Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7th March 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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

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

In Attendance: 7 members of the public, 1 member of the press.

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

33/16. 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.

34/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st February 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.

35/16. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Forrester informed the meeting that the village hall would be entitled to a grant of £2500 after April towards the re-surfacing of the car-park at the village hall. Following a discussion Cllr Ballard will inquire if SCC can assist further.
ii. The issue regarding wheelchair use on the footpath in High Street will be an agenda item next meeting as Cllr T. Wilkinson is not present and his inquiries continue.
iii. Cllr Shepherd informed the meeting that 14 people took part in last Saturday's litter pick organised by the ACE group. Further litter picks will take place to assist with the 'Best Kept Village' competition. The clerk was asked to order 2 large (A3) and 6 small (A4) posters to advertise the BKV competition. **Clerk to action.**

36/16. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Forrester will contact Alton Towers to arrange the flowers for the village as normal.
ii. Cllr Shepherd has had an introductory meeting with Liz Greenwood from Alton Towers.

37/16. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey reported that footpath 35 is very muddy, more so that others in the area. Cllr Shepherd stated this had already been reported, but that he will re-visit and discuss further with Paul Rochford from SCC. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

ii. Cllr Ballard mentioned that dog fouling is taking place on the playing fields. **Clerk to action.**

38/16. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the cost to re-surface the car-park at the village hall is £9000. Further to the earlier discussion (35/16 (i)), she will speak to Cllr Mike Worthington SCC to see if he can help.

39/16. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported that he has been working in the church yard and has ongoing work as spring approaches.

40/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has spoken again to Mr Massey the owner of the land where a footpath was proposed in Hurstons Lane. Mr Massey no longer supports this work, so the matter is now officially closed. Cllr Brindley asked if the money targeted for that work could now be diverted to help with the car-park, or use Cllr Worthington's Community Fund. Clr Brindley will make inquiries. **Action Cllr Brindley.**

ii. Cllr Brindley mentioned the pile of gravel at Town Head. Mr Rob Steele from SCC has met with Cllr Shepherd and himself at the site. Mr Steele is checking if SCC own the land. Cllr Shepherd has spoken to the wife of gentleman who owns the adjacent land and the gravel will be eventually moved and used on their land. It will be up to the parish council to approach SMDC/SCC if they want to do any work on the land, should that be possible. **Clerk to put on agenda next month.**

iii. Cllr Brindley reported that work had been done on the road surface at Battlesteads, it is better but not perfect.

iv. Cllr Shepherd updated the meeting that he has reported a large pothole in Red Road to SCC.

41/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. The clerk updated the meeting with the costs for Jackson's Nurseries to continue to work at the parish cemetery and St. Peter's Church for the coming season. The cost has increased by 3% to £5290.00 plus VAT (which is reclaimed). After a discussion Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Hollins seconded the quote be accepted. This was carried. **Clerk to action.**

ii. Cllr Forrester reported that the Lengthsman has done a very good job working in the cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard. Cllr Forrester has removed old wreaths. Both sites are in good order.

42/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues: No issues were raised.

43/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2015/0788 and 0789. Alton Towers, replacement antenna's. No objections.

ii. SMD/2016/0036. Plot 2 Hurstons Lane, erection of a dwelling. A discussion took place during which members of the public were invited to contribute. The councillors present were unanimous in their objections on numerous grounds. Cllr Shepherd offered to write a

letter of objection to SMDC via the clerk. This was accepted. **Action: Councillor Shepherd to prepare a letter for the clerk to send to SMDC planning.**

iii. Cllr Forrester updated the meeting regarding the proposed housing development at Saltersford Lane. The SMDC has put the matter back to a meeting in April. He will keep the council updated. Cllr Brindley and a lady from the public reported that sewage comes up in their gardens on occasion from Saltersford Lane. This is a concern if the development goes ahead. Cllr Brindley encouraged anyone else who experiences similar problems to report it.

iv. SMD/2016/0040. Alton Towers, development 35 double lodges. No objections.

v. Cllr Shepherd reported a large array of solar panels has been placed on Severn Trent land adjacent to Alton Sewage Works. No planning application has been submitted. It has been reported and SMDC are looking into the issue to see if planning is required. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

44/16. Planning decisions.

i. None for this meeting.

45/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

46/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email asking enforcement officer to visit Alton re dog fouling.
ii. Karen Bradley MP, invite to London and tour of Westminster.
iii. Community Council of Staffordshire compilation of diary of village events.
iv. Email requesting collection of waste from parish cemetery.
v. Letter received re footpath 13 and part of 16, not upgrading to bridleway.
vi. Letter received. Community paths initiative-bids for 2016/17. At this point the railings on the footpath by the re-cycling bins were mentioned by Cllr Forrester, that they are shabby. This was agreed. **Action: cllr Shepherd to inquire further re possible replacement.**
vii. BKV childrens competition. **Action: Cllr Forrester to hand to the local school.**
viii. SCC-Allotment Lane, diversion of vehicular traffic, 16th to 18th March.
ix. SPCA bulletins February 2016.
x. HM Queen Elizabeth II commemorative medal. **Action: Clerk to retain for the council.**
xi. Email update re dog fouling from enforcement officer.
xii. SPCA bulletin 3.3.16

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

47/16. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £443.20
ii. Lengthsmans wages £180.00
iii. £66.00 income parish cemetery.
iv. Authorised payments for January 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
v. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

Alton Parish Council

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 7.55pm.

Signed..... Chairman 4th April 2016

Signed..... Clerk