Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2nd July 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 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.

98/18. Declarations of Interest.

i. None for this meeting.

99/18. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th June 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.

100/18. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the railings running from Dimble Lane to Glen Drive that need repairing (minute 77/18 iii, May meeting), will be repaired shortly.

101/18. Millennium Stone repair update.

i. Andrea Stafford who is kindly making inquiries to having the mosaic on the stone repaired and an update on the work she is doing with a local company Phoenix Tiles. She explained how a new tile for the centre of the stone depicting local features and areas of interest as originally drawn by local children could be replicated using an enhanced photograph of the original work. The costs are not yet fully clear but could be in the region of £2,400 including VAT. A discussion followed which included ways to raise the money besides using council funds such as asking local people to donate and contacting large businesses to see if they would help. Also protection of the ceramic plate from accidental or deliberate damage by use of a Perspex cover was discussed. The Chair thanked Andrea for her hard work and asked for a formal estimate to be provided and for the Clerk to be kept up to date with progress so that he can report back to the council.

102/18. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James had nothing to report for this item of business.
ii. Cllr Worthington reported that the next liaison group meeting is on 18th July, when he will be discussing the possibility of transport assistance.

iii. The annual Alton Towers traffic management system for controlling traffic through the village during periods of high volume was discussed and agreed on a vote by 7 votes for and 2 against. **Action: Clerk to update Alton Towers.**

103/18. Footpaths.

i. There was nothing of any significance to report for this item of business.

104/18. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that there is a committee meeting tomorrow (3.7.18).
ii. The Clerk has had the signs made requested at the last meeting regarding use of the playing fields by dog walkers and vehicles. The council was pleased with the signs and the Lengthsman will fix them in place.
iii. The Alton Community Enterprise group (ACE) have paid £840 to the village hall for the repair of the swings in the play area, Alton Towers also contributed £100. Cllr Brindley praised the ACE group and Alton Towers for there generous contribution, and also thanked Cllr James who is the treasurer of ACE. This was supported by the whole council.

105/18. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported that he is just doing routine work, cutting grass, clearing and responsibly watering the flowers tubs in the village.

106/18. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Woods had nothing specific for this item of business. There are still allegations of vehicles travelling too fast along Dimble Lane and Horse Lane.
ii. Cllr Brindley stated some potholes had still not been repaired. The Clerk read an email from SCC regarding the pothole repairs which explained that in order of safety priority they would be repaired. Cllr Worthington took the reference details and will follow up. **Action: Cllr Worthington.**

107/18. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that all is in order, the mowing is good. The hedge by the cemetery is getting long. **Action: Clerk to remind Jackson's Nursery to cut the hedge.**

108/18. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public reported that grass cutting off Uttoxeter Road is being left until the grass is about 9'' long by SCC and when cut left it a mess. He felt it needed cutting more regularly. **Action: Clerk asked to write to request more frequent cutting.**
ii. A member of the public stated that Nabb Lane was being used as a short cut by Alton Towers traffic. There is a sign stating not a Sat Nav route and there are no restrictions on usage.
iii. The handrail in Dimble Lane is still loose (reported at the last meeting), Cllr Shepherd will look into this.
iv. A member of the public mentioned the lack of bus services in the area and discussed the whether the parish council could contribute to a mini bus. This is not a possibility, but Cllr Shepherd gave details of other possibilities during a general discussion. Nothing has yet been finalised.

v. Cllr James thanked Cllr Worthington for helping to sort out the school bus which had been withdrawn between Alton and Denstone on a dangerous road. This has been reviewed and the service restored.
vi. Cllr Brindley stated the hedge needs cutting back on Hurstons Lane near Uttoxeter Road. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will speak to the owner.**

109/18. Planning and Licensing Applications.
i. None for this meeting

110/18. Planning decisions.
i. SMD/2017/0723. Mr Tony Harris, Bramlea, Malthouse Road, Alton. Proposed single storey extension to rear of property. Approved.
ii. SMD/2018/0017. Mrs M. Keeling, 10, Battlesteads, Alton. Outline application for 3 new dwellings within domestic curtilage. Outline planning approved.
iii. SMD/2018/0050. Alton Towers. Lighting at perimeters of car-park J. Approved.
iv. Cllr Worthington stated the pods at Alton Towers had not been approved.

111/18. Correspondence requiring response.
i. Email from SMDC – Monument repairs in St. Peters Church Yard. This letter outlined two monuments to be repaired and asked if the council could make a contribution. General discussion followed. **Action: Clerk to write and ask for more details.**

112/18. Correspondence for Information.
i. Letter from SCC re pothole repair.
ii. Letter of thanks to Alton Towers for the village flowers.

All were read out by the Clerk.

113/18. Finance.
i. The Clerks annual salary was reviewed. There was a national 2% increase in April and an increment due in June, taking gross pay to £546.02 and the net is £436.82 per month. **This was discussed and then proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Shepherd and approved by the council.**
ii. Clerk salary (if approved) £475.84 (includes £39.02 back-pay).
iii. Lengthsman wages £405.00 and expenses £20.32.
iv. Invoice from Easyfix Emblems for signs x 6. £90.00 net, VAT £18.00 (Gross £108.00). **Paid. Authorised minute 88/18(i) June 2018.**
v. Invoice from The Ford Partnership, payroll services to 5.4.18. Net £170.00, VAT £34.00 (Gross £204.00).
vi. HRMC £316.80.
vii. Authorised payments for June 2018 were signed off by the Council.
viii. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

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

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

Alton Parish Council

Signed..... Chairman 6th August 2018

Signed..... Clerk