Alton Parish Council

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

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC), Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC). Not present Councillor S. Hollins.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

185/21. Declarations of interest.

i. Cllr Conway declared an interest in planning application SMD/2021/0771 as the applicant is a neighbour. He did not take part in the discussion regarding this application.

186/21. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 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.

187/21. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the sandstone blocks referred to in minute 162/21 ii, are not damaged.
ii. Cllrs Shepherd and Dronzek have checked to Yew and Ash trees by the war memorial. They do need attention and Mr Steve Massey (SMDC) has been notified and will give permission before any thinning or raising is completed.
iii. Cllr Shepherd reported footpath 25 is much better but still needs some brambles cutting back. He will speak to the owner of the land. **Action; Cllr Shepherd.**
iv. Cllr Shepherd has checked regarding the unofficial parking cones near the Ramblers Retreat (minute 176/21 ii). No-one seems to admit owning them, Cllr Shepherd will make further inquiries. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
v. Cllr Shepherd has arranged for official road closures at the bottom of Dimble Lane, Alton, this coming Friday (10th December) for the annual singing round the Christmas tree by the Round House.
vi. Cllr wood asked if anything had been heard from Dickson's solicitors re Deed of Easement or Cllr Roberts re a talk to the council on planning. **Action: Clerk to follow up.**

188/21. Lengthsman.

i. Cllr Dronzek stated a very good job had been done in Hurstons lane by the lengthsman. Cllr Wood stated there are still some low branches, these may be the responsibility of the owners. **Action: Cllr Dronzek will check.**

ii. Cllr Wood said there are still weeds in Shirley Drive. Cllr Shepherd said it is a difficult time of year for weed killing. They have been treated but bad weather can easily wash off the weed killer before it has time to act.

189/21. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Conway reported that the new liaison meetings with Alton Towers will commence on Thursday 9th December and that he will attend on behalf of the council.

ii. Cllr Ballard stated there had been a lot of noise from Alton towers on Remembrance Sunday which she felt was disrespectful. **Action: Cllr Conway to mention at the meeting.**

190/21. Footpaths.

i. Nothing for this item.

191/21. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that bookings of the hall are starting to rise.

192/21. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood reported that he has reported a pothole outside the Bull Head Public House.

ii. Cllr Wood gave a brief overview of new arrangements for the management of highways given to him by Cllr Williams (SCC, Highways), which include transferring powers back to the council for inspection and management and other strategic changes.

iii. The clerk reported that he has forwarded the concerns regarding unloading building materials in Uttoxeter Road for the Walton Homes development to Cllr Williams (SCC Highways) and that he has received an acknowledgement that the issue will be investigated.

iv. Cllr Brindley reported that potholes are starting to re-appear by the Peakstones Public House and also Uttoxeter Road by The Blacksmiths Public House.

193/21. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. Cllr shepherd reported that the molehills are still in the cemetery, the weather has prevented him taking action, but he will tackle the problem shortly. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

ii. The cemetery costs were reviewed and revised to bring them more into line with average charges in the area. The increase was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried.

Reserve plot	£1,200
New grave	£330.00 resident. £660.00 non-resident.
Re-open grave	£150.00
Cremation	£150.00 resident. £300.00 non-resident.
Burial headstone	£100.00
Cremation tablet	£75.00
Re-inscription	£37.50

The full costing will be sent to all interested parties, ie, funeral directors and published on the website. **Action: The clerk.**

194/21. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. Parking in the High Street was mentioned, but this was pointed out as an ongoing issue with no obvious solution. It is also a matter for the police if they receive complaints.

Alton Parish Council

195/21. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. SMD/2021/0744. Ms Molly Moggs, 1, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Proposed demolition of single storey flat roof kitchen and construction of new 2 storey extension comprising kitchen/dining with 2 bedrooms at first floor level. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried, no objections.**

ii. SMD/2021/0692. Mr & Mrs Dyche, Rose Cottage, Bradley Lane, Bradley In The Moors, Alton. Erection of a two storey side extension. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried, no objections.**

iii. SMD/2021/0771. Mr & Mrs Wiklinson, Holme Farm, Red Road, Alton. Extensions to improve the accommodation generally including additional bedrooms, a new sitting room and the replacement of the existing conservatory. Following a discussion **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried, that the council object on the grounds of overdevelopment in the area and that the proposed extension is out of keeping in the area.**

iv. SMD/2021/0723. Mrs Sandra Satchell, Area adjacent The Lord Shrewsbury, New Road, Alton. Installation of a Stand Alone Jacobs Ladder (by specialist company) for outdoor activity within the site's existing outdoor activity area. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried, no objections.**

v. SMD/2021/0791. Mr M. Halsey, Wood Farm, Red Road, Alton. Free-standing PV Panels on associated land of Wood Farm, Red Road, Alton (Two rows of Panels 20x2m at 1.4m Height from Ground). **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried, no objections.**

196/21. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2021/0598. Bradley Elms Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. 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. **Approved**.
The planning decision was read out by the Chair.

197/21. Parish Council Updates.

i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Shepherd reported that he has two quotes for the proposed planters at the war memorial, one for £590 plus VAT and one for £640 net. These will be forwarded to the clerk in due course.

ii. **New website.** Cllr Wood and the clerk gave an overview of progress and of the proposed menu list for the website, for example documents such as minutes and finance and councillor details. It was agreed to keep it as purely a council website with links to other useful websites such as SCC Highways, SMDC Planning and the village hall. The clerk stated that before going live the website would be available to the council so that any changes or additions can be added before going out to the general public.

iii. The clerk was asked to investigate registering with the Information Commissioners Office at a cost of £40. It is not believed this is a requirement but can be done voluntarily. In any event all information is already held in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018. **Action: The clerk.**

198/21. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

199/21. Correspondence for Information.

i. Various messages regarding APC website.
ii. Emails re Alton Towers liaison meetings (passed to Cllr Conway).
iii. Email to Cllr Williams SCC Highways and Transport re Walton Homes unloading building materials on the public highway and acknowledgement.
iv. Email to Cllr Plimley re APC meetings.
v. Various emails to the council re the precept and cemetery charges.
The correspondence was read out and explained by the clerk and Chairman.

200/21. Finance.

i. Precept 2022/23. Cllr Shepherd outlined a project he thought worthy for the next financial year, that being repairs to the Round House, one of the icons of the parish. The cost will be quite high but the council thought this a worthy project to consider. At the next meeting the precept will be agreed when all income and costs will be considered including repair costs for the Round House.
Action: Cllr Shepherd to provide costing for Round House repairs.
ii. Clerk salary £500.50.
iii. HMRC £375.36.
iv. FWD Electric Ltd (village Christmas tree lights) £75 net VAT £15.
v. British Legion poppy wreath £50.00 (paid)
vi. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman November invoice £689.79 (Paid)
vii. Income Nettlebank £69.00
viii. Authorised payments for November 2021 were agreed and signed off by the council.
ix. 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 Wood and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.05pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 12th January 2022

Signed..... Clerk