Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor T. Wilkinson, Councillor S Hollins, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

In Attendance: 4 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

47/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

48/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2019.

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.

49/19. Matters arising.

i. No matters arising.

50/19. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James reported she had received the dates for this years fireworks displays at Alton Towers. **Action: Clerk to circulate to the council.**

51/19. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Woods reported she had visited Mr John Watts of Wheel Farm Alton last week with Dominic Ward the rights of way office for the north of Staffordshire. Mr Watts has inherited the farm and wants to improve the access to it, namely with some drainage of ditches and surfacing. The route in question runs along Saltersford Lane which is an historic route. Mr Ward will continue to work with Mr Watts and keep the council informed if there is any news.

52/19. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the damaged hob in the hall will be replaced with a new cooker.
ii. Cllr Ballard also reported that the village hall will have a stall selling homemade cakes at the forthcoming Alton beer and music festival.
iii. Cllr Shepherd reported he has checked the fence running down Lime Kiln Lane next to village hall land and although it is rotting the hedge will fill the gap and cover it.

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53/19. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported he is resigning to allow a younger person to take on the work (a letter was handed to the clerk).. The Chair thanked Eddie Bailey for all his work over many years.

ii. Councillor C. Woods is standing down as a councillor and agreed to take on the role as Lengthsman, this was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr James and carried. The terms and pay to be the same as the current Lengthsman.
Action: Clerk to draw up terms of agreement with the new Lengthsman.

54/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Woods had nothing to report.

ii. Cllr Brindley stated that the road sign in Bradley is still broken (minute 39/19 (iv). The clerk stated he has reported the problem to SCC Highways.

iii. Cllr Brindley reported that there is still a grid blocked in Lime Kiln Lane, but the grid that was blocked in Hurstons Lane appears to have been cleared. **Action: Clerk to report again the blockage in Lime Kiln Lane.**

iv. Cllr Ballard reported that there is a large ditch at the side of the road on the B5032 about 100 metres Cheadle side of the junction with Battlesteads. A vehicle going into it would cause damage. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

55/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported all is in order.

56/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. No issues were raised.

57/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2019/0127. Giovanni Catena, Sandy Hollow, Malthouse Road, Alton. Proposed veranda over existing terrace. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2019/0132. Mr & Mrs Clews, The Byre, Uttoxeter Road, Alton. Proposed outbuilding for a gym. **No objections.**

58/19. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2019/0007. Stuart Smart, PD & S. Smart Ltd, 10, Battlesteads, Alton. Approval of reserved matters relating to SMD/2018/0017 for erection of three dwellings. (The council previously had no objections in Feb 2018, outline planning approved July 2018). **Reserved matters approved.**

59/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None.

60/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to Mr David Greatbatch SCC, re flooding in Hurstons Lane.

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

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61/19. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £436.82. Expenses £6.96 stamps.
ii. Lengthsman wages £135 and expenses £11.85
iii. Ford Partnership. Payroll services gross £215 (net 179.17 VAT £35.83)
iv. Jackson's Nurseries £457.69 (£381.41 net VAT £76.28) Paid. Late invoice for hedge cutting parish cemetery.
v. HMRC £327.60
vi. Annual Governance statement to be signed.
vii. Authorised payments for March 2019 were signed off by the Council.
viii. 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 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman 8th May 2019

Signed..... Clerk