Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 7pm

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

Apologies: Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC).

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

85/21. Declarations of interest.

i. None.

86/21. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 by video conference.

i. The minutes of the last meeting 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.

87/21. Matters arising.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported he had not yet had the opportunity to speak with the owners of the overgrown footpaths 19 and 22 (minute 57/21 iii). **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
ii. Cllr Shepherd reported he has been unable to ascertain where the recent balloons released over the village were from (minute 74/21 iii May 2021). Subject closed.

88/21. Coronavirus update regarding parish council business.

i. The clerk reported that he awaited an update after 21st June as to whether there would be a further reduction in Covid 19 rules for next months meeting.

89/21. Resignation of Cllr Gardner.

i. Cllr Gardner had sent a letter of resignation from the council for personal reasons. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded the resignation be accepted, this was carried. Cllr Shepherd thanked Diana Gardner for her work during the time she was on the council.

90/21. Lengthsman.

i. The Council noted that one or two areas had not yet been tackled, the Clerk explained that due to the recent heavy rain during most of May the Lengthsman is 3 days behind in his work.
ii. Cllr Shepherd noted the footpath by the allotments is overgrown. **Action: Clerk to bring to the attention of the Lengthsman.**
iii. It was noted that there are weeds on the highway in Glen Drive and Shirley Drive. **Action: Clerk to ask the Lengthsman to tackle the issue.**

91/21. Alton Towers. Cllr James had nothing for this item of business.

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92/21. Footpaths.

i. Cllr Shepherd reported that footpath 25 is overgrown. He will speak to the land owner. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

93/21. Village Hall.

i. Cllr Ballard reported that some decorating has been completed at the village hall.
ii. The issue regarding a new 'no overnight camping' sign on the car-park will be brought back at a later date.

94/21. Highways and Road Safety.

i. Cllr Wood reported that he had three quotes to repair/replace the Alton village sign on the Denstone Road. He outlined the quotes from Phoenix Tile Studios at either £1,000 or £450 plus VAT, depending on the tile finish. A quote of £930.30 plus £30 carriage and VAT for a cast polyurethane finish from Lyndie Lothian. A quote of £1,000 plus VAT from Leander Architectural for a cast aluminium sign (with this quote is an offer of £500 towards to cost from Alton Rural Regeneration Group (formerly Staffs Regeneration Board). After a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded that the Leander Architectural quote be accepted, along with the £500 donation, this was carried by the council. **Action: Cllr Wood and the Clerk to arrange.**
ii. Cllr Wood stated he has reported to SCC potholes on the B5032 near the Peakstones public house.
iii. Cllr Wood reported he has reported to SCC that houses in Gladstone Terrace become flooded following heavy rain. He received a standard reply that the gully's are cleaned every 3 years, this not being acceptable he has reported the problem again and awaits a response.
iv. Cllr Wood asked Cllr Worthington if he had received a reply to a request for gritting to take place on Hurstons Lane. Cllr Worthington stated the gritters have a set schedule and they would not divert to minor roads.
v. Cllr Shepherd mentioned that Sat Nav's are taking some vehicles down unsuitable narrow roads and that he would look into a scheme called 'Quiet Lanes' which helps to prevent this issue. He will report back when he has more information in case in might be useful to the parish.
vi. Cllr Wood mentioned he gets asked about verge cutting which is usually done once a year. Some people like them cut others prefer them left to grow. Just for information. No action required.

95/21. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

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

96/21. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

i. Nothing was raised.

97/21. Planning and Licensing Applications.

i. DET/2021/0021. Hutchinson UK Limited, Street Record Uttoxeter Road Alton. Proposed 18m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraround Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works. The Chairman and Clerk outlined a number of objections received from residents to this application. A discussion took place with Cllr Shepherd proposing and Cllr Brindley seconding that the application be objected to on the ground that due to the location near to houses it is

unneighbourly and inappropriate development in that part of the parish. This was carried by the council. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will provide a draft letter to be sent by the Clerk to SMDC Planning.**

ii. SMD/2021/0322. Mr & Mrs N Cash, French House Cheadle Road, Alton. Alterations to existing window and door configuration on rear elevation to incorporate a section of roof glazing. **No objections.**

iii. SMD/2021/0297. Dr Scott, Chestnut Cottage Horse Road, Alton. Internal alterations to convert first floor room into a bathroom. Install connection to soil pipe and extractor pipe with grill. **No objections.**

iv. SMD/2021/0330. Merlin Attractions (Alton Towers). Installation of seasonal temporary stage. **Following a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded that the council object to this development on the grounds of the noise it will generate for nearby residents. The proposal was carried by the council.**

98/21. Planning decisions.

i. None for this meeting.

