Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th January 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 P. Wilkinson
Councillor T. Wilkinson

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

In Attendance: 7 members of the public.

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

1/16. 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.

2/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th December 2015.
The minutes of the last meeting 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.

3/16. Matters arising.

i. Cllr P. Wilkinson observed that Cllr Ballard had been voted as a co-representative to the village hall at the last meeting. He decided to step down from the position as council representative to the village hall as he felt Cllr Ballard would do a very good job as the representative. This was agreed.

4/16. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that he had received a newsletter from Alton Towers. They are not opening for the February half term, this year's fireworks display will be 2 days instead of 3 days and a decision will be taken shortly as to whether to reduce opening to 5 days.

5/16. Footpaths.

i. Nothing to report for this item of business.

6/16. Village Hall.

i. The Chair asked Cllr Ballard to request an invoice from the village hall so the council can pay for the hire for this year. **Action: Cllr Ballard.**

7/16. Lengthsman.

i. Nothing to report this month.

8/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley reported that he has reported a pothole to SCC Highways on Smithy Bank.
ii. The speed indicator sign is still in place in the village.
iii. Mr John Mellor has repaired the drainage problem in Dimble Lane opposite the pump. This was appreciated by the council.
iv. A discussion took place regarding the possible footpath in Hurstons Lane. Cllr Brindley has spoken with Mr. Massey the owner of the land. The situation remains unresolved. It was agreed that Cllr Shepherd approach Mr. Massey for further discussions. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

9/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that both the cemetery and church yard are in good order.

10/16. Future of external audit smaller authorities-update.

i. The clerk updated the council regarding new arrangements for the external audit with the option that the council allow the new 'Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd' to appoint an external auditor for the council or that the council select their own auditor. It was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Brindley that the new authority should select the external auditor. This was carried.

11/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. No questions were asked.

12/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. None for this meeting.

13/16. Planning decisions.

i. Cllr Shepherd stated that he and Cllrs Brindley and Ballard had attended a meeting at SMDC in Leek to discuss the housing allocation in Alton. A discussion followed regarding planning application SMD/2015/0435 and the possible number of houses Alton may have to accept. Cllr Forrester stated this would go to SMDC Planning on 3rd March 2016. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held when more information was known to formulate the council's response which would be made known at the following council meeting.
ii. SMD/2015/0760. Mr and Mrs V. Clayton, Wyndhaven, Cedarhill, Alton. Proposed garden room. Resubmission of previously approved application, due to near expiration of three year period of approval. Proposed Cllr Forrester and seconded Cllr Ballard no objections. Agreed by all.

iii. SMD/2015/0756. Mr Paul Bain, Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton. Outline planning permission for conversion of double garage into a one and a half storey domestic dwelling with two parking spaces. Proposed Cllr P. Wilkinson and seconded Cllr Shepherd no objections. Agreed by all.

iv. SMD/2015/0718. Alton Towers, Farley. Telecommunications upgrade and associated works. Proposed Cllr Forrester and seconded Cllr P. Wilkinson no objections. Agreed by all.

14/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

15/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to SCC Highways regarding wheelchair access in the High Street, Alton. Cllr T. Wilkinson stated he was making arrangements for better wheelchair access outside the White Hart in the High Street. The Clerk will send Cllr T. Wilkinson the emails he has exchanged with SCC Highways to assist him to progress his work. **Action: Cllr T. Wilkinson to report further to the council.**

ii. Email and reply to police re parking in the village. Action: **Clerk to follow up with the police for an update.**

iii. Email re last months planning recommendations to SMDC Planning for Alton PC.

iv. SPCA bulletin 31.12.15.

All were read out by the Clerk.

16/16. Finance.

i. Clerks salary £443.20. Expenses (postage) £6.48. Total £449.68.

ii. Lengthsmans wages. None this month.

iii. Jackson's Nurseries. Net £342.40. VAT £68.48. Gross £410.88.

iv. Payment to HMRC £332.40

v. Authorised payments for November 2015 to be signed off by the Council.

vi. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 7.40pm.

Signed..... Chairman 1st February 2016

Signed..... Clerk