Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor S. Hollins, Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor A. Dronzek.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Four members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm. The Chair welcomed Councillor Adam Dronzek as a new member of the Council.

153/21. Declarations of interest.

i. None.

154/21. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021.

i. The minutes of the above meetings were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and agreed by all and were signed by the Chair and the clerk.

155/21. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported he had checked footpath 32 by the Soli Centre for Youth Ministry and there is some erosion as previously reported. **Action: Clerk to report to SSC footpaths.**
ii. The clerk stated he has reported the overgrown footpath at Arons Head (footpath 25).
iii. The clerk stated he has reported the water leak on High Street (minute 144/21 ii). He has spoken to an engineer who was on site. The leak is not on the public highway and is therefore not the responsibility of Severn Trent. The engineer has visited twice and tried to identify the property without success. If the property can be identified Severn Trent can serve an enforcement notice on the owners to have the leak repaired.
iv. Cllr Shepherd reported he has checked the tree in the cemetery reported by Cllr Ballard (minute 145 ii). It is not dangerous but has grown leaning over, it was agreed he will remove it. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

156/21. Lengthsman.

i. Cllr Wood reported that the weeds are still present in Shirley Drive and Glen Drive and also footpath 20 where it enters and exits Glen Drive. The lengthsman has been asked to remove them. **Action: Clerk to follow up with the lengthsman.**
ii. Cllr Wood also asked for attention to the Doctors Steps, leaves are beginning to gather. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**

157/21. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Conway is liaising with the clerk at Oakamoor regarding organising a liaison meeting with Alton Towers. The traffic issues and speeding will be items to discuss.

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158/21. Footpaths.

i. Nothing for this item of business.

159/21. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported working is progressing on the new windows at the village hall.
ii. Cllr Ballard reported that the litter bin in the play area getting full of water and is corroded a new one is needed. She will ask the village hall committee to price for a new bin. If support is needed to finance the bin, she will bring the item back to the council. Cllr Wood suggested Cllr Plimley as the liaison with SMDC could be asked for support.

160/21. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood reported the new village sign on the Denstone Road (B5032) is now completed. He is very pleased with the result.
ii. Cllr Wood reported he had attended the Parish Assembly when a presentation on road repairs had been given by Mary-Anne Raftery, Community Infrastructure Manager. Cllr Wood has written to Ms Raftery raising a number of issues including flooding and ditches.
iii. Cllr Wood has arranged for the roadside ditch in Bradley Lane to be repaired.
iv. Cllr Wood reported that the 30mph sign in Bradley Lane is obscured by trees. Cllr Shepherd stated that work to clear overgrowth in the area is due in November.
v. Cllr Wood reported that parking in the High Street, Alton was bad today (13.10.21). A discussion followed on the parking but there is no obvious or easy solution.

161/21. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the cemetery and Church yard are in good order other than the item below.
ii. Cllr Hollins reported a grave headstone had been moved and chipped during grass cutting. The clerk has the location and will visit the site and will then speak to the ground maintenance contractor. **Action: The clerk.**

162/21. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. A member of the public reported that sandstone blocks have been damaged on the path from Saltersford Lane to the pumping station. **Cllr Gwinnett will check and report back.**
ii. The same person reported occasional use by works traffic off Shirley Drive, which is not permitted. He also brought to attention the unloading of building material in Uttoxeter Road, as large vehicles cannot access the building site where Walton Homes are building new houses. This he believes is dangerous. **Note: The Saltersford Lane development is an agenda item and reported on later in these minutes.**

163/21. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2021/0598. Julie Carney, Bradley Elms Farm. Renewal of planning permission SMD/2018/0524 - Change of use of two buildings from C1 Bed and breakfast accommodation to C3 dwellings to form three open-market dwelling houses including the creation of gardens to each unit. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried that the**

council object to this application on the grounds that they consider the development to be inappropriate and over development in the area, which will be made worse by the additional traffic that will be created when the large housing development off Saltersford Lane in Alton is completed.

