report of the audited accounts. The Income and Expenditure report as at 31/3/11 showed a **Bank Balance of: £414.69**

## **6. Election of Officers 2010/2011**

Following consultation at the meeting for anyone interested in the officer positions it was requested that Sherie Plumb, Ursula Benjafield and Janet Cloke should be elected in the respective roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

## **7. Election of Steering Group 2010/2011**

Stella Meesters pointed out a constitutional issue - it was necessary to have a minimum of 4 members on the Steering Committee, whereupon Pat Pye volunteered and was duly elected to the Steering Committee. This left 3 vacant places on the Steering Committee which could be filled later in the year at an EGM.

This concluded the official meeting business.

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## 8. Questions

There was then an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

- Phil Davies asked how ACT was intending to report progress on the Parish Plan – this would be by a monthly column on the AVN
- Phil Davies also reported that Althorne Parish Council had completed all the actions in the Plan for which they were responsible. Only the noticeboard at the Post Office was still outstanding and awaiting agreement on the positioning. The play equipment was almost complete, as was the skatepark
- Mary Davies reported that Althorne Parish Council had written to MDC regarding neighbour letters for planning applications and had been told there were no plans to introduce these in the year 2011-2012.
- Stella Meesters said that proactive support from Parish Councils resulted in the best VDSs
- Mary Davies asked how Althorne should go about producing a VDS and Stella Meesters suggested a new questionnaire devised in conjunction with Development Control at MDC, not as extensive as that the the Parish Plan but more targeted, e.g. regarding policy. It would need strong policy statements in conjunction with MDC planners

## 9. Next Steps

It was decided take a break and call an EGM in the autumn when the Government on neighbourhood planning would be clearer. The Secretary would announce the date in the AVN.

## 10. AOB

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

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Secretary

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