Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1st August 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 M. Worthington (SCC).
Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)
Apologies: Councillor P. Wilkinson, Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor E. James.

In Attendance: 6 members of the public.

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

115/16. 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.

116/16. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th July 2016.
The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Bailey and seconded by Cllr Hollins and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

117/16. Matters arising.
i. There were no matters arising.

118/16. Alton Towers.
i. There was nothing to report regarding Alton Towers.

119/16. Footpaths.
i. The lengthsman reported that a lady was concerned at the hedge overgrowing the footpath at the top of Lime Kiln Lane. The lengthsman will attend to this. **Action: Lengthsman.**
ii. Cllr Hollins requested that the hedge overhanging the footpath in Hurston Lane but cut back. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will contact the owners.**
iii. Cllr Shepherd stated the finger post on footpath 20 had rotted off and that he would contact SCC to have this repaired. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
iv. Cllr Ballard reported a cherry tree overhanging the footpath in Shirley Drive near Uttoxeter Road. **Action: The clerk will have a look to see if the owner needs to be contacted.**

120/16. Village Hall.
i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the stile leading from the village hall lane onto Lime Kiln Lane was in his opinion rickety and should be removed altogether as it served no useful purpose and a new hand rail is to be put in place. There followed a discussion whereby not all the councillors present agreed. Cllr Shepherd agreed to have a further look at the stile and report back to the next

meeting. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to review the stile and Cllr Ballard to report the idea to the village hall committee.**

121/16. Lengthsman.

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

122/16. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Ballard has received a complaint of speeding vehicles during the morning school run in Hurstons Lane. Following a discussion about speed and perceptions of speed it was decided that no further action would be taken at this time.

ii. Cllr Brindley reported two street lights, one in Dimble Lane and one Hurstons Lane are obscured by trees. These are lights M1 in Hurstons Lane and M5 in Dimble Lane. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways Dept.**

iii. Cllr Brindley also reported that the speed indicator sign in Uttoxeter Road in partially obscured by trees. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to look at this issue.**

iv. Cllr Shepherd reported that regarding the complaint made at the last meeting (minute 107/16(i)) he had spoken to residents in the road who do not think there is a problem. Decision: No further action.

123/16. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that the mowing was now very good at both sites.

ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that although not a parish council issue, the old graveyard was overgrown and he had met with Mr Steve Massey from SMDC and work had been agreed to clear and tidy the yard.

124/16. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues:

i. No issues were raised.

125/16. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2016/0417. Mr and Mrs T. Babb, Jays Barn, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Change of use from self-catering holiday let to a single dwelling. **Decision: The parish council does not wish to express an opinion on this application due to the sensitive nature of the application in changing a holiday let into a dwelling, but are content to leave the decision to SMDC planning.**

ii. SMD/2016/0410. Alton Towers, Demolition of existing structures and installation of new ride, construction of associated buildings and landscaping. **Decision: No objections to this application.**

iii. SMD/2016/0427. The Old Vicarage, Dimble Lane. Proposed erection of a new dwelling, including means of access. **Decision: No objections to the building in this application, but the council does have concerns about access to the property on the narrow country lane where it will be situated and invite SMDC planning to consider this when the application is decided upon.**

iv. SMD/2016/0442. Mr & Mrs Pounder, Candlelight Cottage, Gallows Green. Proposed two storey extension, replacing existing conservatory. **Decision: No objections to this application.**

126/16. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2015/0537. Full permission for development. Alton Towers flag tower.
ii. SMD/2015/0538. Grant of listed building consent. Alton Towers flag tower.
iii. SMD/2016/0327. Full permission for development. Creation of manege. Brady Lane, Threapwood.
iv. SMD/2016/0303 and 0304. Full permission for development and grant of listed building consent. Change of use of 3 x barns for living accommodation. Rickyard and Barns, Brady Lane, Threapwood.

127/16. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

128/16. Correspondence for Information.

i. Planning decisions July 2016.
ii. BKV invitation to results on 1.8.16.
iii. Email to Chris Thorpe SMDC Planning asking if there has been an appeal re the Saltersford Lane development (SMD/2015/0435).
iv. Email to PCSO Nettleton requesting patrols regarding parking in the village.
v. Email to SCC Highways requesting an update on cats eyes replacement in Denstone Road, Alton.

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

129/16.

i. Cllr Brindley raised an issue regarding the parking of vehicles near to French House in Cheadle Road, Alton, the clerk had received a complaint from a resident regarding the problems caused when large vehicles travel the road and have difficulty passing vehicles parked near to the bend outside French House. The resident who parks nearby considers the large vehicles are the problem. Cllr Brindley explained that for many years this had been the way through the village for large vehicles including what was the main service bus route and he felt this was the correct route and that a weight restriction should not be placed on the road. The alternative route through the village involves an acute turn into Uttoxeter Road by the Blacksmiths Arms which would be more difficult. He felt that the parked vehicles on or near to the bend caused the problem; the clerk has alerted SCC Highways Mr R. Steele who in turn had passed the issue to Mr. D. Greatbatch. The councillors present agreed that they did not wish to see a weight limit and felt the vehicles should be parked well away from the bend.

130/16. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £394.53. Expenses £20.00 (printer ink).
ii. Lengthsman wages and expenses £330.00.
iii. Jackson's Nurseries £846.41 (£705.34 net VAT £141.07)
iv. Richard Newton (internal audit) £145.00

v. Received from SMDC £400.00 Lengthsman scheme.
vi. Received from HMRC £1,086.40 VAT repayment.
vii. Authorised payments for July 2016 to be signed off by the Council.
viii. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

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

Signed..... Chairman 5th September 2016

Signed..... Clerk