# Alton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1st February 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.

**17/16. 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.

**18/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th January 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.

**19/16. Matters arising.**

i. There were no matters arising.

**20/16. Alton Towers.**

i. Cllr Shepherd gave an update on the new person he is liaising with at Alton Towers, Liz Greenwood. Also possible development of further lodges at the resort.

**21/16. Footpaths.**

i. Cllr Ballard reported dog fouling in Hurstons Lane and Lime Kiln Lane, which she believes is happening mornings between 7.30 and 8am. **Action: Clerk to notify the Enforcement Officer at SMDC.**

ii. Cllr Shepherd commented he thinks there are not enough waste or litter bins in the village. Cllr Forrester disagreed, believing there are enough bins. Cllr Shepherd outlined a large area of the village where there are no bins. Following a discussion Cllr Shepherd offered to produce a plan

at the next meeting showing the location of litter/waste bins. Cllr Forrester confirmed SMDC pay for bins. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to produce a plan.**

**22/16. Village Hall.**

i. Cllr Ballard confirmed that the parish council rent for use of the village hall is paid up to March.

**ii.** Cllr Ballard asked if any money/grant is available to repair the tarmac car-park at the village hall. Cllr Forrester offered to make inquiries. **Action: Cllr Forrester.**

**23/16. Lengthsman.**

i. Just ongoing routine maintenance is being completed.

**24/16. Highways and Road Safety.**

i. Cllr Brindley reported that Mr. Massey the landowner in Hurstons Lane where a footpath has been proposed no longer wishes to proceed with the project. Cllr Shepherd offered to speak again to Mr. Massey, which was agreed. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

ii. Cllr Brindley reported that the speed indicator sign has now been removed from Uttoxeter Road.

iii. Cllr Brindley reported that the potholes at Battlesteads have been repaired, but there are still one or two in the village awaiting repair.

iv. Cllr Brindley then gave a detailed report on planning application SMD/2015/0435, the proposed housing development off Saltersford Lane, explaining he had been approached by concerned residents who live next to the proposed boundary of the proposed development. After making representations an update is now on the Highways website. The recommendation from Highways is that there are no objections on highways grounds. Cllr Brindley read out the reasons in detail. Cllr Brindley had attended a site visit on 28th January with councillors and officials. The officials still saw no problems with traffic management. Cllr Brindley stated he believes the parish council should put forward a further objection the SMDC. Cllr Forrester has made inquiries at SMDC and he does not believe the officers of the council will go against SCC Highways, but members will be able to make up their own minds on the issue. Cllr Forrester mentioned that the sewer has not yet been finalised for the site. If it is sorted out then the matter will go ahead at SMDC as planned on 3rd March and he will be attending to speak against the matter. Other councillors will also be attending, probably Cllr's Shepherd and Brindley. This action was supported by all the Cllr's present.

v. Cllr Shepherd invited public comments on this subject. A member of the public thanked the councillors for their support in this matter.

vi. **High Street, Alton:** Cllr T. Wilkinson referred to an email he had received from Mr Robert Steele of SCC regarding the requested wheelchair access in the High Street. The email states it is not possible to complete this work for various practical reasons. Cllr T. Wilkinson intends to take the matter further as he does not accept the work cannot be completed. **Action: Cllr T. Wilkinson.**

vii. Cllr Shepherd mentioned that Battlesteads will be closed for part of the day on 15th February for road works.

viii. Cllr Shepherd mentioned that the broadband box is now in place at the front of the Royal Oak.

ix. At this point Cllr Worthington stated he would continue to work with Alton Towers and if possible Mr. Massey regarding the proposed footpath in Hurstons Lane.

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**25/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.**

i. Cllr Forrester reported that both the cemetery and church yard are in good order. There are tree cuttings which will be removed when the weather improves.

ii. Waste collection at the parish cemetery was discussed with the new rules regarding payments for the service. All the payment options were considered by the councillors who decided to try the free domestic type collection scheme consisting of 180 litre general waste, 240 litre organic waste and 240 litre comingled collection. **Clerk to action.**

**26/16. Change of date for the June Parish Council meeting.**

i. The clerk requested that the June meeting date be changed as he has a commitment in Wolverhampton that day. The councillors present agreed to this and Monday 13th June was selected as the new date. **Action: Clerk to request the date change via the village hall committee.**

**27/16. Parish Notice Board.**

i. Cllr Shepherd outlined an idea for a new notice board as the existing one is old and locked which prevents local people from advertising local events, presently signs are fixed to trees. He has seen notice boards with three bays one for the parish council which would be locked, the others for the public. He also thought a better location would be at the village hall site. Cllr Ballard thought it might be vandalised. A discussion followed when it was agreed Cllr Shepherd should take the matter forward and report back. Cllr Shepherd stated some funding may be possible from the ACE group. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to report back to the council.**

ii. At this point Cllr Shepherd mentioned a large pile of gravel which is piled up and Townhead with its junction with Back Lane. This is a nice spot and could be used by the public if the site was cleared. Following a discussion Cllr Brindley volunteered to speak to Mr. Rob Steele of Highways at SCC to find out who should be contacted, he will then inform the clerk who will write requested the land be cleared. **Action: Cllr Brindley.**

**28/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.**

i. None for this meeting.

**29/16. Planning decisions.**

i. None for this meeting.

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

i. A member of the public asked where besides the notice board in the village is the agenda posted, informed the parish website

ii. A lady asked if there was any progress on the bus service discussed a few months ago. Cllr Shepherd replied there was no change but it was still a possibility with volunteer drivers.

**30/16. Correspondence requiring response.**

i. Best kept village competition 2016. This was discussed and the decision was to enter.

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**31/16. Correspondence for Information.**

i. HM The Queen birthday beacon lighting ceremony. Although no beacon ceremony proposed Cllr Shepherd gave an outline of a proposed street party in June.
ii. National litter pick. Clean for the Queen. Cllr Shepherd reported that on Saturday 5th March there will be a litter pick possibly with food afterwards, 11am start.
iii. SPCA bulletin 8.1.16
iv. SPCA bulletin 14.1.16
v. Tree preservation order SM296 (2015) Ivy Cottage, Tythe Barn. Cllr Shepherd explained this Order.
vi. Update from police re parking in Alton. The clerk reported that the local PCSO had given this problem some attention and given advice notices to a number of vehicles.
vii. Vacancy SPCA executive.
viii. Planning decisions by Alton PC January sent to SMDC Planning.

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

**32/16. Finance.**

i. Parish Precept 2016. The parish precept was discussed for 2016/17. The clerk provided councillors with a spread sheet showing various options regarding the parish precept. The clerk stated there had not been an increase for a number of years going back to at least 2011. The councillors discussed and gave careful consideration to the amount of money required and the cost to residents. Members of the public present were permitted to comment. A decision was taken to increase the precept by 3.37% which for a band 'D' property is 91 pence a year (from £27.03 to £27.94). This will give a revenue increase of just under £535.00. The councillors felt the increase was small and would be to the benefit of the parish. The increase was proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried.
ii. Clerks salary £443.20
iii. Lengthsmans wages £55.00
iv. Community Council of Staffordshire (BKV) £15.00
v. Authorised payments for January 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
vi. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

The other finances were proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Hollins and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.35pm.

Signed..... Chairman 7th March 2016

Signed..... Clerk