Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5th February 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, Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr C. Woods (no apology received).

In Attendance: 8 members of the public.

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

18/18. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest, however Cllr Forrester stated that whilst he had no interest his son has drawn up the plans for SMD/2018/0017 (item 12.i), so although he would take part in the discussion he would not vote.

19/18. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th January 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.

20/18. Matters arising.

i. There were no matters arising.

21/18. Alton Towers.

i. There was nothing for this item of business.

22/18. Footpaths.

i. There was nothing for this item of business.

23/18. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard had nothing to report for this item of business.
ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that the defibrillator is due to be fitted on Thursday at the village hall, following which he will arrange a photograph and press coverage. Councillors and village hall committee members will be informed as will Alton Towers and JCB who helped with the funding.

24/18. Lengthsman.

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

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25/18. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Brindley stated that potholes were still a problem and not all had been repaired. The repairing is not as quick as it had been in the past.
ii. Cllr Shepherd reported a large pothole in Bradley Lane outside Spond Farm. **Action: Clerk to report this to SCC Highways.**
iii. Cllr Worthington inquired whether Trevor Mellor from SCC Highways had been in touch with either Cllr Brindley or the Clerk. He had not so Cllr Brindley will pass on details to Mr Mellor and ask him to make contact.
iv. Cllr Bailey reported that the water running in the road at Battlesteads had been reported to Severn Trent, they had attended and stated it was not their water.
v. Cllr Shepherd reported that the PCSO's who attended the meeting in December had not been in touch with him as promised to view and discuss the parking in parts of the village. **Action: Clerk to request PCSO's to visit and meet with Cllr Shepherd.**

26/18. 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.

27/18. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A lady who looks after a disabled child made an enquiry about playground equipment that could be used by the child. She was informed that she needs to contact the village hall committee as they own the playground not the council.
ii. A member of the public was dissatisfied with the response of SCC to repairing potholes and asked what the parish council were doing to encourage them to spend money better. Cllr Worthington explained the process for pothole repairs and how they are prioritised in line with national policy. Cllr Brindley explained it is difficult to get action quickly for what is a national problem.
iii. A lady asked if speed limits applied to bridle paths she alleged horses were being ridden too fast and also vans on the road near her home. A discussion took place explaining speed limits on road and that there is no speed limit on a bridle path. Such matters should be reported to the authorities at the time.

28/18. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2018/0017. Mrs M. Keeling, 10, Battlesteads, Alton. Outline application for 3 new dwellings within domestic curtilage. **No objections.**
ii. SMD/2017/0854. Mrs J. Smith, The Bungalow, Gallows Green, Alton. Extension and alterations to existing bungalow. **No objections.**
iii. SMD/2018/0056. Mr and Mrs Babb, (C/O agent), Jays Barn, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Change of use from a self catering holiday let to single dwelling. **No objections.**

29/18. Planning decisions.

i. None for this meeting.

30/18. Correspondence requiring response.

i. The Clerk reported he had received a telephone call from a member of the public reporting during the recent cold spell that a lady had slipped on an intreated footpath outside St. Peters School, Town Head injuring her head and elbow. The gentleman wanted to know if the council would support a grit bin outside the school paid for by parents.
The council discussed the matter including the fact there is a grit bin just down the road from the school by the war memorial and that there is no pavement outside the school meaning a bin would take up a parking space. It was decided that a new bin could not be supported at that location.

ii. The Clerk reported he has received the Best Kept Village application forms for this year. Following a discussion it was decided not to enter this year although the council will support keeping the village clean and tidy as usual. Cllr Bailey stated some of the flower tubs around the village are in need of replacement, Cllr Worthington stated he could help with money from his community fund to replace them and Cllr Shepherd volunteered to check them all. **Action: Cllr Shepherd. Agenda item next month.**

iii. Cllr Worthington stated that should the council decide to commemorate the end of the Great War during the year he would also assist financially from his community fund. **Action: Agenda item next month.**

31/18. Correspondence for Information.

i. Planning recommendations from January 2018 to SMDC.
ii. Email to and from enforcement officer re dog fouling.
iii. Notification of external auditor.

All were read out by the Chair and the Clerk.

32/18. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £414.34.
ii. Lengthsman wages and expenses. None this month.
iii. Authorised payments for January 2018 were signed off by the Council.
iv. 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 7.50pm.

Signed..... Chairman 5th March 2018

Signed..... Clerk