99/21. Parish Council Updates.

i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett gave an update on phase 1 of the project to provide new planters and flowers for the parish. She has been able to order from British Recycled Plastic five planters for the parish (one has been donated for free by the company) for well under the £1,000 so far allocated for this part of the project (£635.04 + VAT). These will be delivered this week to Cllr Shepherd.

ii. **Saltersford Lane housing development.** Cllr Gwinnett gave an update regarding unsightly 5 metre high double decker cabins which have been put on the site for use by the construction company. She has received a number of complaints from residents. Cllr Gwinnett stated she had spoken with the Clerk and she asked the council to support the Clerk contacting/write to Walton Homes to request the cabins are replaced with single deck cabins. This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried. **Action: Cllr Gwinnett to liaise with the Clerk and the Clerk to contact Walton Homes.**

iii. **Draft new Standing Orders.** The previously circulated draft new Standing Orders were discussed. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded that they be adopted. This was carried by the council.

iv. **Co-option of a new councillor.** Cllr Shepherd explained that a vacancy has arisen for a new councillor and introduced Mr Nick Conway who had expressed an interest in joining to council as a co-opted member. Mr Conway gave a brief overview of his personal and business life, following which he left the room so that the council could discuss his suitability. Cllr James then proposed and Cllr Wood seconded that Mr Conway be co-opted to the council. This was carried by the council. Mr Conway was invited back to the meeting and informed of the decision. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with Mr Conway to complete the necessary paperwork and update SMDC.**

100/21. Correspondence requiring response.

i. Responses to planning application DET/2021/0021. Communications Mast. The Clerk stated he had replied to all residents who had contacted him regarding this application.

ii. **SMD/2020/0656.** Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4AY**.** The Clerk explained that although the plans for this application had been revised he had only found out when he and the Chairman were contacted some residents with objections. He had made contact with the Planning Department who confirmed revised plans had been submitted and that the parish council should have been updated. Existing comments by the parish council would still been considered but they could be added to if desired. The Clerk read out the previous objections to these plans. The applicant who was present was permitted by the Chairman to give an overview of the revised plans and how he had altered them to mitigate the issues raised. The council had a brief discussion and decided in view of the extra information they could not make a decision at this meeting as to whether or not to make further comment. The Clerk was asked to request a further extension from the Planning Department at SMDC. A formal 'Parish Consultation Notification' has still not been received. **Action: The Clerk to contact Planning.**

101/21. Correspondence for Information.

i. Email to planning re May 2021 applications.
ii. Letter from SMDC re co-opting a council member. The council may now go ahead.
iii. Email to planning requesting extension to allow planning application DET/2021/0021 to be discussed at this meeting and response granting same.
iv. Emails from residents and Cllr Plimley objecting to planning application DET/2021/0021 and my responses.
v. Request to Planning for extension to planning application DET/2021/0021 and approval.
vi. Emails from residents re planning SMD/2020/0656 and my response.
vii. Emails regarding Saltersford Lane development and possible breaches of agreed protocols.
viii. Clerk and Chairman details sent to SPCA.

The correspondence was read out by the Clerk.

102/21. Finance.

i. Clerk annual salary increment (details previously circulated to the council), was discussed and Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded the Clerk receive the increment, this was carried by the council.
ii. **Authorised signatories.** The Clerk explained that following the death of Cllr Forrester another signatory was needed for the parish accounts. Cllr Gwinnett volunteered and this was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried by the council. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**
iii. Clerk salary £500.50.
iv. HRMC £368.20.
v. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman May invoice £689.79 (Paid)
vi. Invoice. British Recycled Plastic Net £635.04 VAT £127.01 (Planters phase 1 authorised minute 81/21 ii). To be paid on receipt of the planters.
vii. Invoice Ashbourne Landscapes £400 (Drystone Wall repair minute 44/21 ii authorises).

viii. McGough & Sons Funeral Directors. Income £9.00
ix. Nettlebank income £195.75 (Headstones x2, cremation tablet x1).
x. Authorised payments for June 2021 were agreed and signed off by the council.
xi. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

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 8.25pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 14th July 2021

Signed..... Clerk