Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th April 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 M. Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor E. James, Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor C. Woods.

In Attendance: 7 members of the public.

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

51/18. Declarations of Interest.

i. Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in planning application SMD/2017/0497 and would hand the Chair to Cllr Forrester for this item.

52/18. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th March 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.

53/18. Matters arising.

i. There were no matters arising.

54/18. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Shepherd has spoken to Liz Greenwood from Alton Towers regarding the extra noise that can be heard in the village as a result of the new ride 'Wicker Man'. Alton Towers are looking into the issue of the music volume.

55/18. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that footpath 13 and part of 16 are now classed as a bridleway.

56/18. Village Hall.

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

57/18. Lengthsman.

i. The lengthsman reported that he has just started the mowing season.
ii. Cllr Bailey reported that regarding the suggestion of wild flowers to grow in Shirley Drive, this may not work as when the area is mowed the flowers will be cut. (see minute 39/18 ii in March). To be left in abeyance.

iii. Cllr Forrester stated he would arrange for flowers from Alton Towers for the village, this was agreed by all. **Action: Cllr Forrester to arrange.**

58/18. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley has reported more potholes to SCC Highways including one in Uttoxeter Road. One in Knight Lane will be checked by Cllr Shepherd who if necessary will update the clerk to report.

ii. The pothole reported to SCC by the clerk in Bradley Lane has still not been repaired, Cllr Worthington volunteered to speak to Amey about this when he meets with them this week. **Action: Clerk to forward the email regarding this to Cllr Worthington.**

59/18. 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.

ii. New contract for Jackson's Nursery and the ground maintenance contract were discussed. Cllr Brindley explained that the original proposed contract had been a 7% increase in charges, but following telephone calls to the nursery from himself and the clerk the nursery had reduced this to 5%. Total cost now £5721.21 + VAT (which is reclaimed). This was proposed by Cllr Brindley and seconded by Cllr Shepherd and carried. **Action: Clerk to arrange the contract with Jackson's Nurseries.**

60/18. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public reported that the edge of the road in Nabb Lane had been worn away with the bad winter weather. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will inspect and if necessary ask the clerk to report the matter to SCC.**

61/18. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2018/0141. Merlin Attractions (Alton Towers). 102 accommodation pods and associated support buildings, landscaping, parking and drainage. Cllr Forrester stated that Farley PC had not objected but did request that low level lighting was used to prevent light pollution. Cllr Shepherd proposed to support the application with low level lighting, seconded by Cllr Forrester and carried with one abstention.

ii. DET/2018/0008. Nathan Riches, The Dairy Shepherds Stand Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling house. There were no objections to this application in its present form but the council request that restrictions are placed on permitted development rights in the future.

iii. SMD/2018/0143. Dr Gary Kelsall, The Malthouse, Malthouse Road, Alton. Change of use from C1 bed and breakfast to C3 dwelling with business accommodation B1. **No objections.**

iv. SMD/2017/0819. P. Finney, The Caravan, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of use of land for 14 touring caravans, separate camping/open space, facilities, reception. **No objections.**

v. SMD/2017/0497. Vital Construction Ltd. Ivy Cottage, Tythe Barn, Alton. Demolition of Ivy Cottage and replacement dwelling and 10 new dwellings, new road access (amended plans). Application was validated on 17/8/17. **The discussion on the application was chaired by Cllr Forrester and after a discussion in which Cllr Shepherd (due to a declared interest) did not take part, there were no objections.**

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62/18. Planning decisions.

None for this meeting.

63/18. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

64/18. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to SMDC planning re last months planning observations.
ii. Email to Highways (SCC) re blocked grids Lime Kiln Lane.
iii. Email regarding Safety Camera Team in Alton.
iv. Email to Mr Munn regarding the reporting of alleged parking offences.
v. Moorlands Connect letter. Cllr Shepherd mentioned that Waterhouses PC have offered the loan of their mini-bus to help now that bus services have been removed. It is early days but for the idea to move forward volunteer drivers would be needed.
vi. Letter re damaged wall to Highfield Ceramic Cottage, Cedar Hill.

All were read out by the Clerk.

65/18. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £414.34. Expenses £2.50 parking re finance training. Stamps £6.72. Total £423.56.
ii. Lengthsman wages £210.00.
iii. Annual Governance Statement to be approved and signed. The annual governance statement was read out by the clerk and agreed. It was signed by the Chair Cllr Shepherd and the clerk.
iv. Invoice to SMDC for £400.00. Lengthsman scheme.
v. Payment to HMRC £310.60.
vi. Authorised payments for March 2018 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 14th May 2018

Signed..... Clerk