Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present:Councillor J. Shepherd, Councillor (Chair), Councillor P Ballard, Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor E Bailey, Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. Brindley.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor A. Forrester, Councillor E. James, Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC), Councillor M.Worthington (SCC).

In Attendance: 5 members of the public and the lengthsman Mrs K. Woods.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

175/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in planning item SMD/2019/0717 and would take no part in voting on the plans.

176/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2019

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

177/19. Matters arising.

i. There were no matters arising, all actions from the last meeting had been dealt with and Cllr Ballard has reported the alleged noisy fireworks from Alton Towers to the Environmental Health department.

178/19. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman mentioned that the area around the water pump in Dimble Lane will need attention before the new season to restrict weed growth, possibly a membrane needs placing around the pump.

179/19. Alton Towers.

i. There was nothing for this item of business.

180/19. Footpaths.

i. The Lengthsman mentioned that she thinks that footpath on Cotton Mill Bank (number 39) is slippery and dangerous. Cllr Shepherd will visit and report back. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

181/19. Village Hall.

i. Nothing for this item of business.

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182/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood reported that following on from a report in July (minute 98/19 i) he has counted the litter bins in the village and there are 5 and not 6 as stated. The one outside the post office on Smithy Bank is missing. Cllr Wood agreed to contact SCC about this. **Action: Cllr Wood.**

ii. Cllr Wood reported that the gullies have still not been cleared and that other areas, including Kingsley and Waterhouses are also affected. He has spoken to Mr David Greatbatch (SCC) and will continue to request cleaning. **Action: Clerk to make contact with Kingsley and Waterhouses PC and Mr Greatbatch.**

iii. Cllr Wood has also spoken to Mr Greatbatch regarding the overgrown hedge in Dimble Lane but has had no answer that it will be cut. **Cllr Wood to progress and report back.**

iv. Cllr Ballard mentioned an idea for car-sharing in Denstone. Cllr Shepherd stated this was not parish council business but he is willing to give advice if asked.

183/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. The cemetery and Church yard are both in good order and the new ground maintenance contract is going well.

184/19. Parish Notice Board.

i. Cllr Wood stated he and Cllr Shepherd had checked where the new notice board should go and recommend by Lime Kiln Bank near the village hall. A discussion took place about other possible locations but this was deemed best due to siting and the large size of the new board. **Action: Cllrs Wood and Shepherd to progress.**

185/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public asked if any progress had been made on the proposed repair of the Millennium stone by the village hall. **Action: Clerk to contact Andrea Stafford for an update.**

186/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2019/0717. Mr Wilkinson, White Hart Hotel, High St, Alton. Listed building consent for internal alterations including removal of bar and construction of new bar. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2019/0695. Alton Towers. Change of use of land for seasonal car parking. **No objections.**

187/19. Planning decisions.

i. None for this meeting.

188/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Email from Denstone PC re alleged speeding between Denstone and Alton (B5032). A discussion took place with a parishioner from Denstone stating he feels cars travel too fast in the 60 mph area between Alton and Denstone (B5032) past his house. There have been no complaints in Alton but this PC would not object if Denstone wish to pursue the matter.

189/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email requesting removal of the bottle bank.

ii. Email to SMDC planning re November's planning comments.

iii. Report to SCC Highways re flooding in Hurstons Lane.
iv. Email to SCC re proposed new road signs giving directions to Alton Towers.

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

190/19. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £459.60.
ii. Lengthsman wages £110.00
iii. Buxus Green £495.00 (paid)
iv. Income £115.50 re-open grave for burial.
v. Authorised payments for November 2019 were signed off by the Council.
vi. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

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

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

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 8th January 2020

Signed..... Clerk