Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 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 M. Worthington (SCC)

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor A. Forrester

In Attendance: Three members of the public. One press reporter.

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

35/15 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.

36/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Ballard and seconded by Cllr Hollins and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

37/15. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd raised the question of the design of the handrail discussed at the last meeting in New Road wanting it to be in keeping with a conservation area. After a discussion it was agreed Cllr Shepherd can get a quote and design for the rail to be discussed at the next meeting.
ii. Cllr Shepherd also mentioned the bollards to be placed in Lime Kiln Lane. The Chair informed him that they were approved at the last meeting.

38/15. Alton Towers.
There was nothing for this item of business.

39/15. Footpaths.

i. The Chair read out a letter from SCC regarding Community Paths Initiative-Bids for 2015/16 with a closing date of 30th May 2015.
ii. Cllr Shepherd wondered if this initiative would cover a missing handrail on the Staffordshire Way (footpath 32) near to the Wild Duck Public House, Church Bank . After a brief discussion it was decided not to pursue this but that Cllr Shepherd get prices for the handrail. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
iii. A discussion took place regarding horses and bicycles using the footpath from The Lord Shrewsbury to the White Hart Public House. After a discussion it was decided to order signs to notify people there should be no horse riding or bicycle riding on the footpath. **Action: Clerk to order three signs.**
iv. Cllr Cope wished the minutes to record that he does not wish any handrails to be altered and wished them to be left as they are.
v. Cllr Cope stated that a stretch of footpath south of Lords Bridge towards the Chained Oak, Barberry Gutter had a lot of debris on it that could be dangerous. **Action: Clerk to notify the Farley PC Clerk.**

40/15. Village Hall.

i. The village hall have now received money to upgrade the CCTV but Cllr Hollins could not give an update as to when the upgrade would take place.

41/15. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported he had handed the Clerk a map of the village showing where grids are blocked, the Clerk stated he would forward this to SCC Highways Dept. **Clerk to action.**
ii. Cllr Shepherd proposed a village spring clean using the Community Event Group. A discussion took place regarding the role of the Parish Council in such matters. The Chair proposed that a litter pick involving the Council and the Community Group, this was agreed. Cllr Brindley believed that Cllr Shepherd would be the best person to oversee the Best Kept Village events for Alton, Cllr Shepherd agreed and this was carried.

42/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. An email was read out from Dawn Plant (Rights of Way Enforcement and Maintenance Officer, SCC) regarding the wet and muddy state of Saltersford Lane, Mrs Plant stated the state of the lane was to be expected at this time of the year. Cllr Shepherd thought the cost would be thousands of pounds to clean the lane up. There followed a general discussion, Cllr Worthington said pressure could be put onto SCC if they own the lane as part of the Staffordshire Way. The Council decided they were not happy with the response. **Action: Clerk to write to Mrs Plant asking for a further review.**
ii. The same email from Mrs Plant drew attention to a complaint she and Cllr Bailey received whilst checking Saltersford Lane regarding a farm gate left open which blocks the footpath causing people to walk into a muddy area. The gate is from Wheel Farm, Wheel Lane, Alton. **Action: Clerk to write to the person believed responsible for the farm.**
iii. Cllr Worthington gave an update regarding the proposed footpath in Hurstons Lane. He has met with Mr Steve Massey to discuss the land and a wall Mr Massey would like building in return for

the land. The cost of the wall is likely to be 40k-60k. Cllr Worthington has a meeting of the Alton Towers Liaison Group on 19th May, when he is hopeful that approval will be given to build the wall. Cllr Brindley read out a letter from Mr Massey and he will keep in touch with him over the coming weeks.

iv. Cllr Brindley gave an update regarding the proposed bollards in Lime Kiln Lane. At present the proposed bollards will be made of plastic or rubber but look the same as the cast iron one's already in place but are cheaper. The Council has insisted on cast iron bollards, following a discussion Cllr Brindley will check if the cheaper bollards are in keeping with the area and report back. **Cllr Brindley to action.**

43/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Brindley and the Clerk have been in touch with Jackson's Nursery regarding the cost of grass cutting for the forthcoming season. If the cost is close to last year then the contract will stay will them, otherwise other quotes will be obtained. The Council awaits an update from Jackson's. **Action: Agenda item for next month.**

44/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. None for this meeting.

45/15. Best Kept Village Competition 2015.

i. The application form for the competition has been completed and the Lengthsman has ordered the posters for the competition.

46/15. Planning decisions.

The Chair read out the following decisions:

i. SMD/2014/0468 Land adjacent to Sycamores, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Refusal of outline planning permission for a dwelling.
ii. SMD/2014/0640 The Dale, Battlesteads, Alton. Refusal of planning permission for erection of holiday let cabin.
iii. SMD/2014/0383 12, Tythe Barn, Alton. Full permission for development of a single storey detached gararge.
iv. SMD/2014/0586 The Alders Dimble Lane, Alton. Listed building consent to replace 4 existing rear windows.
v. SMD/2014/0816. Ilett House, Smithy Bank, Alton. Change of use of part of the house from a funeral directors to residential use. Full Permission for Development.

47/15. Councillor Eyre declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

No issues of consequence were raised.

48/15. Correspondence requiring response .

i. Churnet Valley Federation of schools proposed from 1st September 2015. The council decided no response required.

ii. Localism Update Survey-**Clerk to submit the survey.**
iii. Nat West Bank letter re change of mandate-**This matter has now been addressed.**
iv. Email from SCC regarding a complaint made about a gate left open across a bridleway near Salters ford Lane. See minute 42/15/ii.

49/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to SMDC planning re applications from February 2015.
ii. Email to PCSO Cliffe regarding parked vehicles in Lime Kiln Lane, Alton.
iii. Letter to Mr Rowland, Rose Cottage, Gallows Green, Alton.
iv. BKV. Notification that Alton will be entering this year.
v. Email to SCC Highways reporting water and blocked grid in Denstone Lane, Alton.
vi. Emails regarding the erection of bollards in Lime Kiln Lane, Alton.
vii. Email to SCC Highways reporting two potholes in New Road, Alton.
viii. Staffs Parish Council Bulletin 13th February.
ix. Beat the cold letter and leaflet.
x. Email re SCC forecasting school places over next 15 years.
xi. Leaflets from Police and Crime Commissioner re People Power Fund.

All were mentioned by the Chair.

50/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.10.
ii. Lengthsmans wages and expenses £80.00
iii. BKV entry fee and posters. Entry fee £15. Posters £2.16**.**

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

51/15

i. Cllr Ballard then raised the question of having CCTV in the village, pointing out her view that it would make the village safer, other Councillors disagreed pointing out the village was already almost crime free. Cllr Ballard proposed CCTV should be in the village, there was no seconder and the motion was defeated by 7 votes to 1.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor F. Eyre at 8.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman 13th April 2015

Signed..... Clerk