Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2014 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present: Councillor F. Eyre (Chair)
Councillor A.S. Forrester
Councillor P Ballard
Councillor S Hollins
Councillor I Cope
Councillor E Bailey
Councillor J Shepherd
Councillor E Brindley
Councillor M. Worthington (County Council)

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor A Moult

In Attendance: 7 members of the public.

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

85/14 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.

86/14. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st September 2014.
The minutes of the last meeting were 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.

87/14. Matters arising.
Cllr Eyre asked if 'OWL' was up and running and the Clerk confirmed that it is.

88/14. Code of Conduct for Councillors.
All Councillors have read and agreed the new code of conduct. All present signed the code.
Action: Clerk to bring a copy for Cllr Moult to sign at the next meeting.

89/14. History of Alton documents.
Cllr Brindley will make 8 copies of the history of Alton document he brought to the last meeting. One for each Councillor.
Cllr Shepherd has spoken to SCC regarding archiving of history of Alton documents, this can be done. A local archive group needs to be formed with a member of the Parish Council to oversee, Cllr Shepherd

will represent the Council if asked. Documents would be copied and originals marked so that when someone dies for example, the executors of the estate would know. A database would be created. Cllr Shepherd suggested that events could be held to record documents. Cllr Eyre proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded that Cllr Shepherd should lead for the Council on this matter, this was agreed by all.

90/14. Dog Control Orders.
Cllr Eyre read out the authority for dog controls orders in the village. These will apply to Alton Village Hall Playing Field, Hurstons Lane and St. John's Church yard/burial ground. This was agreed as correct.
Action: Clerk to arrange signage.

91/14. Update from Cllr Eyre regarding the meeting he attended about the Amey Partnership with the County Council.
Cllr Eyre gave an update to the meeting which included the 10 year contract with SCC for maintenance. Reporting of problems with highways remains the same, categorised 1,2 or 3. By year end reps from Parish Councils will be able to check progress on-line. Cllr Worthington stated the system went 'live' on 1st October with before and after work pictures, also the person reporting should get an update. A general discussion took place with Cllr Eyre stating a further meeting will be held next year.

92/14. Alton Towers.
A letter was read by Cllr Eyre regarding the Alton Towers Resort Transport Liaison Group meeting. A discussion took place regarding coaches travelling through the village to Alton Towers and the dangers presented. Cllr Eyre stated that the Clerk had suggested to him that a yellow hatched area (a box junction) could be considered on Lime Kiln Lane to prevent coaches stopping on the bend at the bottom and causing other coaches to mount the pavement in order to pass. If a camera was also sited there people entering the box when their exit was not clear could be prosecuted. A discussion took place with Cllr Forrester suggesting that the wall at that point could be moved back to widen the road. It was agreed that there are a number of area's where there are traffic problems, but that all possibilities should be put forward for discussion with Alton Towers. This meeting to be arranged, probably before the next Parish Council meeting. All agreed that Cllr's Eyre, Brindley and Hollins attend to put forward the Councils views.

93/14. Footpaths.
Cllr Cope reported that a rail is missing from the doctors' steps (footpath 42).
Action: Lengthsman to try to repair.

94/14. Village Hall.
Cllr Hollins stated a grant had been applied for to update the CCTV at the village hall.

Cllr Eyre reported that the fire damage to the slide at the playground would cost in total £240 + VAT to repair and suggested the Parish Council pay for the repairs. Cllr Worthington said he was willing to pay for this via his Community Fund, this was agreed. Cllr Eyre also reported that the Carousel at the playground also needed repairs costing £456. Cllr Worthington also offered to pay for that out of the

Community Fund. This was also agreed. The village hall to put a claim into Cllr Worthington direct. The work can start immediately**. Action: Cllr Worthington to arrange after receiving the claim.**

Cllr Eyre suggested that in order to maintain the playground equipment, possibly the Lengthsman could help. Cllr Brindley asked if any insurance held by the Parish Council could help with the playground or CCTV in the future. The Clerk said he did not think there was any insurance for that but he would check.
Action: Clerk to check insurance.

95/14. Lengthsman.
A general discussion regarding the clearing of leaves at this time of year took place. Cllr Forrester reported that the road sweeper does visit Alton.
Cllr Eyre stated that the Council could get money for taking on extra work such as verge and grass cutting in the built up area, taking over from the County. Following a discussion it was decided to leave the current system in place.

