Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present:Councillor J. Shepherd, Councillor (Chair), Councillor A. Forrester, Councillor P Ballard, Councillor E Bailey, Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor E. James, Councillor M.Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC)

In Attendance: 2 members of the public and the lengthsman Mrs K. Woods.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

159/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

160/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 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.

161/19. Matters arising.

i. There were no matters arising, all actions from the last meeting had been dealt with.

162/19. Lengthsman.

i. The Chair brought the lengthsman item forward. The lengthsman explained that she has had recent personal difficulties including an injury which have delayed her work. She is now fully fit and working hard. A number of areas throughout the parish were discussed that need attention particularly for tidying and weeds, the lengthsman took note and will address.

ii. Also mentioned were a lot of blocked grids in the parish, with a particular problem in Hurstons Lane outside the village hall which floods regularly and people get wet when traffic travels through the water which covers both sides of the road. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

163/19. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James reported she had not received any complaints of noise regarding the recent firework displays at Alton Towers, however Cllr Ballard stated that the had been particularly loud this year rattling the glass in her conservatory and that others had complained to her. Some councillors felt it was only once a year but Cllr Ballard has reported the noise the Environmental Health at SMDC and has agreed to attend Alton Towers with an official to discuss. **Action: Cllr Ballard to report back to the next meeting.**

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164/19. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey had nothing to report for this item.
ii. Cllr Wood stated the handrail in Glen Drive has still not been painted. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**

165/19. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that a car boot sale has taken place raising £200 for the village hall and another is planned for the spring.
ii. Cllr Shepherd has been handed a letter from the village hall committee stating there is going to be a charge of £1.17 per day for the bottle bank sited at the village hall. The council felt that a charge of over £400 a year is excessive. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded that the bottle bank be removed. This was carried. **Action: Clerk to notify the company to remove.**

166/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood gave a further detailed update on the situation regarding the overgrown hedge in Dimble Lane. He has again been in touch with SCC Highways and has been informed that all the lands where the hedge is overgrown belongs to the homeowners up to the grass verge by the road, however it is believed that SCC Highways, as the competent authority have ultimate responsibility to write to the homeowners giving them 14 days to clear the obstruction before Highways take action. Clearly more dialogue with SCC Highways is needed as they have cut this hedge in the past. **Action: Cllr Wood and Cllr Worthington to pursue with SCC Highways.**
ii. New proposed directional signs were discussed following notification from SCC. The councillors studied the planned siting of new and replacement signs and decided to object to all the sings except three replacement signs, two on the B5032 near the Uttoxeter Road junction and one near Knight Lane/Cedar Hill and Malthouse Lane. **Action: Clerk to update SCC with the council views.**
iii. Cllr Shepherd informed the council that Dimble Lane will be closed on Friday 13th December in the evening for the annual 'Carols at the Roundhouse' in the village.

167/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that the Church yard and cemetery are in an excellent condition and stated contractor Buxus Green is doing a really good job.
ii. Cemetery charges were reviewed. Cllr Forrester proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded that the charges remain the same. This was carried.

168/19. Parish Notice Board.

i. Cllr Wood explained that he and Cllr Shepherd had looked at this for the council and that a 3 bay notice board with one locked bay for the council and two open bays for everyone else is favoured. Four quotes have been obtained with the best one being a local firm Churnet Valley Joinery at £1500 plus VAT. Other quotes were £3250, £2598 and £1730 all plus VAT. Cllr Shepherd explained the final amount is likely to be less that the quote. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded that this quote be accepted, this was carried. Cllr Worthington offered £250 towards the cost from his community fund this was accepted. It was decided that Cllrs Shepherd and Wood would look at the best site for the notice board near the village hall and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllrs Shepherd and Wood.**

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169/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. There were no points raised not already covered.

170/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2019/0661. Ms Slinn, Peakstones Inn, Cheadle Road, Alton. Outline planning for proposed residential development of 8 new build dwellings on existing caravan site to rear of Peakstones Inn. The council object to this application on the grounds that it is over development and is not sustainable in a rural area with no public transport. It is not appropriate with a sewage system near to a site of special scientific interest.

171/19. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2019/0461. Alton Towers. Variation of condition 2 of planning permission. **Approved**.

The planning decision was read out by Cllr Shepherd.

172/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

173/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to lengthsman re work in the village.
ii. Email from SPCA giving advice re hedge cutting in Dimble Lane.
iii. Email re bottle bank being full (company telephoned and asked to empty).
iv. Email giving extension for the council to discuss road signage.
v. Email to Annabel Chell, requesting update on new road signs Saltersford Lane.
vi. Email re Cllr Wood attending Parish Assembly meeting to discuss hedge in Dimble Lane.
vii. Email re variation of licence at Alton Towers Hotel.

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

174/19. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £459.60.
ii. Lengthsman wages £195.
iii. Alton W.I. invoice £34.07 flowers around war memorial.
iv. Buxus Green £495.00 (paid)
v. HMRC £344.70 (Paid)
vi. Income £877.50 gravestones and burial.
vii. Authorised payments for October 2019 were signed off by the Council.
viii. 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 8pm.

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Signed..... Chairman 11th December 2019

Signed..... Clerk