



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7pm

Present: Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor H. Kelsall, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC), Cllr Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

Three members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor N. Conway, Councillor E. Brindley.

Cllr Gwinnett, Vice Chair, in the Chair declared the meeting open at 7pm.

18/25. Declarations of Interest.

- i. Cllr Kelsall declared an interest in planning application SMD/2025/0023. Cllr Ballard declared an interest in the item regarding a request for a donation to St. Peter's Church clock strike motor at the time of the discussion (see item 32/25 i).

19/25. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025.

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

20/25. Matters arising.

- i. The first meeting of the Section 106 funding group is still underway due to difficulties with free dates at the village hall. **Action: The clerk to follow up with Cllr Shepherd.**
- ii. The planter on the Denstone to Alton Road has not been removed by the lengthsman as requested by the clerk. (Minute 8/25 i). **Action: The clerk to enquire with the lengthsman as to why this has not been done.**
- iii. Cllr Dronzek reported that a humane mole trap has been set in the cemetery by Cllr Shepherd. (Minute 10/25 i).
- iv. The clerk has arranged and paid for the additional insurance for the Round House. (Minute 14/25 i)

21/25. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported that she will be attending a meeting with Alton Towers on 28th February. She has received no complaints recently.

22/25. Footpaths.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

23/25. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported that fund raising is taking place, but no business for the parish council.



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24/25. Lengthsman.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

25/25. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood gave a detailed report outlining improvements that he has noticed with a considerable uplift in road repairs. There is an improvement at Battlesteads and ongoing work on other roads, with the quality of repairs also better.
- ii. Cllr Wood explained on the new on-line reporting system for highways, which had been circulated by the clerk, he outlined how the improved system works and recommended it was well worth councillors having a look at the system for themselves.

26/25. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek explained that there is an area in St. Peter's Church Yard that needs attention and clearing, probably a full day's work. A local company AMB Tree Surgery led by Alex Ballard had quoted him verbally £200 to complete the work. Following a discussion it was decided it was fair to offer the work to the lengthsman first. Cllr Gwinnett proposed the clerk offer the work to the lengthsman and to approve the best offer between him and AMB Tree Surgery, with the work being completed promptly, Cllr Wood seconded the proposition. **Action: The clerk to work with Cllr Dronzek to arrange.**

27/25. Councillor Gwinnett declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. No questions were asked. One member of the public endorsed the good work on road repairs mentioned by Cllr Wood.

28/25. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2025/0023. Mr R Springall & Miss C Maddock, 24 Shirley Drive Alton. Alterations and extensions comprising of first floor side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch. **No objections.**

29/25. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0478. Woodbine Cottage , Saltersford Lane , Alton. Change of use of annexe to separate dwelling. Planning Permission – Refused.

30/25. Section 106 funds for playing field and play area update.

- i. There was no further update for this item.

31/25. Parish Council Updates.

- i. VE-VJ Day 80 grant opportunity. Cllr Gwinnett explained the clerk has spoken to Cllr Shepherd, who will check if the ACE group are planning any events, after a discussion Cllr Wood proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded that if the ACE group are planning events the clerk apply for the grant. This was carried. **Action: The clerk to liaise with Cllr Shepherd.**



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32/25. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. The council discussed an email received requesting a donation towards St. Peter's Church - Tower Clock - Strike Motor. At this point Cllr Ballard declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the discussion or voting. The total cost for the repair is £1,310 and upon hearing that spending the total amount would leave the Church funds low, a discussion took place and Cllr Gwinnett proposed and Cllr Kelsall seconded, that as the chimes are an asset enjoyed by the parish, that half the money be donated, £655, this was agreed. **Action: The clerk to arrange payment.**

33/25. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email from SMDC re VE Day commemorations grant funding for events (circulated).
- ii. Electoral register update.
- iii. Email from SMDC re Information re councils moving to a .gov.uk domain (circulated).
- iv. Email re Local Highways News from SPCA (circulated).
- v. Email from SMDC re Community Engagement and Energy Support (circulated).
- vi. Email to SMDC requesting extension for comment on SMD/2025/0023 and reply.
- vii. Emails and arrangements with a member of the public for burial of ashes in the parish cemetery.
- viii. Email from SMDC re new Discover Staffordshire Moorlands website (circulated).
- ix. Thank you email to Cllrs Deaville and Flunder for attending last months APC meeting.
- x. Rural Themed Seminar invite at Gayton (circulated).

Cllr Gwinnett read out the correspondence.

34/25. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £452.95
- ii. Buxus Green invoice January £689.79 (paid).
- iii. Net Factory (website) £84.00 (paid).
- iv. Zurich Ins additional premium for Round House £171.11 (paid minute 14/25 i)
- v. Income Slater and Sons (Funeral directors) £227.00.
- vi. Interest income £33.58
- vii. Authorised payments were signed off by the Council.
- viii. 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 Gwinnett at 7.35pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 12th March 2025

Signed..... Clerk