Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th July 2016 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair)
Councillor S Hollins, Councillor E Bailey, Councillor P. Wilkinson, Councillor P Ballard
Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor E. James.
Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)
Apologies: Councillor A. Forrester, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC)

In Attendance: 5 members of the public.

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

100/16. 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.

101/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th June 2016.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

102/16. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd explained that the quote for the new railings (minute 85/16 ii) had been obtained and the deposit paid, the work would now go ahead when the company were available.
ii. Cllr Shepherd stated he had spoken to Ken Temple-Smith regarding the replacement of the milestone discussed at the last meeting and had asked him to proceed.

103/16. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr T. Wilkinson reported that the hearing for Alton Towers regarding the serious accident last year will be on 26th September 2016. He also reported that the astronaut Major Tim Peake had been given lifetime entry to Alton Towers, this was worth bearing in mind should as he could be invited to events in the village.

104/16. Footpaths.

i. The lengthsman explained he had been busy keeping footpaths clear.
ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that at the litter pick last Saturday he was the only person to attend. More publicity will be given to future picks.

105/16. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the scouts are to buy a new microwave, cooker and fridge for the village hall.
ii. Cllr Ballard stated that money for the car-park at the village hall could be available from Alton Towers but that this would be discussed via Cllr Worthington.

iii. Cllr Ballard reported that there is still a smell from the toilets at the village hall and she will check what is being done to address this problem.

iv. Cllr Ballard gave a report on a lively Parish Assembly meeting she had attended where housing plans in the area were discussed. Cllr P. Wilkinson suggested that the number of houses required could be reduced following Brexit as the numbers of migrants reduces. A discussion took place whether to write to SMDC to ask if housing plans will change, this was left in abeyance for the time being. Cllr Shepherd gave the official definition of affordable and low cost housing.

v. Cllr Ballard reported all the hard work by Cllr's Shepherd, Forrester and Brindley in the recent objection to the planned development off Saltersford Lane, which was successful, this was supported by all present by a round of applause.

106/16. Lengthsman.

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

ii. Cllr Brindley reported that the Best Keep Village officials were in Alton about 3 weeks ago and that work is required at the graveyard to tidy it up.

107/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that large articulated lorries are using Bradley Lane (Bradley to Alton road) and that she believes the road is unsuitable for such large vehicles. There is at present no weight restriction on the road. Cllr Shepherd stated he would speak to residents living in the area to see if they perceived a problem. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to report back to the council.**

ii. The clerk reported he had checked the parking of vehicles at Gallows Green junction Cheadle Road, but had not seen illegal parking. Following a discussion clerk to ask the local PCSO to look at parking in the village. **Action: Clerk to request PCSO to patrol.**

iii. Cllr Brindley expressed a concern that the cats eyes have not yet been replaced following work in Denstone Lane. **Action: Clerk to write to SCC Highways.**

iv. The clerk reported that the speed indicator sign has now been re-sited in Uttoxeter Road.

108/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. The lengthsman reported Cllr Forrester had asked him to tidy some graves in the cemetery which are not being maintained.

109/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. A member of the public asked why the village notice board could not be moved to the village hall site, which she thought is a better position. Cllr Shepherd explained that the cost of a new notice board was around £4,000 and some councillors felt a notice board at the village hall would be damaged by vandals.

110/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0348. Mr G. Latham, Smytheman Architectural, 10, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Two storey rear extension and internal alterations. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2016/0373. Mr Miller, The Dimble, Limekiln Lane. Retention of dwelling with basement and proposed rear conservatory. **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2016/0384. Mrs S. Sachell, The Lord Shrewsbury. Advertisement consent for one permanent hoarding. **Following a discussion, the councillors felt they could not comment on this application as they considered the wording on the sign to be incompatible with the use of the building which they believe to be charitable use and not business use.**

iv. SMD/2015/0435. Update on the consultation for development of dwellings off Saltersford Lane. (The development has been rejected). Cllr Shepherd gave an update on the refusal of this outline planning application, giving the reasons for the refusal. It was noted that an appeal is likely and that further action will be taken to object as and when such an appeal is received.

111/16. Planning decisions.

i. None for this meeting.

112/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

113/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Alton Towers traffic management.
ii. Planning decisions June 2016.
iii. Letter of thanks to Liz Greenwood, Alton Towers.
iv. Reply to Kingsley parish council regarding support to village halls.
v. Speed indicator sign.
vi. Deposit for new handrails.
vii. National Grid Gas-Alton Bridge to Oakamoor.

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

114/16. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £418.32.
ii. Lengthsman wages £340.00.
iii. Payment of £483.33 deposit new handrails.
iv. HMRC £289.60.
v. Authorised payments for June 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
vi. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8pm.

Signed..... Chairman 1st August 2016

Signed..... Clerk