Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th April 2016 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
Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor P. Wilkinson.

In Attendance: 8 members of the public.

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

48/16. 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.

49/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016.
The minutes of the last meeting after a small amendment 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.

50/16. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd informed the meeting that the ACE group will be meeting in two weeks to discuss a future litter pick.
ii. Cllr Shepherd informed the meeting that the solar array mentioned at the last meeting (46/16 v) has full permission as permitted development.

51/16. Casual Vacancy as a Parish Councillor.

i. The Chair informed the meeting that an application had been received to fill the casual vacancy within the parish council. The applicant was Elizabeth James, Fox House, Tythe Barn, Alton. Ms James was present at the meeting. The Chair read out a letter from the Returning Officer giving the council permission to co-op a new member and also a letter of introduction from Ms James. Ms James was the previous Clerk to the council and is the Clerk for another parish. Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded that Ms James should be co-opted onto the council, this was carried unanimously on a show of hands. The Clerk handed Ms James the declaration of

interest form, code of conduct form and acceptance of office form all to be signed, following which Ms James was welcomed by the Chair and she took her seat on the council.

52/16. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Worthington mentioned that the Alton Towers liaison group is re-starting. He will mention to the group that the car-park at the village hall needs re-surfacing to see if there is any financial assistance available.

ii. Cllr Brindley mentioned at this point the wall on the B5032, Cheadle Road 500 yards east of Battlesteads which he considers is in a poor state of repair. Cllr Shepherd knows the owner and will speak to him. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

53/16. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey stated he is concerned at the dog fouling on footpaths in the village. **Action: Clerk to contact the enforcement officer.**

ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that footpaths 35, 45 and 29 are waterlogged; he has reported this and the ranger will visit to assess.

iii. Also Cllr Shepherd has reported that the fingerpost has rotted off on footpath 0.1629.

54/16. Village Hall.

i. Nothing to report for this meeting.

55/16. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported that he just has ongoing work of a routine nature.

ii. Cllr Forrester reported that the plants for the village have been ordered from Alton Towers.

iii. Cllr Worthington reported that the forthcoming year will be the last when money will be available from SCC for the Lengthsman.

56/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported a pothole at the bottom of Battlesteads. This is a culvert problem. Cllrs Shepherd and Bailey will visit to assess. **Action: Cllrs Shepherd and Bailey.**

ii. Cllr Brindley stated that some residents had reported that the street lighting in Post Office Alley (footpath 33) is poor and requesting more lighting. Cllr Shepherd will make further enquiries to assess if extra lighting would cause a problem to other nearby houses. Clerk to contact SCC if no other residents are affected. **Action: Cllr Shepherd and the Clerk.**

iii. The pile of gravel at Town Head previously discussed will be moved by the farmer. (46/16/ii).

iv. Cllr Shepherd reported the pot hole in Red Road has been filled.

v. Cllr T. Wilkinson reported that Mr Steele from SCC has confirmed that a ramp for wheelchair access cannot be put in the High Street. Cllr T. Wilkinson will check the facts and report further. **Action: Cllr T. Wilkinson.**

57/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that both the Church Yard and cemetery are in good order. He thanked Cllr Ballard for the work she has done with planters in the cemetery and the Lengthsman for his work.

Alton Parish Council

58/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public reported a crack in the Red Road 100 yards Alton side of the Ramblers retreat. **Action: Clerk to make inquiries.**
ii. A member of the public reported the cats eyes have been removed on Alton Road. **Cllr Brindley to make inquiries.**
iii. A member of the public stated a stop sign should be placed at the junction of Saltersford Lane and Tythe Barn. **Action: Clerk to visit and assess.**
iv. Cllr Forrester reported that the planning meeting regarding the Saltesford Lane proposed development will be at 2pm on Thursday 14th April 2016. Anyone who is attending should contact Mr Pat Trafford at SMDC to book a place.

59/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0103. Variation of conditions to planning permission for SMD/2014/0800 for construction of triple garage. **No objections.**
ii. SMD/2016/0139. The Dimble, Lime Kiln Lane. Conservatory. **No objections.**
iii. SMD/2016/0119. Alton Towers. Removal and replacement of modular units. **No objections.**
iv. SMD/2016/0150. Mr and Mrs McLeod, Summerhill, 1, Gallows Green. Proposed dwelling and new vehicular access. **6 councillors voted to object and 2 councillors abstained. The grounds for an objection were overdevelopment and dangerous vehicular access.**
v. SMD/2016/0114. Ms Rachel Robb, Asdene, Tythe Barn. Proposed change of ground floor room to beauticians studio. **5 councillors objected and 3 councillors were for the application. The objection is inappropriate development in a residential area.**

60/16. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2015/0760. Garden room, Wyndhaven, Cedarhill, Alton. Full permission for development. This was read out by the Chair.

61/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

62/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Letter from Cllr Shepherd on behalf of the council objecting to SMD/2016/0036. Dwelling, Hurstons Lane.
ii. Letter confirming decision to renew contract with Jackson's Nurseries.
iii. Letter to Field's Funeral Directors confirming fee for re-opening grave.
iv. Email to planning SMDC re decisions at March parish council meeting.
v. SPCA bulletin 17/3/16.
vi. Email to enforcement officer re dog fouling on the playing fields.

All were read out and commented where appropriate by the Chair and the clerk.

Alton Parish Council

63/16. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £378.38
ii. Lengthsmans wages £325.00
iii. SPCA subscription 2016/17. £354.00
iv. HMRC £332.60
v. £770.00 income parish cemetery.
vi. SMDC letter payment shortly to APC for recycling £251.52
vii. Authorised payments for March 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
viii. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

The finances were proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Hollins and carried.

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

Signed..... Chairman 9th May 2016

Signed..... Clerk