Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Two members of the public and the Lengthsman Paul Goodall.

Apologies: Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor S. Hollins. **Cllr Wood queried why Cllr Plimley (SMDC) had not sent an apology or attended the meetings for quite a while. Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Plimley.**

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

169/21. Declarations of interest.

i. None.

170/21. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 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.

171/21. Matters arising.

i. The clerk has reported footpath 32 to SCC (minute 155/21 i).
ii. Cllr Shepherd stated the tree that is leaning over in the cemetery now has berries which are being eaten by the birds, so he will remove the tree early in the new year. It is not dangerous (minute 155/21 iv).
iii. Cllr Shepherd has meet with the lengthsman and most of the weeds reported have been dealt with.
iv. The issue regarding the chipped gravestone has been resolved between the lengthsman and Cllr Hollins (Minute 161/21 ii).
v. The sandstone blocks referred to in minute 162/21 ii, are not believed to be damaged but Cllr Shepherd will make a visual inspection. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

172/21. Lengthsman.

i. The Lengthsman was present and reported he had tidied much of the village from leaves and weeds and would be back over the coming weekend to work in the Glen Drive area.
ii. The Ash tree and Yew tree at the rear of the war memorial need managing. **Action: Cllrs Shepherd and Dronzek will examine and report back to the next meeting.**

173/21. Alton Towers.

i. Cllr Conway reported that the new open forum to discuss issues with Alton Towers has been agreed and is being taken forward by Carmen Worthington (clerk to several nearby parishes).

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174/21. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Shepherd has spoken to the owner of footpath 25 (off Hurstons Lane), who stated it had been cut back, he will re-check. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

175/21. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported the windows have still not been fitted.
ii. Western Power are on the edge of the playing fields working on the electricity system.

176/21. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that the parking in Malthouse Road and Horse Road is very poor due to the number of vehicles. This has been previously discussed without an obvious solution. No further action at this time.
ii. Cllr Wood reported that the ramblers Retreat are putting out unofficial no parking cones and that in a personal capacity he has written to Forestry England to complain. Cllr Shepherd stated he will speak to the people concerned. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
iii. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has applied to SMDC for the usual road closure to allow carol singing around the Round House on Friday 10th December, between 5pm and 8pm.

177/21. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

i. The cemetery and Church yard are in good order, except for mole hills in the cemetery. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will check the mole hills.**
ii. The cemetery fees were discussed with Cllr Wood suggesting the fees should be aligned to the maintenance of the cemetery. The clerk stated there are around seven internments a year (burials and cremated remains). **Action: Cllr Wood and the clerk to bring back a recommendation for fees to the next meeting.**

178/21. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. There were no comments.

179/21. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. DET/2021/0039. Mr and Mrs Keeling, The Withering Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of Use of agricultural buildings to one dwelling house (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. **No objections.**
ii. SMD/2021/0672. Mr Finney, The Caravan, Cheadle Road, Alton. Retrospective application for the change of use of land to provide for 14 Touring Caravans pitches with separate camping / open space; facilities building and reception and associated works. Cllr Gwinnett proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded **Objections on the grounds of road safety, as the entrance and exit to the main road is considered by the council to be dangerous due to the speed of vehicles using the main road and the length of the slow-moving vehicles with caravans, entering and egressing the site. Also the ecological and environmental impact is not clear.** The proposal was carried.
iii. SMD/2021/0673. Mrs C.Babb, Jays Barn, Bradley Lane, Bradley In The Moors, Alton. Erection of a single storey side extension to existing dwelling. **No objections.**

iv. SMD/2017/0497. Vital Construction Limited, Ivy Cottage Tythe Barn, Alton. DEMOLITION OF IVY COTTAGE AND ERECTION OF 1 REPLACEMENT DWELLING AND 10 NEW DWELLINGS WITH CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD ACCESS. **Info only.** At planning committee on 11th November 2021. The council previously did not object to the development on 2nd October 2017.

180/21. Planning decisions.

i. SMD/2021/0549. Kirk House, Malthouse Road, Alton. Outline Permission with details of access (all other matters reserved) for the erection of a 2 - Bedroom bungalow. **Outline Application – Refused.**

ii. SMD/2021/0568. Bradley Elms Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Formation of a single dwelling from three dwellings granted planning permission under application SMD/2018/0524. **Approved**.

iii. SMD/2021/0574. 4 The Old Farmhouse, Pearis Drive, Alton. Single Storey extension. **Approved**.

iv. SMD/2021/0521. 2, Old Vicarage Cottage, Dimble Lane, Alton. Single storey rear extension. **Application Withdrawn**.

All planning decisions were read out by the Chair.

181/21. Parish Council Updates.

i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett reported no update for this item. Cllr Dronzek has however removed the old planter from the war memorial.

ii. **Woodland Trust.** It was agreed that this item will merge with the village planter project.

iii. **Parish Council Website.** The options already circulated were discussed and it was agreed that the existing website which was inherited as a community website was not in the right format and had many irrelevant and outdated items. It was decided to pursue the option of a new website with a cost of around £600 to build. **Action: Cllr Wood and the clerk to work together to provide the council with options for the website, working with the webmaster.**

182/21. Correspondence requiring response.

i. None for this meeting.

183/21. Correspondence for Information.

i Check of defibrillator – all in order.

ii. Email from Ben Adams (Police, fire and crime commissioner) re consultation on policing and fire plan 2021-22. (circulated).

iii. Moorlands connect service update (circulated).

iv. Email to Karen Bradley MP with signed constituent consent form re 'Quiet lanes' initiative.

v. HSE reply re Walton Homes development.

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

184/21. Finance.

i. Precept 2022/23. Cllr Wood requested members consider any projects for the forthcoming precept for 2022/23. The council is now reducing its reserves to around 1.5x the annual precept so early planning of expenditure is wise. **Action: precept agenda item next month.**

ii. Cllr Dronzek offered to arranged for the electrics for the Christmas tree by the Round House to be fitted. The cost will be £75 plus VAT. This was agreed. (Agenda item next month).
iii. Clerk salary £500.50.
iv. British Legion poppy wreath. Cost and donation £50. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Dronzek and carried.
v. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman October invoice £689.79 (Paid)
vi. Income £1,003.30 VAT refund.
vii. Authorised payments for October 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 Dronzek and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.15pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 8th December 2021

Signed..... Clerk