Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.10pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present:Councillor J. Shepherd, Councillor (Chair), Councillor A. Forrester, Councillor P Ballard, Councillor E Bailey, Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. James, Councillor S. Hollins.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: 7 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7.10pm.

62/19. Election of the Chairman.

i. Cllr Shepherd asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council. Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded Cllr Shepherd as the Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously, and Cllr Shepherd declared the Chairman for 2019/20.

63/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

64/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 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.

65/19. Matters arising.

i. No matters arising.

66/19. Election of Councillors to various office's/responsibilities.

i. **Vice Chairman and Cemetery**- Cllr Forrester. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd seconded Cllr Ballard.
ii. **Highways and Road Safety**-Cllr Wood. Proposed by Cllr Ballard seconded Cllr James.
iii. **Village Hall-** Cllr Ballard. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd seconded Cllr James.
iv. **Alton Towers Liaison-** Cllr James. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd seconded Cllr Ballard.
v. **Parish Assembly-** It was decided not to have a specific councillor for this role, but councillors would attend if they wished to.
vi. **Footpaths-** Cllr Bailey. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd seconded Cllr Forrester.
All nominees were unanimously elected.

67/19. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James reported that the traffic had not been very heavy over Easter and the May bank holiday. There was nothing else to report.

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68/19. Footpaths.

i. There was nothing to report for this item of business.

69/19. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard had nothing to report.

ii. Cllr Wood stated that the re-cycling sign at the village hall needs attention. Cllr Shepherd stated he would take a look it. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

70/19. Lengthsman.

i. The new Lengthsman Kate Woods has been given a contract to sign, but it has not yet been returned to the clerk.

ii. The Lengthsman has also been handed a list of jobs she should complete by the outgoing Lengthsman.

iii. The Lengthsman was not present so the clerk will contact her regarding the contract. **Action: The clerk.**

71/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood reported that Dimble Lane is overgrown and that he will contact SCC and request the hedges are cut back.

ii. It was also reported that the new road signs mentioned by Cllr Worthington in March (minute 39/19 i) for Saltersford Lane had not been installed. **Action: Clerk to request an update from Cllr Worthington.**

72/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported all is in order and that the grass cutting by the new contractor was satisfactory.

73/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public asked if the rubbish issue she had raised in Saltersford Lane had been addressed. This was an action for ex-councillor Woods. **Action: Clerk to speak to ex-councillor Woods.** The same person mentioned the community bus which again ex-councillor Woods may be able to help from her time on the council. **Action: Clerk to speak to ex-councillor Woods.** The same person mentioned the road signs in Saltersford Lane (see minute 71/19 ii above).

ii. A member of the public stated the water pump in Dimble Lane is overgrown. **Action: Clerk to task the Lengthsman.**

iii. A member of the public stated the street sign on Battlesteads by the main road is damaged. **Action: Cllr Wood to report to SCC.**

iv. A member of the public stated that a litter bin that accepts dog waste is needed behind the Old Mill on Farley Lane (Farley Parish) and that there is a substantial amount of dog waste in the area creating a stench. **Action: Clerk will look into getting a bin in the area and liaise with Farley PC if necessary.**

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74/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2019/0155. Alton Towers. Proposed portable cabin. **No objections.**
ii. SMD/2019/0212. Mr Stuart Smart, P.D. & S Smart Ltd, 10, Battlesteads, Alton. Variation of condition 2 in relation to SMD/2019/0007. **No objections.**
iii. SMD/2019/0224. Alton Towers. Application for variation of condition 7 with regards to SMD/2010/0547. **No objections.**
iv. SMD/2019/0235. CFM holding Ltd, Royal Oak, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of use, public house to dwelling house. **No objections.**

75/19. Planning decisions.

i. None for this meeting.

76/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. New councillor training course. Replied to Cllr Richard Wood to attend. Cost £20.00. Proposed payment be approved Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and approved.

77/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. April's planning comments to SMDC.
ii. Denstone Show

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

78/19. Finance.

i. Clerk salary review. National pay award 2% and annual increment. This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Forrester and approved. Cllr Wood abstained as he had not seen the papers prior to the meeting.
ii. Clerk salary £454.28 (includes one month back pay £8.73)
iii. Lengthsman wages and expenses. Not present, no invoice submitted.
iv. Zurich Insurance £456.17
v. Cheadle and Tean Times. £27.00 net VAT £5.40 (gross £32.40).
vi. Village Hall rental invoice. £240.00.
vii. Buxus Green (Ground maintenance) £495.00 **Paid.**
viii. Authorised payments for April 2019 were signed off by the Council.
ix. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

The finances were proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr James and carried.

79/19. Co-opted Councillors.

i. The parish council is a council of 9 councillors, at present there are only 7. Councillor Shepherd stated there was a lady interested in being co-opted onto the council and invited Miss Paula Gwinnett who was present to outline to the council why she wished to be a member of the parish council. Following her resume Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded Miss Gwinnett be co-opted onto the council, this was carried.

ii. Mr Edwin Brindley who was also present was then allowed to speak. He outlined that he had only just stepped down as a councillor at the recent election and that in view of the fact there is still a vacancy if the council wished he would be pleased to return as a co-opted member. This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried.

iii. Both new councillors will take up their positions at the next meeting when they have signed the declaration of acceptance of office and the code of conduct.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 7.45pm.

Signed..... Chairman 12th June 2019

Signed..... Clerk