



New Alresford Town Council

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Minutes of New Alresford Town Assembly held electronically via Zoom, on Tuesday 8 March 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

Name	Present	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Weston (Chair) (MW)	✓		
Cllr Bean (Vice-Chair) (AB)	✓		
Cllr Gordon-Smith (RGS)			✓
Cllr Divall (KD)		✓	
Cllr Byrne (MB)	✓		
Cllr Cavell (SJC)	✓		
Cllr Evans (SE)		✓	
Cllr Holmes (SH)	✓		
Cllr Jeffs (BJ)		✓	
Cllr Deeming (SD)	✓		
Cllr Sprott (AS)	✓ (Late arrival)		

ALSO PRESENT: Marcia Phillibert - Town Clerk, Sarah Johnson – Deputy Clerk, Frances Simpson - Clerk

Members of the public present

T/22/001 The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

T/22/002 **Approve apologies for absence.**
Apologises received from Councillors Evans, Sprott, Jeffs and Divall

T/22/003 **Approve Minutes of Annual Town Assembly held 16 March 2021**
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 16 March 2021 be approved

T/22/004 **Chairs annual reports**
Planning – Councillor Bean provided a summary that New Alresford now has three Speed Limit Reminders, the data is analyzed to assess the needs for keeping our highways safe.
The main highways projects are the West Street path widening and pedestrianisation of Broad Street. The consultation of pedestrianising Broad Street resulted in 74% in favour. Now awaiting Hampshire Highways to develop plans. The most impactful project to residents will be the Neighbourhood Plan, a community led project.
Community and Tourism – Councillor Weston who has recently chaired the committee due to the resignation of Councillor Jay Jones and thanked him for all his efforts previously with the Committee.
The Walking Guide has just been completed which consisted of eight short walks around the town. The Hambone memorial has just been restored and the

intention is to install an information board. The Town looked splendid with all the knitted poppies around and thanked Councillor Bean and residents for orchestrating the event. Thank you to all the residents and businesses that support the hanging basket and trough scheme. A town crier visited the town and councillors held street surgeries. An informal and valuable opportunity to speak to residents and visitors to the town. The Queens Jubilee Picnic in the Park will be taking place on 4 June 2022, together with PIGS, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, New Leaf and Churches Together.

Operations and Resources – Councillor Bean provided a summary of the committee. It was renamed in May 2021. This year saw the first time that the AGAR submission and internal and external reports with no issues. Huge thank you to the Town Clerk and staff for resolving the issues. The building remains problematic and this year we are conducting repairs to the roof first before we address the other issues. The roof tender is soon to be issued. Focus is staff and the various issues that COVID has raised. The council is embarking on a strategy and engaged a consultant to assist the council in this process.

Recreation and Environment – Councillor Cavell provided a summary that the focus has been on repairing play equipment caused by vandalism at Sun Hill and Arlebury Park. Thanks to Men's Shed for assisting with the repairs. NATC has secured funding from WCC for an outdoor gym at Arlebury park which is soon to be installed. Also, the renewal of Stratton Bates Play area, which is funded by NATC, Alresford Youth Association, PIGS and Rotary and should be completed by the summer holidays. Planted ten trees in support of the Queens Green Canopy and planted thousands of bulbs at Arlebury Park the annual Litter Pick was held in May. The replacement of the play train at Sun Hill will take place soon.

A planned maintenance programme will be put in place for all play areas and applying for funding for the new allotment area and Memorial Gardens redesign.

Council – Councillor Weston provided a summary of the year which has been challenging for both staff and councillors. Thanks to all staff for their hard work during the year, especially the glowing reports from both internal and external auditors. The Clerk is now qualified. Spent considerable time addressing the legacy issues. The Grants programme is ongoing and would like to see more organisations applying for more grants. The future, Stratton Bates play area, Outdoor gym, Picnic in the park, Neighbourhood Plan.

The intention is to hand over to the next council in May 2023 a council that is in the best state it could possibly be.

T/22/005

Alresford PIGS Association – The Clerk advised that PIGS received a grant of £400.00 the funds were used to pay for the installation of the lighting strings for the Town Christmas Tree in Broad Street. Also, to support the Father Christmas evening where presents are issued to the under seven year old's.

Play Learning Life – Julie Mountain, gave a presentation about the group. The group received a grant of £900.00. The group run outdoor play days for families and provided four play days in New Alresford parks and Benenden Green. The funds supported in excess of 100 families and funded staff.

St Johns Church – The Clerk advised that St Johns received a grant of £1000.00 which contributed to the upkeep of the church yard. The burial ground is

estimated to run out in five to eight years and as such all gravestones older than a hundred years are moved to the side walls to create more space. This is specialist work.

New Leaf – Sam Dalling provided a summary; they received a grant of £560.71. The charity focuses on Climate Change and biodiversity locally. The grant contributed to the purchase of garden tools and wildflower bulbs. Have completed one project on the green between Nursery Road and Chestnut Walk where 1440 wildflower bulbs were planted with the help of local residents. The tools are able to be used again and they have been used to clear and plant wildflower seeds at the bottom of Arlebury Park.

Victim Support – The Clerk advised that Victim support received £100.00. the funds were used to contribute to the purchase of security items including decoy CCTV cameras, personal alarms and door and window alarms.

Friends of St Johns – Jan Field advised that the grant was received January 2022 and will contribute to the refurbishment of the clock. They received £1000.00; the works have not commenced but are due to take place this summer. They are currently working with a clock specialist to restore the clock face and mechanism.

Citizens Advice Winchester District – Andrew Tilley provides a summary of the Charity who received a donation of £1000.00. Some members of Alresford PIGS and The Giles Group are trained Advice First Aiders. They have transitioned from face-to-face meetings to working from home and therefore had to provide mobile phones and laptops. There has been a large increase in demand for services this year. There is a weekly drop-in service at Alresford Surgery

T/22/006

Troy Planning and Design

Genevieve Jacobs gave a presentation on New Alresford Neighbourhood Plan which is in its infancy. This is a community lead project and requires input from the towns residents.

The PowerPoint presentation used to deliver the presentation will be available on NATC website.

T/22/007

The Chair thanked all the staff for their hard work and support and the work that the councillors have contributed over the past year. Thanked the persons present for attending

The Town Assembly concluded at 2045 hours.