Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5th January 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 J Shepherd
Councillor E Brindley
Councillor I Cope
Councillor M. Worthington (County Council)

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor A Moult

In Attendance: Four members of the public.

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

1/15 Declarations of Interest.
Members were invited to declare any interests they may have in any matter identified for discussion at the Meeting. Cllr Forrester declared an interest in planning application SMD/2014/0816.

2/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st December 2014.
After a minor amendment to the costs of insurance at item 132/14 in the minutes raised by Cllr Brindley, the minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Brindley and seconded by Cllr Forrester and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

3/15. Matters arising.
There were no matters arising.

4/15. Alton Towers.
Cllr Brindley noted that some cabins were now in place as part of the new development. No other issues were raised.

5/15. Footpaths.
Cllr Shepherd has cleared several branches from footpaths. The Chair informed the meeting that the County Ranger was to check the footpath which is muddy at Salters Ford Lane which was mentioned by a member of the public at the last meeting.

Cllr Ballard raised the issue of dog fouling and said she thought the offences were occurring in Hurstons Lane and the footpath off Hurstons Lane to the War Memorial between 7am and 9am. Cllr Cope commented he thought there was also an issue in the High Street. Cllr Worthington noted that the Dog Warden will attend early in the morning if necessary. **Action: Clerk to report the matter to SMDC.**

6/15. Village Hall.
The Chair informed the meeting that the offer from Cllr Worthington to provide £500 for the playground repairs had been approved and a certificate issued. Cllr Worthington was thanked by all present for his help. The certificate was given to Cllr Hollins to display at the village hall.

Cllr Hollins asked the Clerk if he had received an invoice for the use of the village hall. The Clerk had not received anything and he suggested Cllr Hollins could hand the invoice to him at the next meeting personally.
Action: Cllr Hollins to arrange.

7/15. Lengthsman.
The signs regarding dogs being under control have been erected, little other work has been required this last month. Cllr Forrester commented that the grid tops needed to be checked that they are not blocked. There is also some rubbish near Gallows Green. **Action: The Lengthsman to attend to these issues.** Cllr Hollins mentioned a big branch broken off behind the War Memorial and resting on a grave. **Cllr Forrester to mention to the Church.**

Cllr Shepherd stated that at the bottom of Wedgewood Bank a branch down. **Action: Lengthsman to check this issue.**

Cllr Ballard gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Brindley for arranging SCC to complete work at the bottom of Station Bank, Cllr Cope said he thought a hand rail was needed at that place. **Action: Cllrs Eyre and Brindley will visit the site and review Cllr Cope's request.**

Cllr Forrester mentioned three possible dates for litter picking during the year. 4th April, 27th June and 24th October. Cllr Forrester will get the emails of other volunteers for the Clerk so that he can send out reminders to Councillors and volunteers. **Action: Cllr Forrester to arrange.**

8/15. Highways and Road Safety.
Cllr Brindley stated that the work at Spring Corner by SCC had been done and that Rob Steele form the CC had confirmed this.

A discussion took place regarding the lack of gritting following the recent snow fall in Cheadle road. Cllr Worthington pointed out that priority was given to bus routes and also that Cheadle Road is a 'B' road.

A discussion took place regarding a Parish representative at the Alton Towers meetings which Cllr Worthington Chairs. Cllr Worthington will take the views of the Council to the meeting.

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9/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.
A further letter sent to Miss Stubbs of the PCC clarifying which trees are overgrown near the War Memorial was read out by the Chair. There were no further issues.

10/15. Millennium Stone Enhancement.
The Clerk has again spoken to Andrea Stafford. She will be away in Kenya until mid February but she still wishes to help to restore the Stone and will attend the March meeting to discuss with the Council.

11/15. Tree Preservation Order SM. 293 (2014)
The Chair informed the meeting of a tree preservation order for a Pine Tree at 28, Shirley Drive, Alton.

12/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2014/0816 Mr and Mrs N & S Forrester, Ilett House, Smithy Bank, Alton. Change of part of Ilett House from a Funeral Directors to residential use as part of the existing dwelling. For this application Cllr Forrester left the meeting. **After a discussion there were no objections.**

ii. SMD/2014/0586. Mrs Linda Morris, The Alders, Dimbles Lane, Alton. Listed building consent for replacement of 4 existing rear windows. **After a discussion there were no objections.**

13/15. Planning decisions.

i. DET/2014/0046. Prior approval not required for change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house at Peakstones Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. This matter was discussed due to the unusual nature of the decision, i.e. no opportunity to object. Also this was discussed at a previous meeting when the Council did object. **Action: It was decided that Cllr Forrester would take the application personally to SMDC to request clarification.**

14/15. Councillor Eyre declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:
A member of the public mentioned a lot of water on the right hand side of Denstone Lane near the Blacksmiths Arms. **Action: Lengthsman to investigate and inform Cllr Brindley if he cannot resolve the issue.**

15/15. Correspondence .

Requiring response .

None for this meeting.

16/14. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to SCC re Bridle Path 64 Salters Ford Lane being boggy and muddy.
ii. Letter to Miss Stubbs re Trees behind War Memorial.

iii. Email to planning re planning applications, SMD/2014/0710, SMD/2014/0695, SMD/2014/0719, SMD/2014/0782.
iv. Email confirming no further comment from Parish Council re footpaths 13 and 16.
v. £200 received from SMDC for the Lengthsman scheme.
vi. Email regarding a link on the Parish website to report dog fouling.
vii. 2 x letters of thanks, Mr Dewhirst and Mr Dunn regarding the Christmas tree and festive lights.
viii. Email requesting SCC to consider a box junction on Lime Kiln Lane, Alton.

All were mentioned by the Chair.

17/14. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.30. Postage £6.36.

Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Hollins seconded the finances were accepted. This was agreed by all.

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

Signed..... Chairman 2nd February 2015

Signed..... Clerk