Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 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 P.Gwinnett, Councillor E. James, Councillor E.Brindley.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor M.Worthington (SCC), Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC), Councillor S. Hollins.

In Attendance: 6 members of the public and the Lengthsman Mrs K. Woods.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

96/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

97/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019.

i. The minutes of the last meeting were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

98/19. Matters arising.

i. The Clerk reported that he has received a reply from SMDC regarding the missing dual litter/dog waste bin on Smithy Bank. The response states there are 6 bins from the corner of High Street to Dimble Lane which is deemed sufficient. If the council wishes to purchase a bin the cost is around £300 plus a charge for emptying each week. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to check if there is a bin near to the Lord Shrewsbury PH.**

ii. The Clerk read an email from Cllr Plimley (SMDC) reporting on her actions from June. The Battlesteads street sign is ready for fitting (this has in fact been completed). She has reported the water on Lime Kiln Lane in the road to Severn Trent Water (ID 20004262169) minute 90/19 ii from June. Cllr Plimely has reported the blocked grid in Hurstons Lane to SCC she will report further in due course.

99/19. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James reported that she had been in touch with Alton Towers regarding a traffic crossing person in Malthouse Lane. This is not something they can assist with and permission would have to be sought from SCC and correct training would be needed.

ii. Cllr James reported that she had contacted Alton Towers regarding publicising busy days in advance, but this is not possible as the information is commercially sensitive.

iii. The Clerk read out an email from Alton Towers regarding the traffic management to be put in place next week Wednesday to Friday 3pm to 6pm, there will be traffic lights and stop/go boards at various locations in Alton.

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100/19. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey reported a defective stile on footpath 44 at its northern most point where it joins footpaths 27 and 43. The stile is also defective on footpath 43 where it crosses footpath 28. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC.**

101/19. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard had nothing to report.

102/19. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman Kate Woods was present and had no issues to report.
ii. Cllr Brindley mentioned that the Lengthsman had cut some verges which are also cut by SCC this was just on one occasion and will not be repeated. Cllr Bailey has given the Lengthsman a list of jobs which fall in the remit. The Chair asked Cllr Bailey to confirm with the Lengthsman the areas to be maintained.
iii. Cllr Forrester asked that the weeds around the bus shelter and vegetation on footpaths be treated.
iv. Cllr Brindley expressed support for the new Lengthsman which was agreed by those present.
v. Cllr Shepherd stated that the work of the contractors for SCC in cutting the grass verges is poor, there have been numerous complaints. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

103/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood reported that the turning sign at Bradley with the junction of Cheadle Road has been replaced.
ii. Cllr Wood reported that the Gallows Green triangle is overgrown and he will contact SCC to get it cut back. **Action: Cllr Wood.**
iii. Cllr Wood reported that Dimble Lane is now getting very overgrown and the hedging is a safety issue. He has reported this to SCC but it has not been addressed yet. Ref No 4157788. **Action: The Clerk will follow up with SCC.**
iv. Cllr James reported that the road white lines have become erased and New Road junction with the High Street. **Action: Cllr Wood to contact SCC Highways and request the lines are replaced.**

104/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported all is in order.

105/19. Local Council Administration Book-Decision on purchasing a copy for the council.

i. The Chair raised the subject of the council purchasing the above book for use by the council. It is a law book and will enable the Clerk to provide up to date advice to the council. The Clerk stated the latest copy will become available on 25th September for £129.99 (11th edition). The 10th edition is about £85 but is already 3 years old. After a brief discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded the newest copy should be purchased in September, this was carried. **Action: Clerk to arrange purchase.**

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106/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public stated that Cheadle library is now under volunteer management and that if anyone is interested working there as a volunteer they would be very welcome. There was a discussion and the lady thanked for bringing the library to the notice of the council.

ii. A member of the public mentioned Alton Towers and the issue of litter not being cleared on certain roads. This has been discussed previously and Alton Towers will not clean some roads for health and safety reasons.

iii. A member of the public mentioned that buses are going onto the pavement on the way to and from Alton Towers, in Lime Kiln Lane. This has been discussed before and bollards placed where they can be placed on the pavement. It was agreed Cllr James will point this out to Alton Towers. **Action: Cllr James.**

107/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2019/0363. Brian Knox, 2, The Hempbutt, Knight Lane, Alton. Listed building consent for removal of existing modern timber front door and frame. **No objections.**

108/19. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2019/0155. Alton Towers. Proposed portable cabin. **Approved.**

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. **Outline planning approved.**

iii. SMD/2019/0224. Alton Towers. Application for variation of condition 7 with regards to SMD/2010/0547. **Approved.**

iv. SMD/2019/0235. CFM holding Ltd, Royal Oak, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of use, public house to dwelling house. **Approved.**

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

109/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

110/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. June planning application recommendations to SMDC.

ii. Email to lengthsman re work at the water pump Dimble Lane.

iii. Recruitment of independent advisors to Staffs Police.

iv. Update from Cllr Plimley (SMDC) re her actions from the last meeting.

v. Thank you email from Douglas Macmillan Hospice.

vi. Alton Towers traffic management email.

vii. Letter from West Mids Ambulance re Defibrillator maintenance. This letter offered the council the chance to register with the West Midlands Ambulance Service the defibrillator sited at the village hall. Benefits include reminders to check it is ready for use and that the pads are in date. The Lengthsman Kate Woods offered to be the contact point and to check the kit. After a brief discussion it was decided to register the defibrillator. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

viii. Thank you to Alton Towers for the village flowers.

ix. Update on proposed new traffic signs.

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

111/19. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £459.60. Expenses £5.95 (envelopes and paper).
ii. Lengthsman wages £255.00, expenses £7.00 (fuel).
iii. Buxus Green £495.00 **Paid prior to the meeting.**
iv. Authorised payments for June 2019 were signed off by the Council.
v. 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 7.45pm.

Signed..... Chairman 14th August 2019

Signed..... Clerk