Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5th October 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 P. Wilkinson
Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor T. Wilkinson

In Attendance: 24 members of the public. 1 member of the press.

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

162/15 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.

163/15. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th September 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.

164/15. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that he had made enquiries to get a grant of £50,000 towards a community mini bus, this is in its early stages and he will report further in due course if this can be progressed. All other actions had been completed or are in hand.

165/15. Planning application SMD/2015/0435. Jackson/Geal. Land adjacent to Saltersford Lane, Alton. Outline planning permission with all matters reserved (except access) for residential development of 23 dwellings.

i. Due to the large amount of residents who had attended the meeting primarily because of this planning application the Chair brought this item forward so that those who wished could afterwards leave the meeting.
ii. The members of the council then had a discussion regarding this application, all members were firmly against this application for many reasons including:
    a. building on green belt.
    b. Increased traffic.

c. The land is always wet and sewage is carried underneath.
d. There is already sufficient housing either being built or proposed, particularly with the Capri and Ivy Cottage applications.
e. Road safety and insufficient infrastructure.

iii. Cllr Forrester pointed out that the application would be heard by the SMDC planning committee and that a member of the Parish Council can speak at this meeting, he would be attending.
iv. Cllr Shepherd opened the meeting to the public for any comments they may wish to speak about. There were a number of objections which mirrored the comments already made by the councillors, but also included damage the wildlife in the area. No residents present supported the application.
v. Cllr Shepherd asked the council members if anyone supported the application. The councillors were unanimously against the application.
vi. Cllr then read out a letter he had prepared giving detailed reasons for the objections to the proposal. The councillors present thanked him for the letter and asked the Clerk to forward it to the SMDC planning department.
vii. Cllr Brindley urged residents to also make their own objections to SMDC as this would add even more weight to the objection.
viii. **Action: Clerk to forward the letter and objections to SMDC Planning Dept.**

166/15. Alton Towers.

i. Nothing to report for this item of business.

167/15. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Worthington reported that Alton Towers will pay £50,000 towards the proposed footpath in Hurstons Lane and that if necessary he would be able to add some of his community fund to help. He stated that Cllr Shepherd should be written to directly by SCC. The project should be able to go ahead.
ii. The Lengthsman reported he had done some footpath clearing but had nothing else to report.

168/15. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Wilkinson reported that a 'needs survey' will be going out from the village hall in order to shape the future direction of the village hall.
ii. Cllr Ballard mentioned the toilets and the smell that always comes from the area. Cllr Wilkinson will look into this. **Action: Cllr P. Wilkinson.**

169/15. Lengthsman.

i. Nothing to report for this meeting just routine work has been completed.
ii. Cllr Forrester mentioned there will be a litter pick on Saturday 24th October meeting at the village hall at 10am. **Action: Clerk to post on the village website.**

170/15. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that the speed indicator sign may have been switched off in Uttoxeter Road now that the Alton Towers season was at an end. The potholes at Battlestead have now been marked ready for repair.

171/15. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

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

ii. The costs for the cemetery were discussed, it was noted that they had not been reviewed for a number of years. A comparison was made with several nearby councils before Cllr Shepherd proposed a 10% increase to all charges, this was seconded by Cllr Forrester and agreed by the council. **Action: Clerk to increase the costs by 10%.**

172/15. Neighbourhood Plan.

i. Cllr Shepherd explained this had been carried forward from the last meeting as Councillor P. Wilkinson who wished to discuss it was absent from the last meeting.

ii. Cllr P. Wilkinson then outlined why he supported a Neighbourhood Plan as he believes it takes power from the District Council back to the local area, but to implement a working party would need to be formed including people such as a planner. A discussion then took place. Cllr Forrester felt the scheme was far too expensive with insufficient benefits. There would still be a need to comply with local and national guidelines. Cllr Brindley stated he was used to reading legal documents but found the Neighbourhood Plan document so complicated he gave up reading it. Also he felt to implement the plan there needed to be a big community spirit which does not exist in Alton. No other councillors felt they could volunteer for such a project, however it was agreed that Cllr P. Wilkinson could contact the Clerk with a view to getting a clearer explanation of what is involved. **Action: Cllr P. Wilkinson to contact the Clerk as described.**

173/15. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2015/0571. Mr W. Geal, 2, Hill Rise, Alton. Conversion of carport to bedroom and garage extension. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2015/0568. Mr. B. Flynn, Church Farm, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Installation of 20 ground mounted solar panels. **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2015/0584. Alton Towers. Removal of refuse skip and assc items. Proposed new CHP container assc oil tanks and radiator. **No objections.**

174/15. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2015/0449. Grant of listed building consent. Red Lion Cottage, Smithy Bank, Alton.

ii. SMD/2015/0444. Full permission for development. Red Lion Cottage, Smithy Bank, Alton.

iii. SMD/2015/0453. Refusal of planning permission. Bradley Elms Farm, Alton Road, Threapwood.

iv. SMD/2015/0367. Full permission for development. 1, Castle Hill Road, Alton.

All read out by the Chair.

175/15. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Email from Mayfield Parish Council re evening course on planning. Cllr Shepherd stated he would be interested in attending one of the courses. **Action: Clerk to pass details to the Clerk at Mayfield Parish Council.**

ii. Douglas Macmillan Hospice. Donation request. **It was confirmed that the Parish Council does not give donations to charity organisations.**

176/15. Correspondence for Information.

i. Letter of thanks to Rob Steele re work of Highways Gang.

ii. Request for extension re planning application SMD/2015/0435. 23 dwellings off Saltersford Lane, Alton.
iii. Email to planning re Parish Councils recommendations in September.
iv. BKV competition-Judges comments. **This was taken by the Chair to study.**
v. Email to SCC Highways re wheelchair access pavement in High Street, Alton.
vi. Letter from Cllr Shepherd re support for a footpath Hurstons Lane, Alton.
vii. Email from Ms Pickup re site allocation AL025.
viii. Letter from Mr and Mrs Williams re objection to housing allocation site AL025
ix. Email: Moorlands enterprise business start-up.
x. Email from Mr N. John re objection to site allocation AL025.
xi. Peak District Rural Housing Assc annual report.
xii. Letter received 3.10.15 from S W Baker, Returning Officer giving the Parish Council permission to co-opt a new council member. **The Council confirmed not to advertise in a local paper but to wait and see if anyone comes forward or is identified as suitable.**
xiii. Final Proposal for Mobile Library Service.

All were read out by the Chair and Clerk.

177/15. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £443.20. Expenses £6.48.
ii. Lengthsmans wages £190.00 and expenses £12.01.
iii. Jacksons Nurseries. Net £684.80. VAT £136.96. Gross £821.76.
iv. Income: cemetery £355.00
v. Authorised payments for May 2015 to be signed off by the Council.
vi. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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 8.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman 5th October 2015

Signed..... Clerk