Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 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 E.Brindley, Councillor S. Hollins, Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor M.Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor E. James, Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC)

In Attendance: 5 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

143/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. There were no declarations of interest.

144/19. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 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.

145/19. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd asked Cllr Worthington if he had heard any more about the new road signs for the junction of the B5032/Uttoxeter Road and Saltersford Lane. Cllr Worthington stated the signs are still expected soon and suggested that clerk could make an enquiry with Anabel Chell at SCC for an update. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk to contact Anabel Chell.**
ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has inspected the brick built store in the cemetery and cleared the gutters. Some holly needs cutting back but generally it is in good condition. Also needs painting in parts.
iii. Cllr Shepherd reported he has turned the road sign mentioned at the last meeting (minute 137/19 i) to point in the correct direction.

146/19. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James was unavoidably absent but had sent an email about the congestion caused by coaches going to and from the resort. This is something Liz Greenwood from Alton Towers will raise with the team who look after traffic management next season, with the possibility of some traffic control.
ii. Cllr Worthington stated that he had raised the litter issue caused by visitors to the resort. On safety grounds there will be no change to the current policy and no extension to litter picking.
iii. New signage for Alton Towers was raised and the clerk asked to follow up with Cllr James. **Action: The clerk.**

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147/19. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Bailey had nothing to report for this item.

148/19. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that two fund raising events are planned, the first being a car boot sale on 26th October with refreshments like bacon butties and the second a doctors band in April 2020.

149/19. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman Kate Woods was not present. The clerk read out an email explaining certain personal issues and an injury that prevented her from doing as much work as she would have liked.

ii. Cllr Brindley stated that the weeds in the village are the worst he has seen and that some villagers are helping with this issue.

iii. Cllr Shepherd expressed the hope that the lengthsman would be present at the next meetingwhen all issues can be fully discussed. Cllr Forrester stated he had reported weeds around the bus shelter in Uttoxeter Road 3 months ago and they are still there. **Action: The clerk to contact the lengthsman and highlight the areas of concern and invite her to be present at the next meeting.**

150/19. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood gave a detailed update on the situation regarding the overgrown hedge in Dimble and his contact with Cllr Helen Fisher at SCC. The Chair read a letter the clerk had also to Cllr Fisher. Cllr Wood read a reply eventually received from Cllr Fisher which stated the issue is not a priority but will be passed to the correct department to be inspected. The council felt this issue has remained unresolved for too long and is a serious safety matter. A discussion took place as to action that could be taken. Cllr Worthington stated the council is entitled to cut the hedge if it overhangs the road, with Cllr Brindley urging that the council make certain they are acting lawfully before cutting the hedge. **Action: The clerk to check the legality of the parish council arranging for the hedge to be cut back and update Cllr Shepherd who will then arrange for the work to be carried out.**

ii. Cllr Bailey reported that the vegetation on Cedar Hill/Battlesteads needs cutting back. **Action: The clerk to inform the lengthsman.**

iii. Cllr Brindley mentioned the flooding that occurs in Hurstons lane outside the village hall and also further along the road. The flooding outside the hall is the worst. Cllr Wood stated that SCC are aware but it is not a priority.

iv. Cllr Ballard stated she considers parking in the Nook to be dangerous. Cllr Shepherd stated the police had been and looked at the issue and that no further action was planned by them. The clerk offered to have a look at the issue. **Action: The clerk.**

151/19. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Forrester reported that the Church yard and cemetery are in a very good condition.

ii. Cemetery charges will be reviewed next month.

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152/19. Parish Notice Board.

i. Cllr Wood outlined a number of reasons why he felt that the parish notice board currently situated at the junction of Lime Kiln Lane and Dimble Lane, should be replaced and moved to a better location. He included safety reasons and accessibility at the current location. Following a short discussion it was agreed that he and Cllr Shepherd would work together to select a new board and site to recommend to the council. **Action: Cllrs Shepherd and Wood.**

153/19. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. There were short discussions about parking in the Nook and hedge cutting but nothing new for the minutes.

154/19. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2019/0555. Mrs Carole Bray, Land off Cedar Hill.. Application for the erection of up to 4 dwellings. Cllr Shepherd gave the council his overview of the reasons why the application should be objected to, which was agreed after a short discussion with a vote of 7 councillors objecting and 1 abstention. The letter Cllr Shepherd has written objecting will be forwarded to SMDC planning.

ii. SMD/2019/0510. Mr P. Worthington and Mrs E. Baker, Rickyard Barns, Bradley Lane, Threapwood. Listed build consent alterations and refurbishment, conversation to single residential building. Cllr Shepherd explained the plans. Cllr Gwinnett stated she thinks the council ought to have a position of principle on listed building development, Cllr Shepherd stated that he felt each should be taken on its merits as individual applications. A discussion followed resulting in no change to current policy of treating each application individually. Cllr Wood stated he had approached 11 of the 12 householders in the centre of Bradley and he found no objections to this application. On being put to a vote, the council decided not to object with 5 councillors having no objections and 2 abstentions.

155/19. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2019/0459. Mr Finney, The Caravan, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of use of land to provide for 14 touring caravans, separate camping, facilities and reception and associated works. **Refused.**

The planning decision was read out by Cllr Shepherd.

156/19. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

157/19. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to lengthsman re work in the village.
ii. Email to Cllr Fisher (SCC) re overgrown hedge, Dimble Lane, Alton.
iii. Email from Alton Towers re coach congestion in Alton.
iv. Email from Cllr James re Alton Towers.
v. Email to SMDC planning re comments on September applications.
vi. Email requesting extension for planning comments (SMDC planning).
vii. Email from Cllr Plimley re Walton homes.

viii. Email from the Lengthsman re work in the parish.

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

158/19. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £459.60.
ii. Lengthsman wages August and September £150.00
iii. SPCA invoice councillor training £35.00 (paid minute 76/19)
iv. Buxus Green £495.00 (paid)
v. Income £132.50 gravestones.
vi. Income £7,894.83 (precept 2nd payment)
vii. Authorised payments for September 2019 were signed off by the Council.
viii. 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 8.10pm.

Signed..... Chairman 13th November 2019

Signed..... Clerk