Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 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 S. Hollins, Councillor P.Gwinnett. Councillor M.Worthington (SCC), Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor E. James.

In Attendance: 3 members of the public and the Lengthsman Mrs K. Woods.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

80/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

81/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 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.

82/19. Matters arising.

i. The clerk reported that the Lengthsman's 'contract' has now been signed by Mrs Woods and himself on behalf of the council.
ii. Mrs Kate Woods stated that from her time as a councillor she had visited the person allegedly leaving rubbish in Saltersford Lane but they had not been home, she is happy to pursue this and report back to the council in due course.
iii. Mrs Woods also confirmed that if a community bus is obtained from Waterhouses for use in the village she will be willing to be a driver, but she does not wish to take part in any arrangements to organise the service. Cllr Shepherd stated it was not for the council to organise, but it is a matter for the people who wish to use the service. Subject closed.
iv. Cllr Plimley outlined work by SMDC to try to secure bus services in the Moorlands but emphasised this is a long term project. Cllr Gwinnett asked if there would be any public consultation this was confirmed by Cllr Plimley.
v. The Clerk confirmed he has asked the Lengthsman to tidy around the water pump in Dimble Lane.
vi. The Clerk confirmed he has been in touch with the Clerk at Farley PC regarding the dog waste bin (minute 73/19 (iv)). Farley are looking into this and will keep the Clerk updated (Farley PC do not meet again until September). There followed a discussion about waste bins in Alton and the bin on Smithy Bank which has been removed following an accident sometime ago. **Action: Clerk to check if the Smithy Bank bin can be replaced and also SCC general policy regarding the placement of bins.**
vii. Cllr Shepherd reported he has replaced the recycling sign in the village.

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83/19. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James was unavoidably absent and there was nothing else to report on this subject. Cllr Plimley stated she would be taking an interest in Alton Towers and was available as extra support.

ii. The Clerk was asked to check if Alton Towers have been thanked for the flowers for the village and if not to sent a letter of thanks. **Action: The Clerk.**

84/19. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey reported footpath 11 from the White Hart to the war memorial needs strimming and tidying, footpath 20 is also overgrown. **Action: The Lengthsman.**

ii. Cllr Wood reported the handrail in Glen Drive, also footpath 20, has still not been removed. Cllr Shepherd has this action and will arrange. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

iii. Cllr Wood mentioned removal of fallen tree's/branches on footpaths and a short discussion followed regarding responsibilities of owners of land. Cllr Wood will remove an obstruction on footpath 17. **Action: Cllr Wood.**

85/19. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that a car boot sale is planned, the date to be arranged.

86/19. Lengthsman.

i. The new Lengthsman Kate Woods was present at the meeting to take any tasks from the council during the meeting. She reported the work was going well.

87/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood reported that the road sign on Bradley Lane junction Cheadle Road needs replacing and has been reported to SCC.

ii. Cllr Wood has reported Dimble Lane as overgrown and the site has received a visit to assess from SCC. It is not known when the work will be completed.

iii. The road sign on the entrance to Battlesteads needs replacing this has also been reported to SMDC by Cllr Wood. Cllr Plimley stated she would follow this up also.

iv. Cllr Worthington stated that the new replacement signs for Saltersford Lane will be in place in the near future. They will be bigger and better than the existing signs.

88/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported all is in order and that the work by the new contractor is very good, this was supported by Cllr Ballard.

89/19. Parish Notice Board-Cllr Wood.

i. Cllr Wood outlined reasons why he thinks the present location of the notice board is incorrect, not least from a safety point of view as it is situated at a road junction with no footpath. He asked if it could be moved to a better location. Cllr Shepherd stated the ACE group in the village are presently looking at this including a possible new notice board as the present one is not adequate. It was agreed to leave this with the ACE group and to bring back to the September meeting.

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90/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public stated that a hedge at the junction of Shirley Drive and Uttoxeter Road is high and restricts the view at the junction for drivers. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will speak to the owner.**

ii. A member of the public reported water not draining away on Lime Kiln Lane. **Action: Cllr Wood to report to SCC and Cllr Plimley was requested to check the policy of SMDC in clearing blocked grids.**

91/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2019/0267. Mrs S. Williamson, Alton Bridge Hotel, Station Road, Alton. Application to remove condition 5 in respect to SMD/2016/0550. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2019/0342. Mr & Mrs Webster. The Stone House, Malthouse Road, Alton. Erection of dwelling and alterations to existing submission SMD/2018/0413. Cllr Shepherd explained what this application relates to and read out the councils objections the last time a similar application was made on the site. Following a discussion the council agreed the following objections:

   a. The application is detrimental to the rural setting and is large and not consistent with other buildings in the area.
   b. To maintain road safety part of a existing wall will be removed eroding the character of the area.
   c. The council is concerned that on street parking will increase, particularly as the drive to the proposed property is not very large. This would cause highway safety concerns particularly for pedestrians.
   d. Alton needs smaller houses not more large houses.

iii. SMD/2018/0566. Cuckoo Well Hollow, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Appeal against refusal of planning permission of conditions 7 and 9. The council has previously objected to this application, so do not need to repeat that objection.

92/19. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2019/0127. Giovanni Catena, Sandy Hollow, Malthouse Road, Alton. Proposed veranda over existing terrace. Refused.

ii. SMD/2019/0132. Mr & Mrs Clews, The Byre, Uttoxeter Road, Alton. Proposed outbuilding for a gym. Approved.

iii. SMD/2019/0155. Alton Towers. Proposed portable cabin. Approved.

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

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

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

93/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Letter from Douglas Macmillan Hospice re fund raising. Cllr Shepherd reminded the council of the usual policy of not using the parishes money for charity donations as this is not a proper use

of the funds and would open the door to many other requests. This was agreed by the council. Cllr Gwinnett asked if such a worth cause could be supported in another way, perhaps by offering them a pitch at the Alton village festival on 22nd June. **Action: Clerk to reply to the hospice and check regarding the pitch.**

ii. Email to Farley PC re dog bin in Farley Lane and reply. This is ongoing in Farley PC, the clerk will report any progress.

94/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. May planning application recommendations to SMDC.
ii. Emails to lengthsman re work, insurance and receipts for expenses
iii. Lengthsman contract

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

95/19. Finance.

i. Approval of the accounting statements 2018/19. The clerk presented the internally audited accounts to the council and the accounting statement for 2018/19 was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Forrester and carried. The document was signed before the meeting by the clerk and at the meeting by Cllr Shepherd.
ii. Clerk salary £459.60
iii. Lengthsman wages £112.50 and expenses £14.00 (fuel)
iv. HMRC £337.68
v. Buxus Green £495.00 **Paid**
vi. Invoice from Alton PC for £400.00 to SMDC for Lengthsman scheme.
vii. Keates Funeral Directors income £63.50
viii. SMDC precept £7894.84 income (first payment)
ix. Nettlebank income £28.75
x. Keates Funeral income £508.00
xi. Authorised payments for May 2019 were signed off by the Council.
xii. 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.

Signed..... Chairman 10th July 2019

Signed..... Clerk