Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2019 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 C. Woods, Councillor E. James, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor T. Wilkinson.

In Attendance: 8 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

31/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. Cllr Woods declared an interest for the item on ground maintenance as she had submitted a quote.

32/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th February 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.

33/19. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported he had checked the stiles referred to last month (minute 20/19 (i)) but he could not find any problems.
ii. The clerk reported he had reported the water running in Lime Kiln Lane to SCC, Highways (minute 25/19 (ii)) and submitted the precept requirement to SMDC.

34/19. Millennium Stone update.

i. The clerk read out an email from Andrea Stafford who is arranging for the Millennium Stone in Alton to be repaired. The email outlined the progress and a proposed meeting on a date to be fixed with the person actually fitting the new ceramic tiles in place.

35/19. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James had nothing to report for this item.
ii. Cllr Worthington gave an update from the liaison meeting, where noise and transport had been discussed. There is money ringfenced for highways in the Alton and Farley areas, the amount based around visitor numbers.
iii. Cllr Worthington also reported he has £20,000 from SCC for pothole repair and £2,500 for local communities which has to be match funded, e.g. if £500 were donated it would have to be matched by the council. He stated he may be able to help with the costs of the Millennium Stone repair.
iv. It was mentioned that the community bus from Waterhouses is available for use if a driver can be found. Cllr Woods offered to drive the bus.

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36/19. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Hollins reported that she had received two complaints about a householder tipping rubbish outside in Saltersford Lane. Cllr Woods volunteered to look into this as she knows the person referred to. **Action: Cllr Woods.**

37/19. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that there has not been a meeting of the committee since the last council meeting.

ii. Cllr Bailey reported that since the hedge laying recently, the rotten fence within the hedge on Lime Kiln Lane had been exposed. **Action: Cllr Ballard to bring to the attention of the village hall committee and Cllr Shepherd will inspect the fence.**

iii. Cllr Bailey reported what he believed to be human excrement in the alley near the childrens play area, it had been cleared away.

iv. Cllr Forrester again volunteered to arrange for Alton Towers to provide the village with flowers for the tubs. This was welcomed by the council. **Action: Cllr Forrester.**

38/19. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman reported that he has just started mowing the grass in the village.

39/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Ballard reported she had seen a near miss between vehicles at the junction of Saltersford Lane and Uttoxeter Road. Cllr Worthington reported that SCC will shortly be offering new more visible signs and that the clerk would be contacted. This could help the situation at the junction.

ii. Cllr Woods stated she is going to brush Lime Kiln Lane to help clear the grids which are blocked.

iii. Cllr Brindley reported that Hurstons Lane is still flooding despite complaints to SCC Highways by the clerk. Cllr Worthington suggested that Mr David Greatbatch be contacted at SMDC and Helen Fisher from SMDC copied in. **Action: The clerk.**

iv. Cllr Brindley reported that the 'T' junction sign on the B5032 at Bradley is damaged. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

40/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported some wreaths need removing as grass is growing through them, otherwise all is in good order.

ii. The clerk reported that Jackson's Nurseries had withdrawn from the ground maintenance for this years contract. He had contacted three companies who had previously expressed an interest in the contract of these one was now fully booked for the year, one had replied asking for more details but had not again been in contact and one had not replied. Two other providers had produced quotes, one was from Cllr Woods for £4,500 and one from Mr Paul Goodall from Buxus Green, Stoke-on-Trent for £5,940.

iii. Cllr Woods was asked a few questions before she left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed. For reasons of resilience as Cllr Woods works alone and the other company has several staff which means that there is less likelihood of interruptions to service due to illness, holiday or other personal circumstances the council voted by 4 votes to 2 votes (with one abstention) in favour of Mr Goodall's quote. Although this was more expensive it is in line with recent costs and the

council felt value for money. He is also the new contractor for St. John's Church in the parish which was felt to be an advantage. **Action: Clerk to arrange contract with Mr Goodall.**

41/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public mentioned that the December minutes have disappeared from the website. **Action: Clerk to check and speak to the webmaster.**

ii. At this point Andrea Stafford had arrived at the meeting and gave a verbal update similar to the email she had sent to the clerk and read out earlier in the meeting. She confirmed that the cost of £1,680 included VAT (not as previously stated excluding VAT). The fitting will be extra and she will discuss a perspex cover with the fitter. She will inform the clerk when the fitter is to do a site visit so that the council can be represented.

42/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. None for this meeting.

43/19. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2018/0761. Mr D. Rowley and Mr. D. Thorley, Crumpwood Cottage, Quixhill Lane, Alton. Extension to house and convert outbuilding for additional living accommodation. **Approved.**

ii. SMD/2018/0758. Mis D. Chorlton, Wymondham, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Proposed first floor extension above garage to enlarge bedroom. **Approved.**

iii. SMD/2019/0001. Mr and Mrs Cant, Red Lion Cottage, Smithy Bank, Alton. Proposed replacement windows front elevation, amendment to previously approved replacement window south west gables. **Approved.**

iv. SMD/2018/0793. Edwin Kirkham, Alton Towers. Installation of two Junior Drop Tower rides with associated queue line. **Approved.**

44/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Request for Alton parish council supplier details for Alliance Environmental Services (transfer of horticultural services from High Peak and SMDC councils). Clerk to provide these details as requested.

45/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. February planning recommendations sent to SMDC.

ii. Emails to various contractors inviting quotes for the ground maintenance contract.

iii. Email from Jackson's Nurseries advising they are withdrawing from the ground maintenance contract. (reply sent).

All the correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

46/19. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £436.82.

ii. Lengthsman wages £125.00

iii. SPCA invoice for membership £330.00. Approved.

iv. Invoice Alton Community Events £435.00 paid (authorised by minute 159/18 (vi), Oct 2018).

iv. Invoice Churnet Woodland Crafts (Hedge laying) £780.00 paid. (Authorised by minute 182/18 (i) December 2018).

v. Authorised payments for February 2019 were signed off by the Council.

vi. 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 8.05pm.

Signed..... Chairman 10th April 2019

Signed..... Clerk