96/14. Highways and Road Safety.
Cllr Eyre reported that the Clerk had identified that SCC own the bus shelter in Uttoxeter Road and that due to its dilapidated state it will be replaced within 4-6 weeks.
Cllr Brindley stated there was nothing further for this agenda item.

97/14. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.
Cllr Forrester reported that generally everything was alright.
Cllr Shepherd stated people were complaining about the size of trees behind the War Memorial. Agreed this is a Church responsibility.
Action: Clerk to write to the Church Council.

98/14. Replacement Mannequin Figures for the Christmas Nativity-Churches Together.
Mr Ken Mainey has paid for the new figures himself and asks if the Council can help to reimburse him. It was agreed that Cllr Forrester see John Moorhouse about making payment. If there is a shortfall the Parish Council will pay the difference.
Action: Cllr Forrester to see John Moorhouse.
Action: Clerk to update Mr Mainey.

99/14. Lord Shrewsbury-Offer of talk on the duties of a Government Whip in the House of Lords.
A discussion took place regarding the above proposed talk. Some members feeling people may not be interested, whilst others felt the talk should go ahead. It was thought the Parish Council could pay for refreshments and the WI asked to help to provide them. The meeting was adjourned to allow the public to speak. A member of the WI said they would help with refreshments and she will mention at their next meeting.
Action: Agenda item for the next meeting.

100/14._Staffordshire Parish Councils Association AGM.
This item was mentioned; the Councillors had no motion to put forward for the AGM.

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101/14. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- **i.** Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Use class C3), and associated operational development-Mr & Mrs Paul Holden, Peakstones Farm, Cheadle road, Alton. The Council objected to this application as inappropriate development in a rural location. **Action: Clerk to update Planning.**
- **ii.** Rose Cottage, Gallows Green, Alton (revised plans). Mr. R. Rowland. The Council objected to this application on the same grounds as a previous one at the same dwelling. Inappropriate development. **Action: Clerk to update Planning with the same objections as the last application.**
- **iii.** Londis, Smithy Bank-Variation to off-licence. No objections from the Council. **Action: Clerk to update Planning.**

102/14. Planning decisions.

- i. Full permission for development. Erection of replacement dwelling, conversion of outbuilding to single dwelling and erection of detached garage-Ashlea Farm, Bradley Lane, Threapwood, Alton. ST10 4DQ.
- ii. Full permission for development. Conservatory at rear of property, existing windows replaced with bi-fold doors. 1, The Hurstones, Hurstons Lane, Alton ST10 4AP.

Action: Clerk to ask Planning to update the Parish Council with reasons when planning decisions are made against the recommendation of the Council.

103/14. Councillor Eyre declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

A member of the public asked if the work carried out on the B5030 had any benefits for Alton. It was felt there were none. A general discussion took place regarding the issues already raised at 92/14.

103/14. Correspondence.

Requiring response-Letter from the Community Council of Staffordshire regarding the Best Kept Village prize money.

- i. The letter asked for an update on how the £200 prize money will be spent. A member of the public was allowed to speak and suggested the Millennium Stone outside the village hall could be enhanced. This was agreed by all.

Action: Clerk to write and update the Community Council.
Action: Agenda item next month.

104/14. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email sent regarding objections to planning applications for building two dwellings on land adj Sycamores, Hurstons Lane.
- ii. Email sent re Footpath 13 and part of Footpath 16.
- iii. Staffordshire Playing Fields Association.
- iv. Flood Risk Management letter.
- v. Parish Assembly update 11th September 2014.

vi. Cheadle Citizens Advice Bureau Open day 22.10.14
vii. Letter from community Council of Staffordshire re Best Kept Village.
viii. Rural engagement plan letter.
ix. SCC-Youth and Community Services letter.

105/14. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.30. Expenses £32.22 (Postage, printer paper, printing ink).
ii. Lengthsmans wages and expenses. Wages £170.00 Expenses £14.65
iii. New Clerk/Councillor training £20.00
iv. Jackson's Nurseries (UK) Ltd. Net £664.86, VAT £132.97. Total 797.83
v. HM revenue and Customs £270.00

Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Hollins 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 9pm.

Signed..... Chairman 3rd November 2014

Signed..... Clerk