MINUTES OF THE ALMELEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2019
AT 7.00PM IN ALMELEY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Liz Tucker – Chair as Chair of Almeley Parish Council

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Parishioners: 13

1. **Apologies for absence.**
   None

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held in May 2018.**
   The minutes were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chair

3. **To receive report from the Chairman (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)**
   The Chair gave a brief report included as appendix 1. The Clerk and Chair then read reports submitted from Almeley Primary School , The Womens Institute and The Village Hall Committee – appendix 2, 3 and 4

4. **To receive views of local residents on parish matters.**
   None

Signed: [redacted] - Dated: 10th July 2019

Appendix 1 – Chair of Almeley Parish Council Report

The NDP has now got to the Referendum stage. This will be taking place on the 30th May 2019. All parishioners are encouraged to take part.

The sale of the Commons is the next big issue for the parish.

Due t the Localism Act the Parish Council is now expected to take on board a whole new set of responsibilities and liabilities and is now classified as a professional body. Over the last year has become increasingly aware of these new regulations. I wish to thank our clerk for all the work she has done to enable us to get through this process of change and comply with so many new requirements and liabilities.

The Parish Council is the voice of it's parishioners and it is therefore very important to see the community involved with parish matters. Please do therefore continue to attend meetings and share your views and suggestions.

Appendix 2 – Almeley Primary School Report:

Almeley School and Little Elms Nursery have had another exciting and successful year. The Nursery having opened with only 3 children now has 18 children on the books and employs three staff. Last summer we extended the space available to the Nursery by making use of the old school house ground floor buildings and created a new outside play area. We have applied for a grant to make further alterations to improve the facilities.

The School was once again very successful academically with results in the top 25% in the country. Last year the School and Nursery were visited by HMI Ofsted for a short inspection and we received a glowing report that highlighted our many strengths. Short inspections can not change the school grading but it reconfirmed how well we are doing now and how well we have developed since our previous inspection in 2014.

We continue to provide the children with a range of different activities from local trips to farms and Forest Schools at Newport House, to residential trips and Historical trips etc. The school choir were runners up in the Herefordshire Small School Choir Festival and all pupils have enjoyed being part of class plays. We thank the Village Hall committee and other users for their support in enabling this to happen. All the children in class 2 and 3 have weekly instrumental lessons.

On the sporting front we have continued to provide a range of different opportunities. We have worked closely with coaches from Luctonians Sports Club, Mr Pete Gale from Worth Sports/Herefordshire County Cricket and more recently with Adam Jones (a parent) who works for Shrewsbury Town FC. We provide opportunities for all and run a number of after school clubs to support this as well as entering fixtures and festivals. Last Summer the School Girls Cricket Team became County Champions which is an incredible achievement for such a small school. We thank Almeley Cricket club for their ongoing support in maintaining the Common all year round for us.

We apologise for any inconvenience that the building work may be causing, but the contractors are progressing well with building us two new classrooms to replace the aging mobile classrooms. This will mean that all of our children will be taught in modern spacious facilities. With the Local authority investing in Almeley this is another sign that the school is performing well and should be here for many more years. The builders have promised to make good any land that they have disturbed on the edge of the Common. We hope to move into the new rooms ready for the new school year in September.

Thank you to all from the local community who support us in any way.

Appendix 3 – Womens Institute Report:

Almeley WI is thriving with a steady membership of 18 members. We still continue with supporting various organizations in the village with the fete and carol service being the main areas of getting involved. We are getting well known for our charity raising events especially with our refreshments.
Speakers for our meetings include:
April Dick Skeet on Hereford and Gloucester Canals.
May David Hill a member of Hope Carriers Trust supporting poor countries.
June Our outing to The Royal Blind College in Hereford.
July Patrick Sheehy showing us how to revive tired furniture
September Denise Mullis on Hearts and Minds. It was incorporating the WI's resolution on Mental Health
October Craft evening with making poppies for the display to commemorate the 1 st World War.
November Annual Meeting with our WI Chairperson presenting our WI with a 95th Certificate and having a birthday party and celebration cake.
December Our Christmas Party
January A demonstration of Charcoal Art with members having the opportunity to try.
February Afternoon tea at Foyles.

We have generous and enthusiastic members who give their time to make our organization such a success. We welcome anyone who would like to attend our meetings so please come along and listen to our speakers if it something you are interested in.

Appendix 4 – The Village Hall Report

The hall continues to thrive, thanks to the hard working committee and support of local residents. It is regularly used by various clubs and groups as well as the local school and frequently booked for private functions. The committee have recently increased the hall hire charge, the first increase for around ten years, by £1 to £10 per hour.

The Committee and helpers got together to decorate the main hall during the school holidays and new curtains were purchased and hung. Thanks must go to Tim Ray for recently taking on the job of painting the reception area, bar area and toilets.

We had another successful Annual Village Fete and made a profit of around £1100 – our next fete will be held on Sunday 30th June 2019.

Our Sunday Lunches continue to be extremely popular and we regularly cater for around 60 diners.

Flicks in the Sticks continue to run on the third Thursday in the month and numbers attending vary from month to month.

Other successful fund raisers have been a hall quiz and ploughman's supper evening. A Christmas bingo evening, which was arranged between the hall and the school, also took place All profits from this event were shared between the hall and the PTFA.

A recent risk assessment flagged up some electrical work that required updating and this has now been carried out.

The committee are currently working hard to secure a grant to replace the very old heating boiler, hot water tank and radiators.

