Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor S. Hollins, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).
Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Three members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC), Councillor N. Conway.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

137/21. Declarations of interest.

i. None.

138/21. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th August 2021.

i. The minutes of the above meetings 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.

139/21. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported he has checked footpath 32 from Soli to St. Peters Church and that it seemed to be in order. Cllr Wood stated he thought there were some potholes, Cllr Shepherd agreed to conduct a further check. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
ii. Cllr Shepherd has reported the incorrect sign on footpath 11 (minute 126 i).
iii. Cllr Shepherd also reported that he has reported the block drains at Battlesteads (minute 128 vi).
iv. The clerk stated he has reported footpath 34 as blocked and apparently diverted (minute 126 ii).

140/21. Lengthsman.

i. Cllr Wood reported there are still weeds on the road in Shirley Drive and Glen Drive. **Action: Clerk to report to the lengthsman.**
ii. The clerk reported he has asked the lengthsman to attend to weeds on footpath 20, at the entrance and exit on Glen Drive, following a report from Cllr Shepherd. Also the lengthsman has reported he has attended to the water pump and alley by the Church for weeds.

141/21. Alton Towers.

i. Nothing for this item of business.

142/21. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported he has spoken to the owner of footpath 25 by Arrons Head which is overgrown but it remains overgrown. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Footpaths.**

143/21. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported new windows will be fitted shortly to the village hall.

Alton Parish Council

144/21. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood gave an update on the new Alton village sign on the B5032, Denstone Road, which will be fitted week commencing 13th September 2021.

ii. Cllr Shepherd reported there is a water leak by the butchers shop at High Street/Smithy Bank. **Action: clerk to report to Severn Trent.**

iii. Cllr Worthington gave an update from a recent meeting he attended with Alton Towers. Alton Towers have offered to fund improvements to Wootton Lane, Farley. The idea being to reduce the speed limit from the present 60mph and the possible installation of sleeping policemen. Although not in this parish it will improve the road system servicing Alton Towers. Cllr Shepherd stated the problem in this parish is Nabb Lane and Alton Lane and that he will proceed with his efforts to introduce quiet lanes in the area with 20 mph speed limits. This was agreed. **Action: Cllrs Shepherd and Wood to progress the quiet lane initiative and report back to the council.**

145/21. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the cemetery and Church yard are in good order.

ii. Cllr Ballard reported a tree leaning over by the main entrance to the cemetery. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to check the tree and report back.**

146/21. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. Nothing was raised.

147/21. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2021/0549. Mark Swinson, Kirk House, Malthouse Road, Alton. Outline Permission with details of access (all other matters reserved) for the erection of a 2 - Bedroom bungalow. **No objections.**

ii. SMD/2021/0568. Mrs Julie Camey, Bradley Elms Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Formation of a single dwelling from three dwellings granted planning permission under application SMD/2018/0524. **No objections.**

148/21. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2020/0600. 2, The Hurstones, Hurstons Lane, Alton, Extensions to front and rear of property to extend living kitchen and provide an additional bedroom. Also extension to rear of garage to provide garden room. Planning Permission – **Refused.**

ii. SMD/2020/0656. Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton, Erection of 2no. Holiday Lodges. Planning Permission – **Approved.**

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd to the meeting.

iii. Cllr Ballard stated that she would like to know why planning decisions made by SMDC Planning Department oftenly go against the recommendations of the parish council. After a short discussion it was decided to invite a member of the Planning Department to a future meeting so that s/he can explain to the council how decisions are made. **Action: Clerk to write to Planning with the invitation.**

Alton Parish Council

149/21. Parish Council Updates.

i. **Village Planters.** No update as Cllr Gwinnett was unavoidably absent.

ii. **Co-opt a new councillor.** The Chairman, Cllr Shepherd announced that there was an applicant for a vacancy on the council, Adam Dronzek, who was present at the meeting. Mr Dronzek was invited to tell the council about himself and following which he answered questions from councillors. At the conclusion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded he be co-opted to the council, this was carried on the vote. **Action: Clerk to provide Mr Dronzek with the necessary paperwork so that he can join the council at the next meeting.**

iii. **Council Lawnmower.** The clerk reported he has spoken to Taylormade Garden Machinery and they have offered an initial price to buy back the council lawnmower of £200 (subject to it being in good condition). This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried. **Action: Clerk to update Taylormade and make arrangements for Cllr Shepherd to meet their rep to finalise the sale.**

150/21. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Email from Cllr Plimley re Glen Drive/Dimble Lane verge and reply. **Cllr Shepherd has spoken to the lady who complained about the drain and dog mess near her home. There is actually not a problem, the drain is not blocked and no dog mess at the moment.**

ii. Email to Dicksons solicitors re Deed of Easement. **The clerk has written to the solicitors to ask that the Deed of Easement is followed up. A reply is awaited.**

151/21. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email re payment of Mazars external auditor invoice.

ii. Email to lengthsman re weeds on footpath No 20, Glen Drive/Dimble Lane.

The correspondence was read out and explained by the clerk and Chairman.

152/21. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £500.50.

ii. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman August invoice £689.79 (Paid)

iii. Invoice Mazars (external audit) £240 (£200 net, VAT £40). Paid.

iv. HMRC due £375.36

v. Nettlebank Income £57.75 cremation tablet.

vi. Alliance Environmental Services income £400 (lengthsman's services 2020/2021).

vii. Authorised payments for September 2021 were agreed and signed off by the council.

viii. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

The finances were read out by the clerk to the meeting.

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

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 7.40pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13th October 2021

Signed..... Clerk