Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7th November 2016 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair)
Councillor S Hollins, Councillor E Bailey, Councillor P Ballard
Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor A. Forrester, Councillor E. James.
Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)
Apologies: Councillor P. Wilkinson, Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

In Attendance: 5 members of the public.

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

161/16. Declarations of Interest.
Members were invited to declare any interests they may have in any matter identified for discussion at the Meeting. Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in the any discussion around St. Peters Church yard as he is completing work there at the moment.

162/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2016.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr James and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

163/16. Matters arising.

i. Andrea Stafford has contacted the Clerk regarding the Millennium stone and its refurbishment, she wished to know if there was a photograph she could use to help show her what the stone looked like originally. Cllr Ballard will check with the local school and report back to the Clerk. If there is no photograph then Miss Stafford may repair the stone using her own design. **Action: Cllr Ballard.**

164/16. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Ballard mentioned that the recent fireworks were very loud and there seems to be more general noise from Alton Towers. Cllr Shepherd agreed to mention this to Liz Greenwood (Alton Towers). **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

165/16. Footpaths.

i. The Lengthsman has cleared the footpath by Glen Drive and other footpaths and the pump area of leaves and other general clearing work.
ii. Cllr Shepherd updated the council that footpath 13 and part of footpath 16 have been upgraded to the status of a bridle path, apparently by the Secretary of State. This was discussed by the council over two years ago in 2014. The decision of SCC was that the footpaths remain as such. Councillors expressed concern that they had not been consulted or notified, the Clerk confirmed

he had not received any documentation. Cllr Shepherd stated he was only told last week so any official notification may arrived during the coming days.

166/16. Village Hall.

i. There has not been a meeting of the village hall committee since the last parish council meeting.

167/16. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman confirmed that he is very busy with routine clearing at this time of year.
ii. Cllr Shepherd confirmed he is arranging a Christmas tree for the village.

168/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. The Clerk read out a letter from Karen Bradley MP to SCC regarding her concerns that the local bus service has been discontinued.
ii. Cllr Ballard reported that she had crossed the road in the High Street recently and had become stranded in the centre of the road with vehicles refusing to stop to let her complete her crossing. Cllr Ballard feels that now the bus service has all but ceased there should be a crossing in the High Street. This has been previously refused by the Highways Dept. Following as discussion the Clerk was asked to contact Highways to see if a crossing is viable. **Action: Clerk to contact SCC Highways.**

169/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported both sites were in order.
ii. Cllr Forrester further stated that he wished to withdraw his request for financial assistance to clear and tidy the St. Peter's Church yard (minute 154/16), although this would be lawful (the Clerk had circulated a report) he felt it may set a precedent.
iii. Cllr Shepherd is working to clear and tidy the St. Peter's Church yard and has succeeded in it being classed as a community event saving a lot of money (around £2,000 for a road closure whilst trees were removed had been saved) and Amey are assisting for no charge. This was welcomed by all the council.

170/16. Date of January 2017 meeting.

i. The January 2017 meeting falls on Monday 2nd which is a bank holiday. Councillors agreed to see if the meeting can be moved to Monday 9th January 2017. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

171/16. Annual poppy wreath.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported he had been handed the poppy wreath and proposed a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion, this was seconded by Cllr Forrester and carried.

172/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public pointed out that there are molehills in the cemetery. Cllr Shepherd stated he knew how to catch moles and offered his services, he only asked for £15 to enable him to purchase three traps. This was agreed by the council. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
ii. A member of the public reported that a drain pipe which runs along the pavement in High Street is blocked. The Lengthsman agreed to see if he could unblock it. **Action: Lengthsman.**

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174316. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0171. Mr P. Finney, The Caravan, Cheadle Road, Alton. Partially retrospective planning for change of use to provide 16 touring caravan pitches with separate camping. Facilities, building and reception and associated works. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2016/0682. Mr and Mrs Miller, Land rear of Dimblecroft, Limekiln Lane. Proposed rear conservatory. **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2016/0570. Mr G. Smytheman, 10, Castle Hill Road. Retention of first floor space into living accommodation above undercroft, new window and conservation rooflights and extension of garden area. **No objections.**

iv. SMD/2015/0435. Land Adjacent 17, Saltersford Lane. Appeal against refusal of planning permission. This was an item for discussion. Cllr Brindley gave a very detailed and informative explanation of the correspondence he has received and Cllr Shepherd read out a covering letter he had written which he proposed went with all previous correspondence to the appeal. The Clerk had provided a file of previous documents. Cllr Brindley stated that three copies should be posted to the appeal in Bristol. The Clerk stated that if the council wished he would post the three copies as requested and also send the documents by email. This was agreed by the council. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

175416. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2016/0373. Full permission for development. The Dimble, Limekiln Lane, Alton. Retention of dwelling with basement.

175/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

176/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. SPCA bulletin 13.10.16
ii. Parish council planning decisions October 2016.
iii. Letter from Karen Bradley MP re bus service and reply.
iv. SPCA bulletin 27.10.16
v. Olive Branch Training, Blythe Bridge library 9.11.16
vi. SCC Highways notification of completed work Alton Lane.
vii. Email from 'Sheds Ground Maintenance' requesting consideration for future contract.
viii. Clerks email regarding parish council spending.

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

177/16. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £394.53.
ii. Lengthsman wages £220.00
iii. Jackson's Nurseries £1269.61 (£1058.01 net VAT £211.60) 30.9.16
iv. Jackson's Nurseries £846.41 (£705.34 net, VAT £141.07) 31.10.16
v. Received from J.P. Keates for new grave £242.00.

vi. Authorised payments for October 2016 were signed off by the Council.
vii. Current bank balances were presented to the 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 5th December 2016

Signed..... Clerk