ii. SMD/2021/0590. John Moorhouse, 11, High Street, Alton. Painting the front elevation of the property with mid/light grey masonry paint. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Conway and carried **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2021/0574. Mr and Mrs Rae, 4 The Old Farmhouse, Pearis Drive, Alton. Single Storey extension. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Dronzek and carried that the council object to this application as the councillors believe the extension is out of keeping with the vernacular of the building.**

iv. SMD/2021/0521. Dom Green, 2, Old Vicarage Cottage, Dimble Lane, Alton. Single storey rear extension. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried. No objections.**

v. SMD/2021/0635. Mr and Mrs Barks, Land Hurston lane, Alton. Two detached dwellings and detached garage. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried that the parish council object to this application on the grounds that the dwellings will be out of keeping and inappropriate for the area, obstructing historical views across the village. It is also unneighbourly to nearby houses and outside the village development area.**

164/21. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2021/0322. French House, Cheadle Road, Alton. Alterations to existing window and door configuration on rear elevation to incorporate a section of roof glazing. **Approved.**

ii. SMD/2021/0390 and 0412. Flag Tower, Alton Towers. 18.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraround Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works. **Approved.**

165/21. Parish Council Updates.

i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett and Cllr Shepherd both reported they have someone to quote for the work at the war memorial, Cllr Gwinnett will find a third quote.

ii. **Council Lawnmower.** Cllr Shepherd reported that Taylormade would buy the lawnmower back but did not really want or need it, he offered to buy it for the same price of £200 already agreed. This was accepted.

iii. **Woodland Trust.** Cllr Wood explained that the Woodland Trust can supply free trees as part of a green initiative. The council agreed to give the matter some thought and discuss further at the next meeting. **Action: Agenda item at the next meeting.**

iv. **Walton Housing Development.** Cllr Gwinnett outlined a number of issues that are emerging during the building of the housing estate.

   a. Large vehicles unloading deliveries on Uttoxeter Road, the main route through the village used by many pedestrians including school children. The unloading has included pallets of house bricks, without proper supervision and safety measures, neither of which are evident, posing a real potential danger to the public.
   b. These deliveries cause an obstruction of the highway on what is a very busy road, particularly for Alton Towers traffic.

v. Cllr Gwinnett has contacted the local police commander, Chief Inspector Thorley, who had promptly replied explaining which matters would be police matters and stating he would have a

sergeant review and get a better understanding of the issues. Cllr Gwinnett has also emailed Cllr Worthington and awaits a response.

vi. It was agreed that Cllr Gwinnett work with the clerk to write to the Health and Safety Executive, Highways at the County Council and to ask Cllr Plimley for support. **Action: Update next meeting.**

166/21. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Letter to Karen Bradley MP re Quiet Lane project. Supportive reply received.
ii. Invite sent to Cllr Roberts, Planning Applications Committee to address the council and response.

167/21. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to Lengthsman re weeds Shirley Drive and Glen Drive.
ii. Email re Alton Towers liaison meetings from Oakamoor PC. Forwarded to Cllr Conway.
iii. Email reporting footpath 25 overgrown (by Arons Head).
iv. Requests to SMDC planning for extensions for planning comments.
v. Emails to SMDC planning with comments on planning applications in September.
vi. Road closure notice. Uttoxeter Road.
vii. Check of defibrillator – all in order.

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

168/21. Finance.

i. Clerk salary £500.50.
ii. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman September invoice £689.79 (Paid)
iii. Leander payment for Alton village sign, £1,356.00 (net £1,130.00 VAT £226.00) Authorised by minute 119/21 iii. Paid.
iv. Interest out 38 pence.
v. VAT reclaimed £1,003.30.
vi. Income. £500 Alton Rural Regeneration Group. (Village sign contribution).
vii. Income. Field Funeral Services £508 for new grave.
viii. Income. Precept final payment £8,145.00 from SMDC.
ix. Authorised payments for September 2021 were agreed and signed off by the council.
x. 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 8.15pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 10th November 2021

Signed..... Clerk