Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair)
Councillor P Ballard, Councillor S Hollins, Councillor E Bailey, Councillor E. James, Councillor A. Forrester, Councillor E. Brindley, Cllr C. Woods.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

In Attendance: 5 members of the public.

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

1/18. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

2/18. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017.

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.

3/18. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the extra lights for the Christmas tree in the village (donated by JCB) had arrived in time for Christmas. He had now taken the tree down.

4/18. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James had nothing to report for this item of business, other then to mention the new ride opening this year the 'Wicker Man'.

5/18. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey reported he had received complaints regarding dog fouling in the village again, the Clerk also reported he had received a complaint about the same issue in Shirley Drive. Cllr Ballard stated that action had to be taken against this anti-social behaviour, mess had been found on her drive this evening. Members of the public were allowed to speak and a lady and gentleman stated that they were finding mess on their driveway and even in their garage. Following a discussion it was decided that the clerk should contact the Enforcement Officer at SMDC and request attention. A poster will be sited on the notice board and the Alton website (with permission from the webmaster). Cllr Woods stated she would arrange for the children at St. Peter's school to take a letter home to their parents highlighting the problem. **Action: The Clerk and Cllr Woods to arrange.**

ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that part of footpath 13 and 16 is due to be changed to a bridle path, this has been previously discussed several times. If there are objections there is still time to contact SMDC.

Alton Parish Council

6/18. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard had nothing to report for this item of business.

7/18. Lengthsman.

i. The lengthsman reported that due to the poor and snowy weather he had not been able to do any work in the last month.

8/18. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley stated that some potholes have been repaired.

ii. Cllr Bailey reported that the water running over the road in Battlesteads was flowing in the road. Cllr Brindley stated he would report the issue to SCC Highways again. **Action: Cllr Brindley.**

9/18. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported all is in order in the cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

10/18. Precept 2018/19.

i. The Clerk explained a spread sheet he had prepared showing several examples of the possible precept for the coming year. He stated that the two items that are likely to increase the most would be ground maintenance which is likely to increase and possibly his salary if approved later in the year. He estimated that a total increase of £450-£500 would be sufficient. There followed a discussion about various spending and costs. Cllr Brindley proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded that one of the examples was suitable with a 3.87% increase which would bring in an extra £487. This was carried unanimously by the council.

11/18. Data Protection Officer.

i. Cllr Shepherd introduced the subject and invited the Clerk to explain his findings that the council may have to pay for the services of a Data Protection Officer when the new Data Protection Act becomes law in May. The Clerk stated that he had spoken to Staffordshire Parish Councils Association and the advice he had received was that work is ongoing to get an exemption for public bodies with less than five employee's, but if that was not successful then another option would be to ask SCC to provide the service, but there would be a cost implication for this. The advice was at present to do nothing but await further update's from SPCA. It was agreed to await further advice.

12/18. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. Nothing was raised requiring action.

13/18. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2017/0826. Mr and Mrs Burton, New Farm, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Conversion of existing redundant former cowshed to additional accommodation, ancillary to existing dwelling. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2017/0852. Mr S. Ovens, Broad View, Tythe Barn, Alton. Erection of porch and rear single storey extension. **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2017/0825. Mr Paul Bain, Rosehill, Nab Lane, Alton. Conversion of detached garage into liveable annexe. **No objections.**

Alton Parish Council

14/18. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2017/0619. Sunnyhill, Smithy Bank. Extension. **Approved**.
ii. SMD/2017/0711. Pine Lodge Cheadle Road. Certificate of lawfulness. **Approved**. Single storey extension.

15/18. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

16/18. Correspondence for Information.

i. Planning decisions from December 2017 to SMDC.
ii. Email reporting defective lamppost in Limekiln Lane.
iii. Email thanking PCSO's for attending the December meeting.
iv. Letter from Moorlands Connect Service.
v. Email from Liz Greenwood, Alton Towers re payment for Christmas Tree lights.
vi. Email re alleged speeding Uttoxeter Road, Alton.
vii. Notification of external auditor.

All were read out by the Chair and the Clerk.

17/18. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £414.34.
ii. Lengthsman wages and expenses. None this month.
iii. HMRC £310.80.
iv. Keates Funeral Directors income £508.00.
v. Invoice Christmas Plus £120.60 gross (Net £100.50 VAT £20.10). Paid (Minute 172/17 (iii)).
vi. Authorised payments for December 2017 to be signed off by the Council.
vii. 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 7.40pm.

Signed..... Chairman 5th February 2018

Signed..... Clerk