Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3rd December 2018 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor M. Worthington (SCC), Councillor C. Woods

In Attendance: 4 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

175/18. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

176/18. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th November 2018.

i. 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.

177/18. Matters arising.

i. The Clerk reported that he had sent a photograph of the pothole in Denstone Lane (minute 167/18 i) and this had now been repaired by SCC.
ii. The Clerk reported that the cul-de-sac 'T'sign in Hillrise, off Shirley Drive is faded but does not require replacement.
iii. The Clerk reported that the hedge at the cemetery had been cut to a height of around 6' by Jacksons Nurseries.

178/18. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James she had nothing for this item of business.

179/18. Footpaths.

i. The Lengthsman reported he had tried to repair the handrail in Glen Drive (minute 164/18 ii) but a lady who owns the wall had told him he could not do this work, so the handrail has had to be left unrepaired.
ii. Cllr Shepherd read out a letter from SCC regarding a proposal to upgrade footpath 16 to a bridleway. The council had no objections or comments on this.

180/18. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that there is now a new system for booking the village hall, applicants can now check available dates online before making the booking via the new booking secretary.

ii. Cllr Ballard reported that a cooker the scouts had bought for the village hall had been damaged by unknown person(s). It is now likely that the booking secretary will now check the building with future hirers before their event and any damage will have to be paid for.

iii. Cllr Ballard reported that someone is parking their car on the playing fields contrary to the notices in place. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to obtain details and then the clerk to write and advise the owner.**

iv. Cllr Ballard reported that people are still walking dogs on the playing fields, the signs need placing in a better position. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will look into this.**

181/18. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported that he had cleared The Hurstons of leaves only to walk back along the path to find someone had allowed their dog to foul on the path just minutes after it was cleared, he had to clear the mess himself.

182/18. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Shepherd stated he has obtained two quotes for hedge laying in Lime Kiln Lane, one for £780 from Churnet Woodland Crafts from Foxt and one for £950 from Dan Saberton, Stafford. Following a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr James seconded that the quote of £780 be accepted. This was carried by the council. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**

ii. Cllr Brindley mentioned that there are blocked grids in Hurston Lane. A discussion revealed that grids are also blocked in Lime Kiln Lane and Uttoxeter Road. **Action: The clerk to request SCC Highways visit and clear the grids.**

183/18. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported the cemetery is in good order.

184/18. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public congratulated the Lengthsman, the Alton W.I. and others who were involved in preparing the war memorial for the recent commemorations of the end of the Great War 100 years ago. This was also mentioned by Cllr Ballard and supported by all the council.

ii. A member of the public stated that whilst he was pleased booking dates could now be viewed on line for the village hall, the site is not up to date with dates when the hall is in use. Cllr Ballard stated this is work is progress and the village hall committee aim to get it up to date after Christmas.

iii. Cllr Hollins mentioned a car that parks on the pavement causing it to be blocked in Saltersford Lane. Cllr Shepherd advised her to ring the police on 101 when the vehicle is in situ as this will give a first hand report to the police.

185/18. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2018/0691 (0692). Proposed new courtyard gates and reinstatement of rear entrance doorway. The Malthouse, Malthouse Road, Alton (Listed building consent). **No objections.**

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186/18. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2018/0566. Mrs P. Capewell, Cuckoo-Well-Hollow, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Removal of condition 7 relating to SMD/2002/1130. (Allowing holiday chalets to be used as dwellings). **Refused.**

ii. SMD/2018/0567. Mrs P. Capewell, Cuckoo-Well-Hollow, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Removal of condition 9 relating to SMD/2010/1041. (Allowing holiday chalet to be used as dwelling). **Refused.**

187/18. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

188/18. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to SMDC re planning applications November 2018.
ii. Email re pothole Denstone Lane (by the Alton village sign).
iii. Email from SCC re footpath No 19.
iv. Email re petition about funding removal for school crossing patrols.

All the correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

189/18. Village Christmas tree.

i. Cllr Shepherd stated he has erected the village Christmas tree and a local man who lives by the tree kindly supplies the electricity and does not charge. Cllr shepherd proposed the council offer a donation to help with the costs of £10. Cllr Forrester seconded the proposal which was carried.

190/18. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £436.82. Expenses £4.48p (stamps).
ii. Lengthsman wages £80.00
iii. Jacksons Nurseries Gross £915.38 (Net £762.82, VAT £152.56) October visits. **Paid.**
iv. Authorised payments for November 2018 to be signed off by the Council.
v. Current bank balances to be 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 7.25pm

Signed..... Chairman 7th January 2019

Signed..... Clerk