Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.20pm
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

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 7.20pm.

64/16. Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

i. Cllr Shepherd asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council. Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded Cllr Shepherd as the Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously and Cllr Shepherd declared the Chairman for 2016/17.

ii. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Bailey seconded Cllr Forrester as the Vice Chairman of the Council. The proposition was carried unanimously and Cllr Forrester declared the Vice Chairman for 2016/17.

65/16. 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.

66/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th April 2016.

The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Forrester and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

67/16. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd informed the meeting that the ACE group will be holding litter picks on 14th May and 2nd July 2016, meeting at the White Hart at 10am.

ii. Cllr Shepherd informed the meeting that the culvert problem previously reported (item 56/16) has now dried up.

68/16. Election of Councillors to various office's/responsibilities.

i. **Cemetery**-Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded Cllr Forrester, which carried by the council.
ii. **Highways and Road Safety**-Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded Cllr Brindley which carried by the council.
iii. **Village Hall-** Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded Cllr Ballard which carried by the council.
iv. **Alton Towers Liaison-** Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded Cllr James which carried by the council. Cllr T. Wilkinson also offered to assist with this responsibility which was accepted by all.
v. **Parish Assembly-** Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded Cllr Ballard which carried by the council.
vi. **Footpaths-** Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded Cllr Bailey which carried by the council.

69/16. Alton Towers.

i. Nothing for this item of business.

70/16. Footpaths.

i. Nothing for this item of business.

71/16. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that Cllr Worthington will discuss the funding of repairs to the village hall car-park with Alton Towers on 26th May 2016.

72/16. Lengthsman.

i. The lengthsman stated that some trees had been cut down at Gallows Green which he thought belonged to the council. Following a discussion, it was decided that it made the area look tidy and no further action was needed.
ii. The lengthsman was asked to check the doctors steps are tidy.
iii. The poor state of the handrail on the doctors steps were discussed and Cllr Shepherd volunteered to make inquiries to replace. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
iv. Cllr Forrester mentioned the plants provided by Alton Towers for the village. **Action: Cllrs Forrester and Shepherd will arrange collection on Wednesday 8th June.**

73/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported the big pothole at Battlesteads has been repaired.
ii. Cllr Brindley reported that there are two speed indicator signs in the village. The councillors were not pleased with the location of the signs and wish one to be sited in Uttoxeter Road. **Action: Clerk to contact the authorities regarding this.**
iii. Cllr Brindley reported that the highways gang had visited the village for two days clearing and tidying the area.
iv. Cllr Shepherd reported that following a request for a street light in Post Office Alley (item 56/16 ii in April) he had visited most of the neighbours, all of whom do not wish to see further lighting. Cllrs felt that there should be another street light but in view of the opposition would take no further action. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to visit the person who requested the light to explain.**

v. Cllr Brindley brought up the 'Preferred Options Site Allocations' which was then discussed by the council. Cllr Brindley requested a letter be prepared to again point out the councils concerns and objections to the proposed development which was agreed. **Action: Clerk to prepare a letter to SMDC Planning Department.**

vi. Cllr Shepherd reported that the crack reported in Red Road (item 58/16 i April) was not too bad and did not require repair at the moment.

74/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester report both a fairly good order, but that he had spoken to Jackson's Nurseries who maintain the grounds as the first grass cut at the cemetery was not good with parts missed, this had now been rectified.

75/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public wished the 'give way' signs at the top of Saltersford Lane to be replaced with 'stop signs'. The Clerk has visited the road and the 'give way' signs are correctly placed. Decision not to take this matter further as it was felt that replacing the signs would not alter liability for drivers who did not take care at the junction, if an accident were to happen.

76/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0248 and SMD/2016/0247. Airwaves Solutions Ltd, Alton Towers. Listed building consent for the installation of 1 dish antennas onto existing kit for emergency services networks only.

ii. SMD/2016/0212. Mrs Maggie Peet, Meadow View, Tythe Barn, Alton. Single storey rear extension. **There were no objections to either of these applications.**

iii. Cllr Forrester gave an explanation regarding the proposed development off Saltersford Lane. There is no proposed access off Saltersford Lane, all access from Uttoxeter Road. There will be a fresh application with further consultation as the original application is not going forward. There was a discussion regarding the planning committee and lack of consultation, however Cllr Forrester will keep the council updated.

77/16. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2016/0036. Grant of outline planning permission. Plot 2, Hurstons Lane, Alton.

ii. SMD/2016/0114. Full permission for development. Ashdene, Tythe Barn, Alton. Proposed change of use of ground floor room to beautician's studio.

iii. SMD/2016/0103. Full permission for development. Rakesdale House, Red Road, Alton. Variation of conditions triple garage SMD/2014/0800.

iv. SMD/2016/0040. Full permission for development. Alton Towers. 35 double lodges etc. These were read out by the Chair.

78/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

79/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to Enforcement Officer re dog fouling in Alton.
ii. Email to the council regarding site options and boundaries.
iii. Letter from SCC re public footpath 13 and part of 14. Notifying an appeal by applicant over the council's refusal to upgrade to bridleway status.
iv. Letter from SMDC requesting payment for commercial waste services incorrectly sent. The clerk has rectified this error by SMDC and the service will be a free domestic service at the parish cemetery as decided by the parish council previously.
v. Letter regarding elections for Police and Crime Commissioner.
vi. Email to SMDC regarding the council planning decisions April 2016.

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

80/16. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £378.38
ii. Lengthsmans wages £260.00 and £5.55 expenses.
iii. Invoice The Ford Partnership for payroll function. Gross £186.00 (Net £155.00 VAT £31.00)
iv. Zurich Insurance. £444.70
v. Jacksons Nurseries. Gross £846.41. Net £705.34. VAT £141.07.
vi. Community Council of Staffordshire. £25.00 membership. **This was not authorised.**
vii. Cheadle and Tean Times (Advert re Annual Parish meeting) £43.20 gross, £36.00 net, £7.20 VAT.
viii. Income: £251.52 from SMDC for recycling centres
ix. Income: £1100.00 from SCC, Lengthsman scheme.
x. Income: Nettlebank £27.50.
xi. Authorised payments for May 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
xii. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.40pm.

Signed..... Chairman 13th June 2016

Signed..... Clerk