Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2015 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor A Moult, Councillor J. Shepherd, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

In Attendance: Four members of the public.

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

18/15 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.

19/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th January 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Hollins and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

20/15. Matters arising.
There were no matters arising.

21/15. Alton Towers.
There was nothing for this item of business.

22/15. Footpaths.
The footpath in New Road had been checked by Cllrs Eyre and Brindley following an issue raised at the last meeting by Cllr Cope regarding the possible need for a handrail. It was agreed a handrail is required and the Lengthsman will be putting posts and a handrail in place. **Lengthsman to action.**

23/15. Dog Fouling update.
Cllr Forrester gave an update regarding the Dog Warden seeing an elderly lady allowing her dog to foul in Hurstons Lane. Both he and the Dog Warden may know who the lady is, but unfortunately the

warden's camera was not working. Cllr Forrester has asked the Warden to re-visit ensuring the camera works. Cllr Ballard gave a further update. SMDC may place stencils on the road asking people to clear up after their dogs, the Council were in favour of this.

24/15. Village Hall.
Cllr Hollins reported that the Village Hall are waiting to hear from 'People Power' regarding an upgrade to the CCTV.

25/15. Lengthsman.
The Lengthsman has cleared a tree in Denstone Lane and done general tidying up. He commented that water is running down Denstone Lane and passing over a blocked grid opposite side to Alverton. **Action: Clerk to contact SCC Highways and report the blocked grid.**

Cllr Forrester commented that a number of grids in the village were blocked. **Action: Lengthsman to check with the aid of a map and contact SCC with details of any grids that are blocked.**

26/15. Highways and Road Safety.
Cllr Eyre mentioned that Cllr Worthington has meet with Mr S. Massey the owner of the hedge in Hurstons Lane, where a footpath may be placed. **Cllr Worthington to update the next meeting.**

Cllr Ballard asked if there had been any update from Chris Mitchell regarding the bollards in Lime Kiln Lane as the new Alton Towers season is not far away. No update has been received. **Action: Clerk to contact Chris Mitchell and request an update.**

Cllr Ballard reported that there are two big potholes at the bottom of New Road at the junction with Station road by the Talbot Public house. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

27/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.
Cllr Forrester had nothing to report regarding this item of business. He stated that a letter was on its way to the Clerk regarding the trees reported overgrown near the war memorial from Miss Stubbs of the PCC. Apparently due to tree preservation they can only be cut back a small amount.

Cllr Eyre mentioned grass cutting at the Parish Cemetery and St. Peters Church Yard for the coming year. **Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for this work from existing contractor and others.**

28/15. Best Kept Village Competition 2015.
Application forms had been received for this years competition. The Council agreed they wish to enter again. Cllr Bailey to complete the form for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk to contact Community Council of Staffordshire and confirm entry, also agenda item for next meeting.**

29/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2014/0841. Alton Towers Resort. Gothic Prospect Tower. Listed building consent to comprise repair of the masonry and cast iron structure. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2015/0009. Mr Dennis Plant, Weavers View, Gallows Green, Alton. Proposed single storey rear extension. **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2014/0800. Mr Nick Conway, Rakesdale House, Red Road, Alton. Construction of triple garage with office space above. **No objections, but some concern at the large size of the building.**

30/15. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2014/0710. Rose Cottage, Gallows Green, Alton. Full Permission for Development. Cllr Eyre commented that at the original planning application last May the Council stated this application was 'unneighbourly', whilst he felt that the decision to object to the development was correct, he did not believe it was unneighbourly, which was a term used and recorded in the minutes. He suggested that the Council write to Mr. Rowlands the owner and apologise for the use of this phrase. The rest of the Councillors agreed to this. **Action: Clerk to write to Mr. Rowlands.**

31/15. Councillor Eyre declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

A member of the public disagreed with the dog fouling stencils, Cllr Eyre pointed out the Council had agreed to it.

A member of the public raised a concern about vehicles parking on the footpath in Lime Kiln Lane blocking the way. Cllr Eyre asked that he be called if it happens again and the Clerk will contact the local PCSO. **Action: Clerk to contact PCSO Cliffe.**

32/15. Correspondence requiring response .

i. Waste tipping Town Head Farm, Alton (For info reported to SMDC). The Clerk has contacted SMDC following a complaint of waste tipping and horses kept in poor conditions. The complainant has been given the contact details of the RSPCA to report the horses to them. SMDC will visit the site to see if any offences are being committed.

33/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Correspondence with Alton webmaster regarding Council minutes on line.
ii. Community Council of Staffordshire-Defra investment 2015/16.
iii. Letter confirming diversion of Public Footpath No 17 (par) Alton Parish.
iv. Council Publicity During the Election Period.
v. Police and Crime Commissioner public meeting 5.2.15

All were mentioned by the Chair.

34/15. Finance.

i. Confirmation of Precept 2015/16. No change from 2014/15. This was confirmed after Cllr Eyre had spoken with most Councillors before the meeting as the figures had to be submitted before 31.1.15. Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Bailey seconded that the precept be confirmed. This was carried.

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ii. Clerks salary £360.30. Postage £6.36.
iii. HMRC £270.20
iv. Lengthsmans wages £110.00 and expenses £10.75 (from July 2014)
v. Best Kept Village entry fee £15 and posters £2.16

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

vi Internet Banking. Clerk as a signatory on the bank mandate to allow the setting up of Internet Banking. This is required to allow the Clerk to set up internet banking as agreed at the September 2014 meeting. Proposed by Cllr Bailey and seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor F. Eyre at 8.05pm.

Signed..... Chairman 2nd March 2015

Signed..... Clerk