Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 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, Councillor P. Wilkinson, Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).
Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)
Apologies: None.

In Attendance: 6 members of the public.

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

146/16. 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.

147/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th September 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.

148/16. Matters arising.

i. The Clerk stated he had rung Andrea Stafford to see if she could help with the restoration of the Millennium Stone at the village hall. He had received no answer but had left his contact details for her.

149/16. Alton Towers.

i. There was nothing to report regarding Alton Towers.

150/16. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the hedge in Hurstons Lane has been cut.
ii. Cllr Shepherd asked that the lengthsman clear the footpath steps in Glen Drive. **Action: Lengthsman.**
iii. Cllr Ballard asked if the lengthsman could also clear the footpath from Hurstons Lane to the War Memorial, this was also agreed. **Action: Lengthsman.**

151/16. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the insurance was due for the village hall and asked if the parish council would be prepared to assist with the costs. Following as discussion it was decided that the village hall committee should write to the Clerk explaining exactly what is requested, with copies of the invoice. **Action: Agenda item for the next meeting.**

ii. Cllr Ballard then explained that the village hall has only three trustees' and that they are concerned in case they are personally liable for anyone who perhaps injures themselves whilst on the premises or for other work at the village hall. A discussion took place during which it was pointed out that this was not a matter for the parish council, but rather for the trustee's and village hall committee to take up with their insurers.

152/16. Lengthsman.

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

ii. Cllr Brindley mentioned that the judge's at the Best Kept Village had commented about the overgrowth around the water pump in the village. The lengthsman was asked to tidy this area. **Action: Lengthsman.**

153/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley had nothing to report.

ii. Cllr Shepherd and Cllr James gave an update on the bus service in the village. First buses have stated that they are making a loss and that the service will cease in the village. They were unable to secure any subsidy from the County Council. Moorlands Connect from Ashbourne run a school service and if telephoned can provide a limited service after 9.30am until the schools close for the day. This is a first come first served service. This could be viable if a group of people used the service. There is a poster in the village café. Cllr Worthington stated the bus service was on the agenda for the Alton Towers meeting on 10th November and he would see if they could help. Cllr Shepherd will liaise with Cllr Worthington over this.

iii. Cllr Worthington stated the village hall car-park (re-surfacing) was also on the Alton Towers agenda.

154/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported both sites were in order, although apparently, moles hills have started to appear in the parish cemetery. He will check this as he was only told on the evening of the meeting.

ii. Cllr Forrester further reported that the judge's in the Best Kept Village had commented that St. Peter's Church Yard was in a poor state. He asked that it be on the next agenda to see if the parish council could assist with costs currently running at about £5,000. A discussion took place when Cllr Shepherd pointed out the land is not a parish council responsibility and Cllr Brindley stated that to support St. Peter's would mean also supporting St. John's Church. Cllr James questioned whether the council could legally spend money on such a project. **Actions: Clerk to research the law in this area regarding use of council funds and to be an agenda item at the next meeting.**

155/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. Nothing was raised.

156/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0336. Bullock, Rock Cottage Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Removal of existing floodlit ménage and lighting pylon and replacement with relocated floodlit ménage. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2016/0550. Williamson. Alton Bridge Hotel, Station Road, Alton. Retention of extension to outbuilding, lamp standards and overflow car-park. **No objections.**

157/16. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2016/0442. Candlelight Cottage, Gallows Green. Two storey extension replacing existing conservatory. Full permission for development.
ii. SMD/2016/0315. Alton Towers. Demolition of existing structures and the installation of a new rollercoaster, associated buildings and landscaping. Full permission for development.
iii. SMD/2016/0384. The Lord Shrewsbury, New Road. Advertisement consent for one permanent hoarding sign. Grant of consent to display an advertisement.

158/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

159/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Briefing note-Ivy Cottage Tythe Barn, Alton. TPO SM.296.
ii. Best Kept Village. Judge's comments.
iii. SPCA Bulletin 22nd September 2016 re precepts.
iv. SCC Highways, email confirming work to be carried out Denstone Lane (requested by the parish council)
v. SCC Highways, email confirming work to be carried out Dimble Lane (requested by the parish council)
vi. Last month's planning decisions by the parish council
vii. Email to SCC Highways asking for repairs to a blocked grid, Denstone Lane and a large pothole near Bradley in the Moors.
viii. Letter to complainant regarding parking and vehicle access Cheadle Road, Alton.

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

160/16. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £394.53. Expenses £9.10 (stamps and paper).
ii. Lengthsman wages and expenses.
iii. Jackson's Nurseries £846.41 (£705.34 net VAT £141.07)
iv. HMRC £296.40
v. Grant Thornton £120.00 (£100.00 net plus £20.00 VAT). **The Clerk reported that the accounts had been returned from the external auditors and were in order. The appropriate notice had been placed on the website.**
vi. Received from Nettlebank for memorial additional inscription £27.50
vii. Precept income from SMDC £7450.00.
viii. 2015/2016 accounts returned from the external auditor.
ix. Authorised payments for September 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
x. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

Alton Parish Council

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 7.50pm.

Signed..... Chairman 7th November 2016

Signed..... Clerk