Alton Parish Council

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

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

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

In Attendance: 6 members of the public. 1 member of the press.

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

178/15 Declarations of Interest.
Members were invited to declare any interests they may have in any matter identified for discussion at the Meeting. There were no declarations.

179/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th October 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

180/15. Matters arising.
i. There were no matters arising.

181/15. Alton Towers.
i. Nothing to report for this item of business.

182/15. Footpaths.
i. Cllr Shepherd reported he is addressing a damaged bridle gate in Saltersford Lane.

183/15. Village Hall.
i. The smell from the toilet area has been addressed.
ii. Cllr Forrester reported that only 5 people turned up for the litter-pick on 24th October and that he found this very disappointing. A discussion followed during which it was agreed with Cllr Shepherd that the ACE group of which he is a member and the council would complete a combined litter-pick on the next occasion.

184/15. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman has been clearing footpaths and also the cemetery this last month.
ii. The Round House roof will be cleared of weeds by Cllr Shepherd before the Christmas tree is erected. Enquiries will be made to obtain a tree from the usual source by Cllr Shepherd.

185/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that the speed indicator sign is still working (at the last meeting it was reported that it may have been switched off).
ii. The potholes at Battlesteads have not yet been repaired but this is in hand.
iii. Cllr Brindley further reported that on Sunday 25th October he received a call from residents in Headlands Way reporting a damaged tree. Following contact with Mr Rob Steele (SCC) the tree had now been removed. Cllr Forrester had also reported this problem to SMDC.
iv. Cllr Shepherd has spoken to Mr Massey the owner of the land in Hurstons Lane where the proposed footpath will be constructed. All necessary paperwork between the parties involved is going ahead and the project is still on course.

186/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that whilst the cemetery is in general good order the hedge has not been cut at the front on Hurstons Lane, he believed this is the job of Jackson's the contractors. Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to contact Jackson's to arrange for the hedge to be cut. **Action: Clerk to contact Jackson's.**

187/15. Parish Council Poppy Wreath.

i. Cllr Shepherd now has the poppy wreath ready for the Remembrance Day service. He proposed that a £50 donation be made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, this was seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried.
ii. Cllr Forrester stated that the W.I. had planted flowers at the war memorial and proposed that the council pay for this at a cost of £21.98p, this was seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried.

188/15. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues: Nothing of note was raised at this meeting.

189/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2015/0591. The Lord Shrewsbury. To construction of single storey detached building to accommodate Bio-mass boiler/wood store/drying room. Retention of existing ramp to provide access to existing building, erection of timber fence with gated access. **No objections.**

190/15. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2015/0466. Full permission for development. Ashdene, Tythe Barn, Alton. Beautician's salon. Read out by the Clerk.

191/15. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Letter re continued use of bottle bank at the village hall. The Chair read out a letter from a company called Berryman the owners of the bottle bank at the village hall. Following the decision by SMDC to withdraw recycling services the company is offering to keep the bottle

bank in situ as a free service. Cllr Forrester explained the reasoning behind the decision to withdraw the service by SMDC. Following a discussion Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded that the council take up the offer by Berryman. This was carried. **Action: Clerk to contact Berryman to confirm.**

192/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. SPCA bulletin 22/10/15
ii. Email regarding removal of recycling banks from SMDC.
iii. Planning Committee meeting Ivy Cottage, Tythe Barn, Alton. SMD/2015/0151.
iv. Email and letter informing interested parties of a 10% increase in cemetery charges.
v. Email to SMDC planning regarding the parish councils recommendations for October.
vi. Letter from Sunshine Gym.
vii. SPCA bulletin re bonfire night.
viii. Letter re SPCA AGM Monday 7th December 2015.

All were read out by the Chair and Clerk.

193/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £443.20. Postage £6.48. Total £449.68.
ii. Lengthsmans wages £140.00.
iii. Jacksons Nurseries. Net £684.80. VAT £136.96. Gross £821.76.
iv. Income: cemetery £55.00
v. Income SCC for Lengthsman. £1160.00
vi. Authorised payments for October 2015 to be signed off by the Council.
vii. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 7.45pm.

Signed..... Chairman 7th December 2015

Signed..... Clerk