Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3rd August 2015 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair)
Councillor P Ballard
Councillor S Hollins
Councillor E Bailey
Councillor T. Wilkinson
Councillor E. Brindley
Councillor A. Forrester
Councillor P. Wilkinson

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor M. Worthington (SCC), Councillor S. Allen.

In Attendance: 2 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd the Chair at 7pm.

129/15 Declarations of Interest.
Members were invited to declare any interests they may have in any matter identified for discussion at the Meeting. Cllr Forrester declared an interest in the planning application for Red Lion Cottage as he formerly owned the property and his son had drawn up plans for the dwelling. He would therefore not take part in that item of business. There were no other declarations.

130/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th July 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting after a minor amendment were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Bailey and seconded by Cllr Forrester and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

131/15. Matters arising.

i. There is no issue with item 117/15, Cllr Shepherd reported the person will fill the potholes himself. All other actions had been completed.

132/15. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that Alton Towers needed to be notified that he is the Parish Council rep for them. He will contact Alton Towers himself.
ii. Cllr P.Wilkinson then raised the issue of a neighbourhood plan giving some detail of the purpose of such a plan. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk to put on the next agenda.**

133/15. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey reported that the Toothill footpath on the Staffordshire Way has been strimmed and Turnditch Farm now has two new styles on the footpath.
ii. Cllr Shepherd reported the footpath at the Nook needs clearing from Cheadle Road to the well. **Action: Lengthsman to attend.**
iii. Cllr Ballard reported that there is a loose style on footpath 43 in the village. **Action: Clerk to contact SCC footpaths to arrange repair.**

134/15. Village Hall.

i. Cllr P.Wilkinson reported he had been in touch with Kathy Russell from the Community Council of Staffordshire regarding deeds and the custodian issues for the village hall. Details were given to the Clerk to follow up. **Action: Clerk to report to the next meeting.**
ii. Cllr P. Wilkinson reported that grants for the village hall are available. The Village Hall Committee need to establish from the community what they would like to do. Cllr P.Wilkinson gave further details regarding the village hall and will report further at the next meeting.

135/15. Lengthsman.

i. Nothing to report for this meeting just routine work has been completed.

136/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported the speed indicator sign is now back in Uttoxeter Road and a speed check has been seen to be carried out in Uttoxeter Road by the authorities. **Action: Clerk to check with the camera safety team as to any results.**
ii. Cllr Brindley reported that David Greatbatch is now the Councils contact at SCC for highway issues. He is based at Leek.
iii. Cllr Brindley further reported that the SCC Highways gang will be attending Alton from the 17th to 21st August and will be clearing the village hall car-park and play area and other parts of the village of vegetation.
iv. Cllr Bailey reported that there are two large potholes at the junction of Battlesteads and Cheadle Road. Cllr Brindley said he would report the problem. **Action: Cllr Brindley to arrange repair.**

137/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. All in order, nothing to report from Cllr Forrester.

138/15. Superfast Broadband.

i. Cllr Shepherd has had a meeting with BT and following a discussion with various residents regarding the location of the superfast BT box, a location has been selected and subject to further checks by BT the location selected is on the pavement by a telegraph pole outside the Royal Oak Public House.

139/15. Clerks pay.

i. The Clerk explained that a pay award had been made to Parish Clerks in January and that subject to the wishes of the Council an increment had become due in June. The rise would be around £22.60 per month before tax. Cllr Ballard proposed the rise seconded by Cllr

Forrester and carried. **Action: Clerk to contact the Councils accountant to confirm independently the increase.**

140/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2015/0449 and SMD/2015/0444. Red Lion cottage, Smithy Bank, Alton. **No objections and fully supported.**
ii. SMD/2015/0473. Alton Towers, Farley Lane, Farley. **No objections.**
iii. SMD/2015/0453. Mrs J. Carney, Bradley Elms Farm, Alton Road, Threapwood. This is a similar application to one previously submitted (SMD/2015/0071). **The council objects on the same grounds as before, that this is overdevelopment of a rural area outside the main village of Alton.**

141/15. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2015/0265. Full permission for development. 6, Town Head, Alton. Demolition of existing single storey rear brick timber conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.

142/15. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public asked why signs were put out giving a warning that speed checks were being carried out. The Clerk explained this was police policy, similar to the permanent signs showing a speed camera.
ii. A member of the public stated that the new speed indicator sign is partially obstructed by trees. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to speak to the owner.**

143/15. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Questionnaire re housing site options. After discussion it was decided not to respond as the Council has already made its views clear twice to SMDC.

144/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Copy of letter sent to SMD planning by John and Judith Hayhurst.
ii. SCC letter re Rights of Way.
iii. SPCA bulletin 16.7.15.
iv. Circular re 'Good Councillors Guide'.
v. Seminar in Market Harborough 19.8.15.
vi. Email to SCC reporting damaged lamppost Lime Kiln Lane/Dimble Lane.
vii. Email to planning reinforcing the Councils position re Housing Site Options.
viii. Email requesting replacement handrail footpath 35.
ix. Email to SCC re gritting priorities.
x. Email re Best Kept Village invite to results on 3.8.15.
xi. Email to Highways requesting hedge cutting Dimble Lane.
xii. Email to the Enforcement Officer re dog fouling Saltersford Lane, Alton.
xiii. Email to SMDC Planning re last meetings planning applications.

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xiv. Emails re parking from PCSO Nettleton.
xv. Newsletter-Staffordshire Archives and Heritage
xvi. Staffordshire Police SPACE.
xvii. BKV email regarding results.

All were read out by the Chair and Clerk. The Clerk was asked to inform the Parish Assembly that Cllr Ballard is still the Alton rep. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

145/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.30. Expenses, postage £6.48. Total £366.78.
ii. Lengthsmans wages and expenses**.**
iii. Richard Newton (internal auditor) invoice. £165.00.
iv. SMDC. Parish non-contested election charge £50.00.
v. Grant Thorton. Net £100.00. VAT £20.00. Gross £120.00.
vi. Jacksons Nurseries. Net £684.80. VAT £136.96. Gross £821.76.
vii. Income: £100.00 Keates Funeral Directors.
viii. Authorised payments for May 2015 to be signed off by the Council.
ix. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

The finances were proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Forrester and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.10pm.

Signed..... Chairman 7th September 2015

Signed..... Clerk