Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th June 2016 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair)
Councillor S Hollins
Councillor E Bailey
Councillor A. Forrester
Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor P. Wilkinson, Councillor P Ballard, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor E. James.

In Attendance: 8 members of the public.

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

81/16. 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.

82/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th May 2016.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

83/16. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Liz Greenwood at Alton Towers for the flowers in the village and the plant store at the village fete. This was agreed by all. **Clerk to action.**
ii. Cllr Shepherd stated he had explained to the resident who had requested a street light a Post Office Alley (minute 73/16 iv, May meeting) that due to objections this was not supported by the council. The person understood the reasons put forward.

84/16. Alton Towers.

i. The annual traffic management for high season controlling traffic through the village by Alton Towers was supported by the council. **Action: Clerk to inform SSC Highways and Alton Towers.**

85/16. Footpaths.

i. A complaint had been received by Cllr Shepherd that the footpath at the Nook is overgrow. Cllr Shepherd will strim this.

ii. Cllr Shepherd showed the council photographs of work he proposed to replace and repair the handrail on the doctors steps and by the stile leading from the village hall to Lime Kiln Lane. The quotes for the work were £839.16 for the doctors steps and £1094.16 for the Lime Kiln Lane handrail. A total of £1933.32. This was discussed by the council and Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Bailey seconded that the proposal be accepted. It was not thought that a cheaper price could be obtained. This was carried. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to contact the clerk with bank details so that a 25% deposit can be paid.**

86/16. Village Hall.

i. Nothing for this item of business.

87/16. Lengthsman.

i. The lengthsman stated he is busy with the plants in the village and routine work.

88/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Shepherd stated he could get a new 'milestone' placed at Battlesteads, Cheadle Road. The cost was about £100. This was agreed by the councillors.

89/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester stated that following further complaints he had made regarding the poor grass cutting Jackson's had put a different gang onto the work which was now satisfactory. Everything else is in good order.

90/16. Financial Management and Internal Control.

i. The clerk asked if the council are happy with the current arrangements for financial control, in that payments are approved by the council and he pays them by BACS or a cheque signed by two authorised councillors and he then brings that bank statements showing the transactions to the next meeting to be signed again by at least two councillors. This was agreed to continue, proposed by Cllr Forrester and seconded by Cllr Hollins.

91/16. Annual accounts.

i. The clerk presented the annual internally audited accounts. Explaining the council had saved money on the previous year (spending down 45.2%), due to no capital projects during the year. The councillors discussed the accounts and Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Bailey seconded they be accepted, this was carried. The accounts will now go to the external auditor and be put on the website for public information.

92/16. Clerks salary.

i. The clerk explained that if the council wished to approve, council clerks had been awarded a pay rise and a pay increment was due in June the anniversary of his appointment. This amounted to a gross rise of £18.37 per month. The figure will be verified by the council's accountant. Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded the rise, which was carried.

93/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public complained about cars parking near to the junction on Cheadle Road/Gallows Green. The clerk agreed to have a look at this to see if the parking is legal. **Action: Clerk to report back to the council.**

ii. A member of the public stated she believed the give way signs at the junction of Saltersford Lane and Uttoxeter Road should be replaced with 'stop' signs. Cllr Worthington volunteered to ask the 'Highways Safety Review Team' to look into this. **Action: Cllr Worthington.**

94/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0308. Mr G. Oliver. Proposed erection of a dwelling. Plot 1, Hurstons Lane, Alton. **Objection on the grounds of over development, inappropriate development and the application is outside the village boundary.**

ii. SMD/2016/0304. Mr and Mrs Babb. Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Change of use of barns to 3 units of living accommodation. **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2015/0435. Consultation on revised plans for 23 dwellings land adjacent to Saltersford Lane, Alton. (Letter of objection submitted on behalf of the council). **An objection has already been submitted regarding this development and Cllr Shepherd is attending SMDC for a forthcoming planning consultation to again put the council's objections. Also Cllr Forrester is attending and Cllr Brindley (in the capacity of resident).**

iv. SMD/2016/0327. Miss C. Graham. Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Creation of manege. **No objections.**

v. SMD/2016/0315. New ride, Alton Towers. **No objections.**

vi. SMD/2016/0329. Mr and Mrs Pounder, Candlelight Cottage, Gallows Green, Alton. Extension replacing existing conservatory. **No objections.**

95/16. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2016/0119. Full permission for development. Alton Towers. Replacement of modular units. This was read out by the Chair.

ii. Cllr Shepherd then gave a detailed definition of the difference between affordable housing and low cost housing, for the information of councillors.

96/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

97/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Nabb Lane, Alton, diversion of vehicular traffic.

ii. Castle Hill Road, diversion of vehicular traffic.

iii. Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Diversion of vehicular traffic.

iv. Letter from Karen Bradley MP. Tour of Westminster, 14th July 2016.

v. Email to SMDC planning re planning decisions May.

vi. Sewer reports, proposed development at Alton Towers. 680 bed holiday accommodation.

vii. SMD/2015/0435. Planning committee meeting 16th June 2016 (proposed development off Saltersford Lane, Alton).

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

Alton Parish Council

98/16. Finance.

i. Invoice hire of village hall 2016/17. £240.00
ii. Clerk salary £378.38
iii. Lengthsman wages and expenses £180.00 wages. Expenses £17.00.
iv. Jackson's Nursey Gross £846.41. Net £705.34. VAT £141.07.
v. Alton W.I. £20.00 for flowers for the village.
vi. Income £242.00. Dove funeral services.
vii. Authorised payments for May 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
viii. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

99/16. Cllr Worthington.

i. Cllr Worthington requested to address the meeting. He explained that there is money available from Alton Towers for projects, for example a bus service, or under the right circumstances the car-park at the village hall, or junction improvement. He may be able to free up money. He asked if the council wished him to pursue such funds; which was agreed. The next meeting, he will attend is in September 2016.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.05pm.

Signed..... Chairman 4th July 2016

Signed..... Clerk