Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th April 2015 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

In Attendance: 21 members of the public.

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

52/15 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.

53/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Moult and seconded by Cllr Brindley and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

54/15. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd is awaiting an answer regarding the cost of the railings in New Road. The last railing on Church Bank at the side of the Lord Shrewsbury (footpath 32) a new railing is required. **Action: Clerk to contact SCC to have the post replaced.**

55/15. Alton Towers.
There was nothing for this item of business.

56/15. Footpaths.

i. The signs regarding no cycling or horses have been obtained by the Clerk and installed by the Lengthsman on the footpath between the The Lord Shrewsbury and The White Hart.

ii. Cllr Eyre stated that a local man, Mr Clive Wint from Turnditch Farm, Alton has informed him of a stile that in the field at the east end of footpath 15, that people cannot easily climb over and he suggests it is replaced with a Kissing Gate. **Action: Clerk to inform SCC and request they contact Mr Wint who will show them the stile.**

57/15. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Hollins reported the village hall CCTV has still not been upgraded, she will keep the Council updated on progress.

ii. The Clerk reported that invoices for the hire of the village hall have now been received and the cost is shown under finance at the end of the meeting.

58/15. Lengthsman.

i. There was nothing for this item of business.

59/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. The Chair updated the meeting that the blocked grid in Denstone Lane had been unblocked.

ii. The Chair stated the Clerk had contacted SCC regarding blocked grids around the village, as identified by the Lengthsman, some had been cleared but others were still blocked. **Action: Clerk to re-contact SCC and ask them to meet with the Lengthsman to unblock the remaining grids.**

iii. There is no update on the proposed footpath in Hurstons Lane until after 19th May, when there is a meeting with Alton Towers and Cllr Worthington.

iv. Cllr Brindley gave an update regarding the newly installed bollards in Lime Kiln Lane stating there had been some comments regarding the position of the bollards, but that the bollards were legally placed. There followed a discussion during which the Lengthsman was asked by the Chair see if the bank behind the bollards could be cut back to make more room and stop debris rolling onto the footpath. **Action: Lengthsman to assess and report back to the Council.**

v. Cllr Brindley reported that the Highways community gang were due to visit Alton and he suggested the following work should be tasked to them: Weeding at the village hall, High Street, Castle hill, Lime Kiln Lane, the doctors steps and post office alley. This was all agreed by the Council. **Action: Cllr Brindley to arrange.**

vi. Cllr Shepherd said Alton community Enterprise (ACE) were happy to take over the Best Kept Village and to do a spring clean in the village towards the end of May. He agreed to clear the top of New Road. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**

vii. The new bus timetable and reduction of service for the village was outlined by Cllr Shepherd, both he and the Clerk had spoken to the bus company (First), but as the service is a private enterprise nothing can be done if they wish to change the service. Midland Traffic will be putting on a service from 25th May to 16th October which will see a bus in Alton at 10.40am. Also Ashbourne Community transport may put on a service, this is still in the balance with a 50/50 chance of the service starting. A letter was read out by the Chair from a member of the public which had been sent to the local paper protesting at the reduction in service. The Chair also read a letter from First explaining the reasons why the service had been reduced.

Cllr Brindley suggested writing to Cllr Worthington (SCC), Alton Towers and after the election the new MP to see if anyone would subsidise the service. Agreed by all. Cllr Forrester will take the issue to Farley Parish Council on Tuesday 14th April. **Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Worthington, Alton Towers and the next MP as outlined.**

60/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. As discussed at the last meeting the Clerk has renewed the contract with Jackson's Nursery for ground maintenance. There is approximately an increase of £10 per visit over last years charges.

61/15. Best Kept Village Competition 2015.

i. The Chair gave an update on this years competition and flyers and other documentation were handed to Cllr Shepherd as the Councillor leading this project.

ii. Cllr Forrester stated not many people had turned up for the recent litter pick on 4th April. The Clerk has created a litter pick email distribution list but more names are needed. The next picks are on 27th June and 24th October. **Action: Clerk to put the dates on the Parish website. Cllr Shepherd to supply the Clerk with email addresses of willing participants.**

62/15. Lord Shrewsbury planned visit and talk on the duties of a government Whip.

i. The Chair gave a resume of the planned visit by Lord Shrewsbury who has been invited to give his talk on the evening of the annual Parish meeting. He said he had spoken to Mrs Goodwin, secretary to the Alton W.I. to arrange tea and biscuits. It was decided that the annual Parish meeting will start at 7pm and finish at 7.30pm, after which Lord Shrewsbury will be invited to give his talk. **Action: Clerk to confirm with Lord Shrewsbury and publicise the meeting and talk in the press, the Parish notice board and Parish website.**

ii. The regular Parish Council meeting will be the following week on the 18th May.

