**MINUTES OF THE AGM FOR 2015 HELD AT 8PM ON THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2015 AT ABOYNE LODGE NURSERY SCHOOL.**

1. **Welcome by the Chairperson.**

MC thanked everyone for coming, introduced the 3 Ward Councillors, our County Councillor and Catherine Ross from Transition St Albans. Also thanked Bar Meze for providing the refreshments.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Rita Waldron, Fiona Couper, Janet Ouston, Jan Cropper, Barry and Jane Knight.

1. **Minutes of the AGM held on 27th March 2014.**

Read through for accuracy. No matters arising. Minutes agreed.

1. **Chairperson’s Report.**

MC discussed the purpose of a Residents Association as an active and alert conduit for information about the local area and speaking up if needed. By coming together we can create a ‘Better sense of Neighbourhood’. RA’s can play an active part in representing the area on local committees. City centre living always will require a degree of compromise. As an RA this year we have challenged several issues including the heavy goods vehicles using Britton Avenue, the Parking Survey and the Brick Yard development. We have also been working with the St Claire’s Action group who have taken a lead on challenging the change of use of the property on Church Crescent from an old people’s residence into a homeless people’s hostel. The issue surrounding this is changing and we will continue to monitor and make representation where necessary.

SADC – has belatedly produced a Strategic Plan for the city. This is long overdue and has made St Albans vulnerable to property developers. As a RA we are keeping a close eye on any content, proposals and responses. We will challenge where necessary and remain mainly concerned with a proposal to move Aboyne Lodge School to make way for more retail space. We do not believe this is viable and all at the meeting agreed.

Councillors White, Grover, Davis and Campbell all had a few minutes to speak to the meeting and contribute. It was very beneficial to have them all present and all supported the view that removing any mention of Aboyne School from the Strategic Plan is vital.

We have a new Website under development so that we can serve our neighbourhood better.

**5) Treasurer’s Report – Cynthia Ireson.**

Copies of the Accounts had been distributed. Subscriptions collected amounted to £433. This was representing 141 households out of a possible 350, thus 40% of residents. We have collected as many email addresses as possible and have been sending out regular email newsletters. The financial surplus that has been accumulated will be used to pay for the new website and new logo. It is also important to have a fund just in case a fighting fund is required for any reason.

**6) Guest Speaker – Catherine Ross from Transition St Albans.**

Catherine gave a very informative and interesting talk on the Transition Streets project and how they are working with other group in St Albans.

**7) Election of Officers.**

 MC thanked Andrew Dawes who stepped down as Vice Chair and Sue Noon, who was the secretary, but has now stopped this role but will stay on the committee.

The following were appointed:

 **Vice Chair:** Brian Benson, Proposer – MC, Seconded – CI.

 **Secretary:** Julia Duschenes, Proposer – MC, Seconded FC.

**Reappointed – Treasurer -** Cynthia Ireson, Proposer – MC, Seconded FC.

**Reappointed Committee members** – Fiona Couper and Sue Noon.

**New Committee member** – Christine McLauchlan, Proposer – MC, Seconded FC.

Barry Cropper – From the Friends of Victoria Playing Fields was nominated as a co-opted member of the committee.

Nigel Gale – Stepped down as auditor. Andrew Dawes was appointed as Auditor.

**8) AOB**

Sandy Walkington – needs as many people as possible to sign the petition against the Rail Freight proposal, details were given.

MC thanked everyone for coming and thanked the councillors for attending.

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm with refreshments available.