



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor E. Brindley. Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC), Cllr Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

No public.

Apologies: Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor H. Kelsall.

Cllr J. Shepherd (Chair) declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### 51/25. Declarations of Interest.

- i. Cllr Gwinnett declared an interest in the item about planning appeal, SMD/2024/0478, Woodbine Cottage Saltersford Lane, Alton.

#### 52/25. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

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

#### 53/25. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that the Alton Community Events Group are no longer holding an event to commemorate VE day. Grant money has been claimed from SMDC for the original proposed event via the parish council, this will now have to be cancelled or returned by the Group (Minute 31/25 i). **Action: The clerk to try to stop the payment or find out how the Group can return any money they have received.**
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported he has not been able to clear footpath 0.1629 (a), he will attend to it in the near future. (Minute 39/25 i). **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
- iii. The clerk reported that following a conversation with Cllr Dronzek the lengthsman had been advised that an extra grass cut at the cemetery was not needed (minute 41/25 ii).
- iv. The clerk reported that he had spoken to the lengthsman who had been working on painting/restoration of the benches in the village (minutes 185/24 I and 41/25 iii). Cllr Wood stated that the benches he had checked did not appear to have had any work done. **Action: The clerk to check with the lengthsman.**
- v. Cllr Shepherd reported the Doctors Steps had been cleared (minute 41/25/iv).
- vi. Cllr Wood reported that the bollard at the Round House and railings by the bridge on New Road had not yet been replaced or repaired (minutes 42/25 i and 42/25 v).

#### 54/25. Alton Towers.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.



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### 55/25. Footpaths.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

### 56/25. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

### 57/25. Lengthsman.

- i. The clerk reported he has not yet received the signed contract from Buxus Green and he will follow this up with the lengthsman. **Action: The clerk.**

### 58/25. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that some potholes are now being repaired using cold tar and marked with a letter 'T', presumably for temporary repair.
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that Bradley Lane following its use as a diversion recently has now been swept by two vehicles and litter picked. Thanks to Cllr Moulton for his help in arranging the cleaning. Some of the passing places are still waiting for hardcore to fill holes.
- iii. Cllr Wood reported that a Mazda car is parking blocking the village well. Cllr Shepherd stated it seemed to be parked while some building work was being completed. If it continues after the work is finished, he will speak to the owner.
- iv. Cllr Ballard reported she had seen a tractor driver on Hurstons Lane using his mobile. No details taken but Cllr Shepherd may know the driver and will speak to him. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
- v. Cllr Ballard reported the road markings at the junction of Saltersford Lane, Uttoxeter Road and Denstone Lane are worn and faded. This is a difficult junction so Cllr Wood will report the issue. **Action: Cllr Wood.**
- vi. Cllr Ballard reported double decker buses using Hollington Lane which is very narrow and unsuitable. Cllr Shepherd reported that restricted access should come into use in the future which will alleviate the problem.

### 59/25. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. The grass cuttings in the cemetery have been left and are quite deep, some cuttings on grave themselves. **Action: The clerk to speak to the lengthsman regarding keeping the cemetery tidy.**

### 60/25. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2025/0124. Mr And Mrs I And H Tate, The Old Vicarage Dimble Lane Alton. Proposed garage. Cllr Gwinnett proposed that the parish council support the Conservation Officers comments on this application which are already recorded on the SMDC planning portal. If the comments and recommendations of the Conservation Officer are accepted, then there are no objections. Otherwise, the council would object on the grounds the work would not be in keeping with the vernacular of the area, this was seconded by Cllr Shepherd and carried.
- ii. SMD/2025/0142. Mr And Mrs T J. Eyre, Shaw House Farm Cheadle Road Alton. Application for the variation of a condition following granted planning permission for 5 No. Dwellings created from converting 4 No. of existing Barn Buildings - variation of approved plans. There were no objections to this application.



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- iii. SMD/2025/0144. Mr And Mrs I And H Tate, The Old Vicarage Dimble Lane Alton. Proposed extension to form a Living / Kitchen and Utility room. Cllr Gwinnett proposed the council object to this application on the grounds that the proposed work will not be in keeping with the local vernacular, this was seconded by Cllr Shepherd and carried.
- iv. SMD/2024/0478. Appeal by Mr Startin, Woodbine Cottage Saltersford Lane Alton ST10 4AU. Information only. The council had no further comments to make on this appeal, the council have already objected to the application.

### 61/25. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2025/0023. 24, Shirley Drive , Alton. Alterations and extensions comprising of first floor side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch. Planning Permission – **Approved.**
- ii. SMD/2025/0044. Fairview Cottage , Knight Lane , Alton. Listed Building Consent for the Replacement of Compo Collar and Reinstallation of Existing Chimney Pots. Listed Building Consent – **Approved.**

### 62/25. Section 106 funds for playing field and play area update.

- i. Cllr Shepherd gave an update on the progress regarding the Section 106 funding following the meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. He informed the council that no recommendations had yet been made for the council to consider but that progress was being made on the play area and a site visit planned for the playing field in the next week.

### 63/25. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Cllr Wood gave an overview of litter picking stating that he felt there was no coordination between SMDC, Alton Towers, the Alton Community Events Group and the council, which could result in some areas having a lot of attention and others no attention. A discussion followed with no resolution but to see how things are after the forthcoming litter pick by the ACE group. The clerk was asked to speak to Cllr Kelsall to see if Alton Towers can litter pick Denstone Lane. **Action: The clerk.**
- ii. The clerk mentioned he had received more correspondence regarding a request for a memorial bench in Alton on a footpath. He will make further enquiries with Mr Rushton from the County Council and report back. **Action: The clerk.**
- iii. The clerk mentioned that he is receiving some correspondence from the SPCA urging the use of either .gov.uk or .org.uk email addresses. The council may be able to get .org.uk from the existing website provider. Following a discussion it was decided to remain with the current arrangement.

### 64/25. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

### 65/25. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Electoral register update.
- ii. Thank you email from St. Peters Church (circulated).
- iii. Notice of County Council Elections (circulated).
- iv. Sweet Meadows Plant Centre email (circulated).



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- v. Complaint of damaged stile footpath 24. Advised how to report to SCC (likely on Denstone area).
- vi. Road closure Tythe Barn (circulated).
- vii. Request to reserve a grave plot.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

### **66/25. Finance.**

- i. Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 was proposed to be approved by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried.
- ii. Annual accounting statements for 2024/25 was proposed to be approved by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried.
- iii. Exemption from external audit. The clerk stated that because the annual income and expenditure last year 2024/25 was below £25,000 the council could apply for a certificate of exemption from external audit. Cllr Brindley proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded the council apply for the exemption which will save money. This was carried.
- iv. HMRC April 2025. £905.31
- v. Clerk salary £452.95
- vi. Buxus Green invoice March £689.79 (paid).
- vii. Invoice from Alexander Ballard for £200 re work at St. Peter's Church Yard (authorised by minute 26/25 i). Paid.
- viii. Income Nettlebank £91.00
- ix. Interest income £28.44
- x. Authorised payments were signed off by the Council.
- xi. Current bank balances were signed off by the Council.

The finances were read out by the clerk to the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.40pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Signed..... Clerk