Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7th September 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 M. Worthington (SCC)

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor S. Allen, Councillor P. Wilkinson, Councillor T. Wilkinson

In Attendance: 3 members of the public.

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

146/15 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.

147/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd August 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Ballard and seconded by Cllr Forrester and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

148/15. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the foliage growing over the speed indicator sign had been removed. He had no further update on the superfast broadband. All other actions had been completed.

149/15. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that Alton Towers had been updated that he is the Parish Council liaison.

150/15. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the footpath from Headland Way to the war memorial required clearing. **Action: Lengthsman to attend.**
ii. Cllr Ballard reported a tree hanging over two houses in Headland Way causing problems with TV signals for two residents. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to visit and update the Clerk if further action is needed by the Council.**

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151/15. Village Hall. Nothing to report.

152/15. Lengthsman.

i. Nothing to report for this meeting just routine work has been completed.

153/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that the Highways Gang had visited the village and completed a lot of clearing and maintenance work. He and others were very pleased with the work. **Action: Clerk to write and thank Rob Steele from SCC.**

ii. Complaints have been received about an overgrown hedge between the end of Hurstons Lane and the oak tree. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will obtain the details of the owners current address and pass to the Clerk who will then write to the owner.**

iii. Cllr Worthington reported that he has got the support of Mark Kerrigan from Alton Towers for the proposed footpath in Hurstons Lane. Cllr Worthington has offered £5,000 from his community fund towards the project and he is hopeful it may be approved next week. The total project is about £60,000. **Action: Cllr Shepherd as the Chair to write a letter to support the project.**

iv. Cllr Shepherd reported that the bus service by Ashbourne Community Transport has a problem as the gentleman who was supporting a service in Alton is no longer in post. Cllr Worthington stated there is money available if the scheme is supported. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to make inquiries and report back to the Council.**

154/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

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

155/15. Neighbourhood Plan.

i. This was an item on the agenda at the request of Cllr P. Wilkinson. As he is unavoidably absent this will be carried forward to the next meeting. There was a brief discussion when Cllr Worthington gave a brief explanation of Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr Forrester stated the plan would still have to adhere to planning policy and he did not support it. **Action: Agenda item next meeting.**

156/15. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public commented that the current reduced bus service is not compatible with shopping in nearby towns.

ii. A member of the public complained about the condition of a road which is in Denstone Parish. Cllr Shepherd offered to report it to SCC Highways.

iii. A member of the public reported that the footpath at the top of the High Street in Alton is not wheelchair friendly. She had difficulty when pushing the wheelchair used by her disabled foster daughter. **Action: Clerk to report to Highways to see if there is a solution.**

157/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2015/0466. Rachael Robb, Ashdene, Tythe Barn, Alton. Change of use of existing outbuilding to beauticians salon. **The council objects on the grounds that this is an inappropriate place for a business in a residential location.**
ii. SMD/2015/0488. Merlin Attractions Operations Ltd, Alton Towers Hotel, Farley Lane, Farley. Minor demolition works and development of extension to existing hotel, including additional 74 bedrooms, a restaurant, associated facilities, access, car parking and landscaping. **Following a discussion which ended without unanimous agreement the Chair put the matter to a vote. Three members voted for the plan, two voted against with one abstention. Carried in favour of no objections.**
iii. SMD/2015/0537 and 0538. Alton Towers. Telcom upgrade and associated works to Flag Tower, Farley Lane, Farley. **No objections.**

158/15. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2015/0042. Full permission for development. Chained Oak Farm, Farley Lane, Alton. Retrospective application to retain building for holiday accommodation (retain existing roof line, staircase and window positions and proposed new roof lights).
ii. SMD/2015/0396. Full permission for development. 11, Shirley Drive, Alton. Single storey side and rear extension.
iii. SMD/2015/0138. Full permission for development. Sunny Bank, Cheadle Road, Hansley Cross, Alton. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling.
iv. DET/2015/0023. Approved. Installation of telecommunications base station. At JCB Wardlow, off Ashbourne Road, Ellaston Road, Ramshorn.

159/15. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Best Kept Village Certificate and letter (response required as to how the prize money of £200 will be spent). A brief discussion took place and it was decided to spend the money on work to be carried out by the Lengthsman to improve the appearance of the village. **Action: Clerk to update the BKV organisers.**
ii. Emails from parish's of Checkley, Draycott, Dilhorne and Caverswall re Local Plan and Site Options and invite to meeting 8.9.15 in Tean.
iii. Letter from Mr B.L. Keates re site options (reply sent).
iv. Email from Mr A. Gibson re site allocations and reply.
v. Offer of a talk from Douglas Macmillan Hospice. After a discussion it was decided not to take up this offer due to the small numbers at Parish Council meetings. The WI may be interested. **Action: Clerk to update the hospice.**

160/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Update on speeding enforcement in Alton.
ii. Resignation of Councillor S. Allen.
iii. Village Hall Title Deeds and area plan.
iv. Letter offering advice on Neighbourhood Development Plan.
v. How to respond to planning applications. (2 hour course).

vi. 3 documents regarding budgets (2 hour courses). Agreed the Clerk may attend the course on 'budgets, precepts and annual returns' if he wishes.
vii. Email asking for repair to a style on footpath 43.
viii. Email re repair of handrail footpath 35.

All were read out by the Chair and Clerk.

161/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £443.20. Expenses £53.88 (VAT £8.98) (Land Registry)
ii. Lengthsmans wages £230.00 and expenses £8.40.
iii. Jacksons Nurseries. Net £1027.20. VAT £205.44. Gross £1232.64.
iv. BKV prize money received £200.00.
v. Income £55.00 Slaters Undertakers.
vi. Income £60.00. Nettlebank.
vii. HMRC £291.00 (To be paid by 19th October).
viii. Authorised payments for May 2015 to be signed off by the Council.
ix. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.
x. Invite to pay Staffs Playing Fields Association subscription (£15). It was decided this is not a necessary membership. Not to pay.

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.15pm.

Signed..... Chairman 5th October 2015

Signed..... Clerk