# Alton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th February 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 T. Wilkinson, Councillor C. Woods, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

**Apologies**: Councillor E. James.

In Attendance: 6 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

**16/19. Declarations of Interest.**

i. There were no declarations of interest.

**17/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th January 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.

**18/19. Matters arising.**

i. Cllr Shepherd reported he had checked the handrail again in Glen Drive. There are three rails and one is rotted at the base and the wall fitting. It was agreed that he would remove the loose rail as there are two other good handrails there as well. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**
ii. Cllr Brindley reported that the Hansley Cross grid has been cleared.

**19/19. Alton Towers.**

i. Cllr Worthington reported that there is a liaison meeting next week. There was nothing else to report.

**20/19. Footpaths.**

i. Cllr Woods reported that a stile on a footpath near her home was damaged and unusable. She did not know the footpath number. Cllr Shepherd will check the footpath number and notify the clerk if it needs to be reported. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

**21/19. Village Hall.**

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the website is being improved.
ii. Cllr Ballard reported there will be a car boot sale in March.
iii. Cllr Ballard reported a new hob has been purchased for the village hall.

iv. Cllr Shepherd reported that the change of date as discussed last month had now been approved by the village hall and that the next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 13th March 2019.

v. Cllr Shepherd paid tribute to Betty Cooper from Alton who had been laid to rest. This lady had done so much for the village. This was supported by the council.

**22/19. Lengthsman.**

i. The Lengthsman reported that he has strimmed Dimble Lane.

ii. Cllr Forrester reported that he had informed the clerk that the bottle bank had not been emptied and the clerk stated he had reported this to the company who will attend to the problem.

**23/19. Highways and Road Safety.**

i. Cllr Brindley reported that a sign is needed to identify Gladstone Terrace in Uttoxeter Road as post is being incorrectly delivered. There is a householder who is happy to have the sign on their house. Cllr Forrester suggested that SMDC should be contacted to see if they can assist. **Action: Clerk to contact SMDC.**

ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has been looking for an old fashioned sign to replace the sign that has been missing from High Street for a while. He will continue to see if he can locate a suitable sign.

**24/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.**

i. Cllr Forrester reported the cemetery is in good order.

**25/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.**

i. A member of the public mentioned that Cheadle library will be needing volunteers to help in the running of the library. Contact can be made via the SCC website.

ii. The same member of the public reported that water is running into the road in Lime Kiln Lane. This has been going on for a while the reason is unclear. Cllr Shepherd will grit if there is a frost and the clerk to report to SCC Highways. **Action: Clerk to report.**

iii. A member of the public Stated that Bradley Lane is in need of a grit bin. He will deal with this but if he needs support of the council he will contact the clerk.

**26/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.**

i. SMD/2018/0793. Edwin Kirkham, Alton Towers. Installation of two Junior Drop Tower rides with associated queue line. **No objections.**

ii. 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). **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2019/0035. John Miller, c/o Hewitt and Carr Architects, Bulls Head Inn, High Street, Alton. Retrospective Listed Building consent for alterations to Grade II listed inn. Including replacement windows, demolition of chimney stack, new shop front and internal works. **No objections.**

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**27/19. Planning decisions.**

i. None for this meeting.

**28/19. Correspondence requiring response.**

i. Email from Mr Wood regarding payments made to HMRC. Reply sent.

**29/19. Correspondence for Information.**

i. SPCA bulletin regarding elections 2019. Copy to all councillors.

All the correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

**30/19. Finance.**

i. Council precept 2019/20. The clerk outlined the amount of money that needed to be raised to cover anticipated increase in costs of; the ground maintenance contract, the clerks salary (increment and national pay award), the lengthsman (no increase anticipated), and election (no costs incurred at the last election). A 2.32% increase per household would give a 3.5% increase in revenue, a total of £552.33p (71 pence per year per household). The public were allowed to speak and one person raised objections. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Forrester seconded the increase with four councillors voting for and four against. Cllr Shepherd did not use his casting vote but following further discussion when Cllr Worthington stated some councils were not increasing the precept and one council he knew had slightly reduced their precept. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded no increase, six councillors voted for this and two did not vote. Carried no increase in precept requirement for 2019/20, amount to remain at £15,789.67. **Action: Clerk to update SMDC.**

ii. Clerk salary £436.82.

iii. Lengthsman wages and expenses. £120.00

iv. Authorised payments for January 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 7.40pm

Signed..... Chairman 13th March 2019

Signed..... Clerk