Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6th July 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 T. Wilkinson
Councillor E. Brindley
Councillor A. Forrester

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

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

In Attendance: 5 members of the public.

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

113/15 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.

114/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th June 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Allen and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

115/15. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Allen reported that he had spoken to the people who have been riding horses on footpaths where signs have been placed prohibiting such use and they had agreed to desist.
ii. Cllr Brindley reported that the debris reportedly being blown into the road by workmen (minute 88/15) was not a problem and the road was clear.
iii. Cllr Shepherd thanked people who had turned up for the litter pick on 27th June.

116/15. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that Alton Towers were unable to help with funding for a bus service in the village.

117/15. Footpaths.

i. A resident has complained regarding potholes and dog fouling in Saltersford Lane. This is not an adopted road so the Council will not fill the potholes but the resident can do so himself if he so wishes. With regard to dog fouling there is a bin in the lane but a visit from the dog warden was agreed. The lane also needs strimming. **Action: Clerk to request the Dog Warden patrols the area. Cllr Shepherd to take a look at the strimming needs.**

ii. Cllr Bailey mentioned the handrail by the footpath by the doctors steps needs replacing (footpath 35 leading from Malthouse Road to New Road). The Council would like a wrought iron replacement to be in keeping with the conservation area. **Action: Clerk to contact Paul Rochfort (SCC Footpaths).**

iii. The Toothill path has become overgrown. **Action: Lengthsman to visit.**

118/15. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Shepherd updated the meeting on the village hall meeting held just prior to the Council meeting. He stated the village hall needs more help with fund raising and matters such as re-decorating. Mr Peter Walker (a resident) will look into grants for the village hall and make contact with the Chair of the village hall committee.

ii. Cllr Brindley stated that he believes the Parish Council are custodians of the village hall.

119/15. Lengthsman.

i. Nothing to report for this meeting.

120/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that the proposed new wall in Hurstons Lane is in abeyance. The matter is in the hands of Cllr Worthington, Alton Towers and SCC.

ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that nothing is happening at the moment regarding the proposed bus service in Alton.

iii. In response to a questionnaire from SCC regarding gritting in the village, the Council agreed that the following areas should be given priority: B5032 through the village. High Street to Castle Hill Road and Town Head. Hurstons Lane. These are the main areas for traffic and pedestrians including school children.

iv. Cllr Allen reported he had received reports of speeding buses travelling up Station Road, although he thought it unlikely heavy buses could speed up this road. Councillors agreed to monitor the area themselves. No further action at this time.

v. The hedge at Cheadle Road junction Battlesteads needs cutting back. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to speak to the owner.**

vi. The hedge on the east side of Dimble Lane needs cutting. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

vii. The Council discussed possible illegal parking in Shirley Drive junction with B5032 (Gallows Green). **Action: Clerk to visit and take any action necessary.**

121/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

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

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122/15. Superfast Broadband.

i. Cllr Shepherd gave an update on the superfast broadband. There is a site meeting on 23rd July which he will attend along with BT and residents. The residents affected by the installation of the BT boxes are open to discussion. Half the village is already set-up for superfast broadband and just needs to be connected to the network. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to report back to the next meeting.**

123/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2015/0381. Mr and Mrs Nash, 12, Uttoxeter Road, Alton. Certificate of lawfulness for use of land to station a mobile home. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2015/0367. Mr Peter Newton-Taylor, 1, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Demolition of single storey side extension and erection of two storey side extension. **No objections, but the Council believe the extension should be finished in the same stonework to match the existing vernacular.**

iii. iii. SMD/2015/0396. Mr Christopher Graffan, 11, Shirley Drive, Alton. Single storey side and rear extension. **No objections.**

124/15. Planning decisions.

i. Nothing for this meeting.

125/15. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public stated a street light is damaged at the junction of Lime Kiln Lane and Dimble Lane. **Action: Clerk to notify SCC Highways.**

ii. A member of the public stated the hedge is overgrown in Denstone Lane. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to speak to the owner.**

iii. A member of the public spoke regarding planning in the village including affordable housing and the number of houses which will be built. Cllr Shepherd outlined the Council's position, explaining the Council supported affordable housing and discussed the number of houses the area will have to accept. Cllr Forrester explained that this number of houses did not affect individual applications.

iv. Cllr Brindley asked that the Councils position regarding site options for development be reinforced to SMDC by contacting them again. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

v. Cllr Forrester wished to bring to the Councils attention that he had been approached by the agent of the Capri development seeking the Councils position, he had made clear the Councils position on affordable housing, i.e. the Council wishes to see more affordable housing.

126/15. Correspondence requiring response .

i. Best Kept Village. Invitation to announcement of the results. No councillor available as this clashes with the next Council meeting.

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127/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Confirmed tree preservation order, 28, Shirley Drive, Alton.
ii. Letter from SCC re mobile library service.
iii. Email thanking Alton Towers for flowers for Alton.
iv. Email to SCC re road markings on the B5032 in Alton.
v. Email to Sgt Glyn Parker re parking B5032 Gallows Green.
vi. Tree preservation order. Ivy Cottage, Tythe Barn, Alton.
vii. Letters of thanks to retired councillors Eyre, Moult and Cope.
viii. Email to Cllr Shepherd re meeting for superfast broadband in Alton.
ix. Letter with details of planning committee meeting re Capri Gallows Green.
x. Email re planning generally to MP Karen Bradley from Mr Kenneth Temple-Smith.
xi. Letter re planning applications in Alton. A.V. Wilson Esq. (Reply sent 5.7.15).
xii. Email to SCC Highways re blocked grids Uttoxeter Road, Alton.

All were read out by the Clerk.

128/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £360.10. Expenses £17.97 (councillor leaving gifts).
ii. Lengthsmans wages £160.00 and expenses £9.50
iii. HMRC £270.00
iv. Jackson's Nurseries (UK) Ltd. Net £1,027.20 VAT £205.44 Gross £1232.64 (3 visits).
v. Alton Village Hall hire 18.5.15. £20.00. (Annual Parish Meeting).
vi. Authorised payments for May 2015 to be signed off by the Council.
vii. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.
viii. Mrs Sheila Delaney £25.87 for flowers for the War Memorial.
ix. HMRC remittance advice refund of £1749.25 for VAT.

The finances were proposed by Cllr Shepherd 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 3rg August 2015

Signed..... Clerk