Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8th June 2015 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

In Attendance: 4 members of the public.

95/15. The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd the Chair at 7pm.

96/15 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.

97/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th May 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting after minor amendments 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.

98/15. Matters arising.

i. At the last meeting no councillor volunteered for the position of liaison with the Village Hall committee. The Chair again asked if anyone wished to take on this role. After a discussion Cllr P. Wilkinson offered to take on this role, this was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Forrester and carried.
ii. People are still using the footpath to ride horses where signs have been placed prohibiting such use. Cllr Shepherd has been unable to see the people thought to be responsible, he will again try to see them and advise them not to use the footpath on horseback. If this fails a barrier will be considered. **Action. Cllr Shepherd to speak to the persons responsible.**
iii. The action from the last meeting regarding debris being blown into the road by workmen clearing grids (minute 88/15) will be carried forward to the next meeting. **Action. Cllr Brindley.**

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99/15. Alton Towers.

i. Alton Towers have donated plants for the village fete and the village in general. The Council are very pleased with this generous gift. **Action. Clerk to write to Alton Towers thanking them.**

100/15. Footpaths.

i. There was nothing new for this item. There is no need for any follow up action regarding a kissing gate on footpath 15 or the missing rail on footpath 32. These have both been previously brought to the attention of SCC.

101/15. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Hollins reported that there had not been a meeting of the Village Hall committee since the last Council meeting. Cllr Hollins read out a letter from the Chair of the Village Hall committee, Mrs L. Goodwin. The letter asked for a joint meeting with the Parish Council at 6pm on Monday 6th July immediately before the next Council meeting. There followed a discussion regarding the Councils responsibilities, the need for a meeting and various possible ways to encourage people onto the Village Hall committee and of raising money. The Council agreed to the meeting as requested. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to notify Mrs Goodwin. The Clerk to make inquiries with the Charity Commission who may have the details of the Councils responsibilities as trustees. Also if necessary with Dickson's Solicitors to see if they have further information.**

102/15. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported distribution of plants received in the village.
ii. Cllr Forrester highlighted a litter-pick in the village on Saturday 27th June 2015.

103/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Ballard mentioned cars parked in Gallows Green on the B5032 by the triangle causing reducing visibility for motorists. **Action: Clerk to notify the local PCSO.**
ii. Cllr Brindley gave a brief update on the proposed wall in Hurstons Lane. In principle Alton Towers and SCC support the idea, but the Council will need an update from Cllr Worthington at the next meeting.
iii. The Clerk gave an update regarding a complaint of vehicles allegedly speeding on the B5032 at Gallows Green. He reported he had been in touch with the Camera Safety Team and that the area was already subject to visits. In relation to the speed of vehicles from information supplied by the Camera Team Regulation Officer there is not an issue with speeding vehicles in that area. The Council felt that enforcement throughout the village including Uttoxeter Road which is not at present an enforcement area was the best way to deal with the issue. The Camera Safety Team have been asked to look at Uttoxeter Road by the Clerk and the complaint about Gallows Green has also been brought to their attention.

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104/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

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

105/15. Superfast Broadband.

i. Superfast Broadband is being offered to Alton. Paul Chatwin from SCC (Superfast Broadband Liaision) has been in touch with some councillors and the Clerk and there are only three sites that can be used in Alton, but all have been objected to by nearby residents. BT do not need permission to site a new green box but wish to consult and place a new box the new box where it is accepted. If a site cannot be agreed then Alton will not be able to have superfast broadband. Following a discussion it was agreed to have a site visit with Mr Chatwin. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

106/15. Delivery of Agenda's and Minutes to Councillors.

i. The Clerk asked if any members would prefer the agenda's and minutes delivered via email instead of post. Cllrs Hollins, Bailey, Brindley and Ballard wished to continue to receive theirs by post. Cllrs Shepherd, P. Wilkinson, Forrester and Allen requested email. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

107/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2015/0280. Merlin Attractions Operations Ltd, Alton Towers. Minor amendments to planning permission SMD/2014/0782. New buildings, pathways, junior course layout and installation of landing area. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2015/0265. Mr and Mrs j. Goodley, 6, Town Head, Alton. Demolition of existing single storey rear timber brick conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. **No objections.**

108/15. Planning decisions.

i. Nothing for this meeting.

109/15. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public stated the road markings on the B5032 in the village were fading and needed re-painting. **Action: Clerk to notify SCC Highways.**

110/15. Correspondence requiring response .

i. Email regarding alleged speeding vehicles Gallows Green. Response sent to sender Mr. N. John.

ii. Cllr Ballard asked if a letter of thanks and bottle of wine could be sent to former Councillors Fred Eyre, Tony Moult and Ivan Cope. This was seconded by Cllr Allen and carried. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

111/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Emails to Camera Safety Team regarding alleged speeding in Uttoxeter Road and Gallows Green, Alton.
ii. Email to SMDC regarding the Parish Councils recommendations about planning applications.
iii. Letter re Risk Management Seminars.
iv. Letter re planning meeting for SMD/2014/0824, Capri, Gallows Green.
v. Letter of thanks re cemetery-Mr and Mrs Appleby.

All were read out by the Clerk.

112/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.30, postage £6.36. Printer ink £9.50. Total £376.16
ii. Lengthsmans wages and expenses**.** Wages £210.00. Expenses (repairs to strimmer) £92.40. Total £302.40.
iii. Authorised payments for May 2015 were signed off by the Council.
iv. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8pm.

Signed..... Chairman 6th July 2015

Signed..... Clerk