Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5th September 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: 7 members of the public.

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

131/16. 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.

132/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st August 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.

133/16. Matters arising.
i. There were no matters arising.

134/16. Alton Towers.
i. There was nothing to report regarding Alton Towers.

135/16. Footpaths.
i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the hedge in Hurstons Lane will be cut this week.

136/16. Village Hall.
i. Cllr Shepherd reported that following the discussion at the last meeting he had examined the style leading from the village hall to Lime Kiln Lane and that there is no step onto the style. New railings will be fitted. Cllr Ballard will speak with the village hall committee and get permission for the work. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange the repairs.**

137/16. Lengthsman.
i. The lengthsman stated he is busy with routine work in the village.

138/16. Highways and Road Safety.
i. Cllr Brindley asked what was the result of the parking issue near to French House, in Cheadle Road. The Clerk explained he now had a reply from Mr Greatbatch (SCC) and had completed a

site visit with the police. He would be writing to the lady concerned and although councillors would of course have sight of the letter, he felt the lady concerned should see it before any members of the public. Suffice to say the professional opinion is that roads are for vehicles to travel from A to B and any vehicle preventing such passage should be moved to allow unobstructed access.

ii. Cllr Hollins mentioned that vehicles park on the footpath outside the newsagents in the centre of the village whilst the driver calls into the shop, this restricts access for pedestrians, particularly the disabled and people with pushchairs. Following a discussion, it was decided that as the parking was only for a few moments and a minor inconvenience, matters would be left to rest.

iii. Cllr Bailey reported a large pothole in Aton Lane 100 yards south of the turn for Bradley in the Moors. **Action: Clerk to notify SCC Highways.**

139/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that he has had compliments regarding the grass cutting and general appearance of the cemetery.

140/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public stated the lych gate to the cemetery is in poor condition. Cllr Shepherd is working on the problem with the Rev Leathers, the work also concerns some of the tree's which need to be felled or cut back.

ii. A member of the public reported a blocked grid in Denstone Lane, on the left opposite the Alton village sign. This blocked grid means a lot of surface water in the road during heavy rain. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

iii. A member of the public stated the Millennium stone at the village hall is looking poor and is in need of repair. The Clerk stated he had spoken to Andrea Stafford previously and she had agreed to repair it, although she is often away from the village. **Action: Clerk to contact Andrea Stafford to see if she can help.**

iv. A member of the public stated an area at the bottom of Lime Kiln Lane is overgrown and the Lengthsman will look at the problem. **Action: Lengthsman to cut back.** A discussion also took place regarding the hedge at the same location needing to be cut back and properly layered. The member of the public offered to get a quote and speak to Cllr Shepherd.

v. Cllr James reported she had received a letter from First Direct stating that bus service 32a is to be discontinued from 24th September. A discussion took place and Cllr James stated she will check further with First Direct and report back next month. **Action: Cllr James.**

141/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0498. Alton Towers Resort. Demolition of existing maintenance/storage buildings and erection of replacement buildings. **Following a discussion, it was carried on a majority decision 5-2 no objections. Councillors Ballard and Hollins were concerned that the planning was in support of a wooden roller coaster which can be noisy, however the council had passed the planning for the roller coaster at a previous meeting.**

142/16. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2016/0308. Plot 1 Hurstons Lane, Alton. Proposed erection of a dwelling. Full permission for development.

143/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

144/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. SMD/2016/0315. Demolition of existing structures and installation of new roller coaster. Notice of planning meeting (discussed in June with no objections).
ii. Email reporting overhanging hedge in Dimble Lane and reply.
iii. Email reporting dog fouling to the enforcement officer. **The Clerk reported that further patrols had been carried out and that signs will be placed by SMDC around the playground area to deter offenders.**
iv. Email to SCC reporting two street lights obscured by tree's.
v. Email to SMDC planning with August's planning decisions by APC.
vi. Staffs Fire and Rescue fire prevention advice.
vii. SCC and Amey strategy chart.

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

145/16. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £394.53.
ii. Lengthsman wages and expenses £300.00 and £11.60 expenses (petrol).
iii. Jackson's Nurseries £846.41 (£705.34 net VAT £141.07)
iv. Received from Nettlebank for memorial £66.00
v. Authorised payments for August 2016 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 Shepherd and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 7.35pm.

Signed..... Chairman 3rd October 2016

Signed..... Clerk