63/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2014/0824. Mr & Mrs Moss, Capri, Gallows Green, Alton. Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for residential development Denstone Lane. 13 dwellings. This site is one previously agreed by the Council as one which is suitable for the housing the Parish has to build under the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Whilst the Council had no objection in principle, the Councillors felt that there should be no building right on the roadside and would prefer the four town houses which are in this position on the plans to be moved to the plot to the left of the house called Capri on the plans replacing the proposed large house on that plot. This would reduce the number of houses to 12. The Council would also prefer more of the houses to be low cost housing. Lighting the Council believe should be of the type which gives low light pollution.

ii. SMD/2015/0151. Vital construction Ltd, Ivy Cottage, Tythe Barn, Alton. Demolition of Ivy Cottage, erection of 13 dwellings and construction of new road access. This site is also one previously agreed by the Council under SHLAA and again no objection in principle. However the Council felt that again there was not sufficient low cost housing within the development and would have liked to see at least four 2 bedroom houses. The Council felt that the retention of

the stone wall to the west of the driveway should be mirrored on the east side reflecting the heritage aspect. Coping stones on eaves should reflect local vernacular. One pavement, as now, is believed sufficient on the proposed road. Lighting the Council believe should be of the type which gives low light pollution.

iii. SMD/2015/0071. Mrs Carney, Bradley Elms Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Demolition of 2 outbuildings, change of use of redundant B&B accommodation and garage to 4 dwellings and the erection of 2 garages. This was considered by the Council as overdevelopment in an area outside the main village development area and it should be retained as a bed and breakfast facility.

iv. SMD/2015/0094. Mrs Sandra Satchell, The Lord Shrewsbury, New Road, Alton. One permanent hoarding signage describing on site facilities offered by Birmingham Catholic Youth Services. The Council considered this sign as far too large and totally inappropriate in a conservation area.

v. SMD/2015/0014. Mr and Mrs Telwright, 10, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Single storey rear extension. The Council had no objections to this development.

64/15. Planning decisions.

The Chair read out the following decisions:

i. SMD/2014/0719. Refusal of planning permission. Summerhill, 1, Gallows Green, Alton. Erection of a dwelling.

ii. SMD/2014/0800. Full permission for development. Rakesdale House, Red Road, Alton. Construction of a triple garage.

iii. SMD/2015/0009. Refusal of planning permission. Weavers View, Gallows Green, Alton. Proposed single storey rear extension.

65/15. Councillor Eyre declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. Questions were asked from members of the public regarding the two planning applications each for 13 houses, this resulted in the Chair outlining the role of the Parish Council as a body which is consulted but does not make decisions about planning and stating the Council considers each application on its merits, but the decision is made at district level. The Council only has the same powers as the public to object or otherwise to applications. Members of the public were advised to also make their views known to the District Council on planning issues.

ii. Members of the public also made comments on the reduction in bus service for the village. All these issues had already been covered earlier in the meeting.

66/15. Correspondence requiring response .

The Chair read out the following:

i. Community Council of Staffordshire-Membership. The Council do not wish to have this membership. No response required.

ii. Email received from a member of the public regarding bollards in Lime Kiln Lane and dog fouling. Response sent. **No further action necessary at this time, both issues are being monitored.**

iii. Letter from Alton WI with regard to the Pump/Well at the bottom of Dimble Lane and an offer to clear the area. Agreed this was a good idea. **Action: Clerk to write and thank the W.I.**

67/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Request for extension to consider planning applications listed above.
ii. Adoption statement-Statement of Community Involvement letter.
iii. Cheadle transport study.
iv. Briefing note-Fly-tipping working group.
v. Community Council of Staffordshire-Village SOS campaign.
vi. Email to SMDC regarding dog fouling.
vii. Emails re Saltersford Lane muddy area.
viii. Letter re gate left open Saltersford Lane.
ix. SPCA literature.
x. Email from Mr. Willard re SMD/2014/0824 planning application (agent for the application).
xi. Transparency code for Parish Councils.

All were mentioned by the Chair.

68/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.30, postage £6.36. Total £366.66.
ii. Lengthsmans wages £70.00**.**
iii. HMRC £270.20
iv. Hire of village hall. Parish Council War Day July 2014 £200.00 Hire of village hall March 2015 £20.00. Hire of village hall April 2015 to March 2016 £240.00. **Total £460.00.**
v. SPCA annual subscription. £354.00
vi. SMDC waste collection Parish cemetery. £150.69
vii. **Received:** £200.00 Lengthsman scheme.

The finances were proposed by Cllr Moult and seconded by Cllr Hollins and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor F. Eyre at 9.15pm.

Signed..... Chairman 18th May 2015

Signed..... Clerk