Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor R. Wood, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor E. James, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC), Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC).
Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

One member of the public.

Apologies: None

Covid 19. The meeting was held after being risk assessed and with appropriate safety measures in place. The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

Before the meeting started Cllr Shepherd the Chairman welcomed Nicholas Conway to the council as a newly co-opted member.

103/21. Declarations of interest.

i. None.

104/21. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 and the extraordinary meeting on Thursday 17th June 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.

105/21. Matters arising.

i. There were no matters arising.

106/21. Coronavirus update regarding parish council business.

i. The clerk reported that the vast majority of restrictions will be lifted on Monday 19th July by the government, but he recommended that social distancing at future meetings remain in place for the time being.

107/21. Lengthsman.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that he had met with the lengthsman following some concerns regarding the cemetery after a recent visit to cut the grass, when parts of the cemetery were left in an untidy state. Cllr Shepherd stated he was satisfied this would not be repeated. The problem followed a particularly wet May when grass could not be cut and became very long.

ii. It was reported that New Road opposite the Soli Centre for Youth Ministry entrance is overgrown. This is not on the lengthsman's regular work detail. **Action: Clerk to request the lengthsman tidies the area.**

108/21. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr James had nothing for this item of business.

ii. Cllr Conway volunteered to take over the liaison with Alton Towers for the council as Cllr James will be leaving the council as she moves out of the area. This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried.

109/21. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that footpath 25 will be cleared he has spoken to the owner of the land (minute 92/21).

ii. For information Cllr Wood reported that Denstone PC are taking steps to have the footpath at Crump Wood near the pumping station across the river Churnet re-opened. (Footpath 35).

110/21. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the decorating has now been completed at the village hall.

ii. Cllr Worthington stated he has a community fund and that if Cllr Ballard arranges for the on-line application to be completed he will donated £500 towards the costs of work at the village hall. **Action: Cllr Ballard to update the village hall committee.**

111/21. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood gave an update on the new Alton village sign on the B5032, Denstone Road. The clerk has arranged for the company making the sign to also fix it in place (subject to approval of the council).

ii. Cllr Wood reported that SCC are sending CCTV cameras to check the drains in Gladstone Terrace to try to find the reason for flooding in the area.

iii. Cllr Wood stated that all the potholes he has reported have now been inspected but as yet there is no timetable for repairs to take place.

112/21. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

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

113/21. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. Nothing was raised.

114/21. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2021/0089. Mr & Mrs Moss, Capri Gallows Green Alton. Outline planning application with all matters reserved for a residential development. **The council objected to this application on the grounds that:**

   a. **Alton has met its housing allocation.**
   b. **There is no bus service in Alton making the application unsustainable.**
   c. **The extra traffic generated will increase pollution and hinder the District Councils declared climate emergency.**
   d. **Highway safety issue due to the parking of vehicles near the proposed development entrance causing blind spots for emerging traffic.**

ii. SMD/2021/0424. Mr Burnley, Prescot House Cheadle Road, Alton. Proposed extensions and alterations to existing garage to form annexe. **The council objected to the application on the grounds that the design is out of keeping with the area and is excessively large.**

iii. SMD/20201/0390. CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd. Flag Tower, Alton Towers. 18.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraround Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works. **No objections.**

iv. SMD/2021/0412. CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd. Flag Tower, Alton Towers. Listed Building Consent for 18.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraround Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works. **No objections.**

115/21. Planning decisions.

i. DET/2021/0015. Blacksmiths Arms, Tythe Barn, Alton. Change of use to dwelling house. **Prior Approval Refused.**

ii. DET/2021/0021. Uttoxeter Road, Alton. Proposed 18m Phase 8 Monopole. **Prior Approval Refused.**

116/21. Parish Council Updates.

i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett gave an update on phase 1 of the project and announced that two planters have now been placed at the cemetery. Planters have not been placed at the war memorial as the steep layout meant they did not look right. The war memorial will be better with plant beds. Two more planters have been placed on Lime Kiln bank near to the bench. Several members of the public have made favourable comments about the work.

ii. Cllr Gwinnett stated she would like to get costings now for the war memorial planting area. This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr James and carried. **Action: Cllr Gwinnett.**

117/21. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

118/21. Correspondence for Information.

i. Emails to planning re June 2021 applications (including extraordinary meeting).

ii. Reply to resident regarding planning application DET/2021/0021 (now refused by planning).

iii. Various correspondence with undertakers and families re parish cemetery use.

iv. Email to lengthsman requesting various work (minute 90/21 ii and iii).

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

119/21. Finance.

i. Authorised signatories. One more requested. The clerk explained Nat West had been in touch and suggested that extra signatories would be a good idea. Cllr Gwinnett will shortly be added as previously agreed but another one was requested. Cllr Wood volunteered and this was agreed.

ii. Clerk salary £500.50

iii. Leander Architectural (Denstone Road village sign) gross £1,356.00 (net £1,130.00, VAT £226.00). To be paid on completion of the work.

iv. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman June invoice £689.79 (Paid)

v. Keates funeral directors income £623.50

vi. Nigel Goodwin income cemetery ashes plot £127.00

vii. Sigleys Funeral Directors income £115.50.

viii. Authorised payments for July 2021 were agreed and signed off by the council.
ix. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

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

Before the meeting closed Cllr Shepherd addressed Cllr James, who, due to moving out of the area is resigning from the council. Cllr Shepherd thanked her for all her hard work as a councillor and also as the previous clerk to the council. He wished her well for the future, this was supported by all present.

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

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 11th August 2021

Signed..... Clerk