Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2014 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present: Councillor F. Eyre (Chair)
Councillor A.S. Forrester
Councillor P Ballard
Councillor S Hollins
Councillor E Bailey
Councillor J Shepherd
Councillor E Brindley
Councillor A Moult

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor I Cope, Councillor M. Worthington (County Council)

In Attendance: 8 members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Councillor F. Eyre the Chair.

106/14 Declarations of Interest.
Members were invited to declare any interests they may have in any matter identified for discussion at the Meeting. Nothing was declared.

107/14. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th October 2014.
Cllr Brindley stated that on page 3 of the minutes regarding maintenance of the village hall play area and CCTV what he intended to be recorded was that did the village hall committee bill the Parish Council for maintenance of the CCTV and the cost of insuring the play area. The answer from the Clerk was that this was not done. The minutes of the last meeting were then declared a true record proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Ballard and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

Action: Cllr Hollins to ask the village hall committee to invoice the Parish Council for the cost of insuring the play area.

108/14. Matters arising.
Cllr Eyre noted that the new bus shelter is now in place and thanked the Clerk for arranging the replacement.

109/14. Parish Assembly
At the request of Cllr Ballard the Chair allowed an additional item on the agenda regarding the Parish Assembly.

Cllr Ballard stated a questionnaire had been sent to the Chair, herself and the Clerk about the Parish Assembly and part of this was regarding the reducing numbers attending. She stated she believed the reason was because people were not listened to and gave planning decisions as a prime example. The Chair requested Cllr Forresters opinion, who stated that whilst he was in broad agreement with what Cllr Ballard had said, the planning committee had to adhere to local and national guidelines. Cllr Forrester explained the difference between the areas the Council had identified for building and individual applications which are infill; whereas the other areas are long term development. Following a discussion Cllr Eyre and Cllr Ballard will submit the questionnaires sent for the Council.

110/14. Dog Control Orders Signage update.
The Clerk stated he had received a quote for six A3 signs £87 plus vat. Following a discussion he was asked to order 8 signs at A4 size. Four signs for no dogs in the play area and four signs for the cemeteries, again no dogs in the cemeteries. The Lengthsman was asked to erect the signs when they arrive. **Clerk to order the signs.**

111/14. Alton Towers.
Regarding the forth coming meeting on the 19th November to discuss traffic issues in the village with SCC and Alton Towers, Cllrs Eyre, Brindley and Worthington had still not received formal invites from Lesley Whittle. The Clerk stated that the meeting was arranged and that he would speak to Leslie Whittle regarding the invites.
Action: Clerk to arrange formal invites as above.

112/14 Footpaths.
The Lengthsman stated the rail on the doctors steps reported missing at the last meeting by Cllr Cope was not missing. Cllr Cope has been updated.

113/14 Village Hall.
The Chair stated the play area should be repaired in the near future; he has spoken to Alan Dingley from the village hall.

114/14. Lengthsman.
Cllr Forrester thanked the people who turned up for the recent litter pick. The Chair asked the Clerk if he would be prepared to compile an email distribution list for all those prepared to attend litter picks so that timely reminders can be sent out. The Clerk agreed to this and asked that the necessary emails for given to him along with dates. The Lengthsman reported he had cleared a lot of leaves including around the War Memorial. The Lengthsman was also asked by the Chair following a short discussion to raise the flags for Remembrance Day at the Memorial. **Action for Lengthsman.**

115/14. Highways and Road Safety.
Cllr Brindley reported that water is still running from Rock Villa to Spring Corner. Cllr Deaville has spoken to Mr Rob Steele regarding this problem.
Cllr Brindley has also spoken to Mr Steve Massey from SMDC regarding the hedges in Hurstons Lane and there is no objection to cutting the hedge back if a footpath was approved. Cllr Brindley will speak again

to Steve Massey about the whole hedge in Hurstons Lane before the meeting to discuss road safety and traffic on the 19th November. **Action**: **Cllr Brindley to action.**

116/14. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.
Cllr Forrester had nothing to report.

117/14The Lord Shrewsbury – Offer of a talk on the duties of a Government Whip.
A discussion took place regarding Lord Shrewsbury's kind offer of a talk. The Chair suggested it should be incorporated into a Parish Council meeting and Cllr Moult suggested the annual Parish meeting in May. This was agreed by all. 7pm at the May meeting in 2015.
Clerk to Action.

118/14. Millennium Stone Enhancement.
A discussion took place regarding the upgrading of the stone. The Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Andrea Stafford to ask for a meeting and advice on the best way to enhance the stone.
Clerk to Action.

119/14. Parish Council Poppy Wreath.
The Poppy Wreath was handed to the Chair and the Council agreed to donate £50 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

120/14. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2014/0640. Holiday Cabin, The Dale, Battlesteads Ms M. Mason. No objections.
ii. SMD/2014/0046. Peakestones Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house. Mr Paul Holden. Object on the same grounds as the previous application last month; inappropriate development in a rural location.

121/14. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2014/0467. Land adj Sycamores, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Full permission for development. The Chair read out the reasons given. Cllrs expressed a concern that plot two on the same sight would now be given permission to develop. The Parish Council has already forwarded its objections.
ii. SMD/2014/0196. Rose Cottage, Gallows Green, Alton. Full permission for development. The Chair read out the reasons given.
iii. SMD/2014/0038. Peakestones Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of agricultural building to dwelling house. Refused.

122/14. Councillor Eyre declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:
A member of the public raised concerns that a proposed development in nearby Whiston of 250 holiday lodges would cause traffic problems in Alton. Another member of the public thought it could be detrimental to local businesses. The Chair explained that the Council could not object to developments

in other areas, but asked the Clerk to write to the Highways department to see if any traffic survey had been completed. **Clerk to Action.**

123/14. Correspondence .

Requiring response – none.

104/14. Correspondence for Information.

i. Letter re overgrown trees rear of War Memorial, Alton.
ii. Email: Objection to development Rose Cottage, Gallows Green, Alton. SMD/2014/0196.
iii. Email: Objection to development at Peakstones Farm. DET/2014/0038.
iv. Email: No objection to varied licensing hours, Londis, Alton.
v. Email: Community Council re Enhancing Millennium Stone in Alton with Best Kept Village prize money.
vi. SPCA Bulletin.
vii. SPCA-May 2015 elections.
viii. Alton Towers Resort and SCC meeting with the PC on Wed 19.11.14 (Replies sent)
ix. Mannequin figures for village Nativity. (Now paid for).

All were mentioned by the Chair.

105/14. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.10
ii. Lengthsmans wages and expenses. Wages £135. Expenses £13.45. Total £148.45
iii. Jackson's Nurseries (UK) Ltd. Net £664.86, VAT £132.97. Total 797.83
iv. HM revenue and Customs £154.40 (owed re back pay of outgoing Clerk).

Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded the finances were accepted. This was agreed by all.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor F. Eyre at 8.20pm.

Signed..... Chairman 1st December 2014

Signed..... Clerk