Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2018 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor T. Wilkinson.

In Attendance: 7 members of the public.

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

66/18 Election of the Chairman.

i. Cllr Shepherd asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council. Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded Cllr Shepherd as the Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously and Cllr Shepherd declared the Chairman for 2018/19.

67/18. Declarations of Interest.

i. None for this meeting.

68/18. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th April 2018.

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.

69/18. Matters arising.

i. There were no matters arising.

70/18. Election of Councillors to various office's/responsibilities.

i. Cllr Shepherd proposed that all the councillors who had special responsibilities last year continue in those roles for the forthcoming year. Cllr Brindley then stated that he wished to step down as the councillor with responsibility for Highways and Road Safety. He has held the post for a number of years now and felt the time was right for a change. Cllr Worthington praised the work of Cllr Brindley and the hard work he has put into the role over the years. This was agreed by the councillors present. Cllr Woods stated she would take on the role if Cllr Brindley would help to train her in the responsibilities, this he agreed to do. Cllr Shepherd amended his proposal to include Cllr Woods to have responsibility for Highways and Road Safety and the other councillors to continue in their roles, this was second by Cllr James. This was carried so the below councillors have special responsibilities.

ii. **Vice Chairman and Cemetery**- Cllr Forrester.

iii. **Highways and Road Safety**-Cllr Woods.
iv. **Village Hall-** Cllr Ballard.
v. **Alton Towers Liaison-** Cllr James.
vi. **Parish Assembly-** Cllr Ballard.
vii. **Footpaths**- Cllr Bailey.

71/18. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Shepherd stated the noise from the Wicker Man ride at Alton Towers is still excessive in the Churnet Valley part of the parish. Alton Towers are looking into this and it was agreed to leave this for another month to give the resort the chance to deal with the issue.

72/18. Footpaths.

i. There was nothing to report for this item.

73/18. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard stated the next meeting of the village hall committee is this coming Wednesday.
ii. The clerk read out an email from Mr Dingley of the village hall committee stating that two childrens swings are broken and will cost £666.00 to repair (plus VAT). A second email from Mr Dingley did state it was not expected the council would pay for the swings, but he brought it to notice in case there were any questions from the public regarding the matter.

74/18. Lengthsman.

i. The lengthsman reported that he is completing routine work.
ii. Cllr Forrester stated the flowers from Alton Towers for the village will be delivered shortly.
iii. A litter pick will take place on 9th June starting at 10am at the White Hart PH.

75/18. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley has reported the potholes reported to SCC have now been repaired, Cllr Worthington was thanked for his help in getting the potholes repaired.
ii. Cllr Brindley highlighted again the parking in The Nook with cars on the pavements. Cllr Shepherd stated this has already been reported to the police.
iii. Cllr Woods stated she was concerned at the speed of cars travelling along Dimble Lane, two cats have recently been killed on the road. It is possible some of the drivers work at Alton Towers, Cllr Woods will contact Alton Towers to ask they advise their staff, if using that road to take care. **Action: Cllr Woods.**
iv. It was mentioned that the hedge in Dimble Lane is starting to grow into the road. This to be monitored at this stage.

76/18. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that the first mowing of the cemetery was very poor and he had spoken with the contractor and the second cut was much better and up to standard.

77/18. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public asked if the pothole that keeps appearing in Uttoxeter Road at the junction with Denstone Lane could be treated as a special case and repaired as a priority due to

the busy road at that point. It was agreed that Cllr Brindley would supply the clerk with the reference number and the clerk will contact SCC Highways. **Action: Cllr Brindley and the clerk.**

ii. The same member of the public highlighted that 12/13 year old children have to walk from Alton to Rocester to go to school as the free bus service has been withdrawn (they can travel on the bus if they pay) and this does not seem fair due to the dangerous road with nowhere to get out of the way of traffic. He has videoed the route from his car and sent a copy to the authorities and awaits the outcome. He will update the council with the result. No action at this time by the council.

iii. A member of the public highlighted the railings running from Dimble Lane to Glen Drive need repairing. Cllr Shepherd will look into this. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

iv. A member of the public raised poor parking in the village, Cllr Shepherd stated he will re-inform the police. Cllr Ballard said it would be better if the witness reported the matter directly to the police. The clerk stated that best evidence is gained by a witness reporting directly to the police at the time rather than waiting days or weeks to tell the parish council. The witness can then describe properly first hand what the problem is, this also applies to reporting dog fouling, a direct report to the District Council with time, date, place and description of owner and dog would help the enforcement officer immensely.

v. A member of the public reported that the grids are blocked on Lime Kiln Lane. **Action: Clerk will report to SCC Highways.**

vi. A member of the public raised the issue of the 'give way' sign at the end of Saltersford Lane, a number of residents believe this should be a 'stop' sign. SCC have been out to this site and decided not to change the sign and there has been a site meeting. Cllr Worthington stated that if the parish council were unanimous in wanting a 'give way' sign he would take the matter back to SCC Highways and it might be changed eventually. **Action: Cllr Worthington.**

78/18. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2018/0245. Mr C. Barks, Land Hurstons Lane, Alton. Erection of detached dwelling. **The council oppose this application on the grounds of it being too large and obstructing historic views.**

ii. SMD/2018/0260. Mr Andrew Smith, Corner Cottage, Gallows Green. Two storey rear extension. **No objections except Cllr James.**

iii. SMD/2018/0209. Mr S. Massey, c/o Sammons Architectural Ltd, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Construction of outdoor riding area. **No objections.**

79/18. Planning decisions.

None for this meeting.

80/18. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

81/18. Correspondence for Information.

i. Exemption of parish councils appointing Data Protection Officer.
ii. Email confirming APC to take advantage of Data Protection Service (now subject to change).
iii. Email to Cllr Mike Worthington re pothole near Spond Farm.
iv. Planning recommendations to SMDC for April.

v. Thank you email from Jackson's Nurseries re ground maintenance contract.
vi. Emails to Enforcement Officer re dog fouling (complaint from Cllr Ballard).

All were read out by the Clerk.

82/18. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £414.34. Expenses £4.75 (paper and file). Total £419.09.
ii. Lengthsman wages £230.00 and expenses £11.71
iii. Zurich Insurance renewal £455.32
iv. Invoice from Village Hall £240.00 (Hire of hall).
v. SMDC income £400.00 Lengthsman service.
vi. SMDC income £7943.50 (precept first payment).
vii. Cemetery income £277.00.
viii. Internally audited accounts to be approved. **The clerk explained that the parish council's accounts had passed the internal audit and produced the documents. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded that the accounting statement be approved. This was carried.**
ix. Authorised payments for April 2018 were signed off by the Council.
x. Current bank balances were 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 8pm.

Signed..... Chairman 4th June 2018

Signed..... Clerk