



Alton Parish Council

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

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

No public.

Apologies: Councillor N. Moulton (SMD), Cllr Worthington (SCC).

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

35/25. Declarations of Interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

36/25. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2025.

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

37/25. Matters arising.

- i. The first meeting of the Section 106 funding group has been held.
- ii. The rotten planter on Denstone Road has been removed by the lengthsman (minute 20/25 ii).
- iii. The ground clearing work at St. Peter's Church has been completed. (Minute 26/25 i).
- iv. Cllr Shepherd informed the meeting that the ACE Group were now going to organise 'D' Day commemorations and asked the clerk to apply as per minute 31/25 i. **Action: The clerk.**
- v. The clerk informed the meeting he has paid St. Peter's Church the £655 towards the Tower Clock - Strike Motor. (Minute 32/25 i).

38/25. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported that Alton Towers are moving forward with traffic management on Nabb Lane and Malthouse Road. They are also working on the school playground at St. Peter's school. A new ride is opening on 15th March.

39/25. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that footpath 0.1629(a) is overgrown. He will clear it. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

40/25. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

41/25. Lengthsman.



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- i. The lengthsmans new contract including the previously approved 5% uplift in charges had been circulated to the council. There were no comments.
- ii. The clerk stated the lengthsmen has offered to do an extra early grass cut this month at the cemetery and St. Peter's Church. Both Cllrs Dronzek and Wood stated they had checked the cemetery and the grass was not overly long. Cllr Dronzek stated he would check again just to be sure. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded that Cllr Dronzek check again and update the Clerk who will in turn notify the lengthsmen of the decision. **Action; Cllr Dronzek and the clerk.**
- iii. Cllr Wood asked if any progress had been made on the painting/restoration of benches in the parish (minute 185/24 i). **Action: The clerk to check with the lengthsmen.**
- iv. Cllr Wood also stated that the Doctors Steps and the area around Soli on New Road needed clearing. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsmen.**

42/25. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Shepherd stated a bollard by the Round House is missing. **Action: Cllr Wood will report.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that the road repairs by the Blacksmiths Arms (B5032) and Town Head have not been completed yet.
- iii. Cllr Brindley commented that although work had been carried out at Battlesteads there did not seem to be much improvement.
- iv. Cllr Wood explained that Bradley Lane was due to have hardcore put on the passing places, but the work had not taken place yet.
- v. Cllr Shepherd stated that the black and white railings by the bridge on New Road were missing. **Action: Cllr Wood to make inquiries.**

43/25. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Following the work done at St. Peter's Church the clerk to ask the lengthsmen to keep the area clear. **Action: The clerk.**
- ii. Cllr Dronzek and Cllr Shepherd mentioned that a Yew tree in St. Peter's Church Yard needs pruning. **Action: Cllr Dronzek to speak to Mr Massey, Arboricultural Officer, from SMDC to obtain permission for any work.**

44/25. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2025/0044. Mr Jack Cargill, Fairview Cottage Knight Lane Alton. Listed Building Consent for the Replacement of Compo Collar and Reinstallation of Existing Chimney Pots. **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2025/0067. Mr W Keeling, The Withering Farm Cheadle Road Alton. Agricultural building to cover a manure storage area. **No objections.**
- iii. SMD/2025/0085. Mr And Mrs P And L Gee & Knight, 1 Old Vicarage Cottage Dimble Lane, Alton. Single storey extension replacing an existing conservatory. **No objections.**

45/25. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0438. Alton Towers. Construction of two log cabins and associated pathways/landscaping. **Planning Permission – Approved.**
- ii. SMD/2024/0571. Woodbine Cottage, Saltersford Lane, Alton. Use of ancillary living accommodation as an annexe and holiday let. **Planning Permission – Approved.**



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46/25. Section 106 funds for playing field and play area update.

- i. The inaugural meeting of the Section 106 Group was held on Tuesday 4th March at St. Peter's Church. Cllr Shepherd explained that some actions had been allocated to clarify certain points with SMDC and to obtain quotes. There were no recommendations for the council to consider. The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at the Church.

47/25. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

48/25. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Request from SMDC for sight of part of the council's accounts to prepare for the uncertainties of local government reorganisation. Initial reply sent by the clerk, who will supply the requested information when the yearend accounts are prepared.

49/25. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Electoral register update.
- ii. Hospitality and Retail Conference at Alton Towers (circulated).
- iii. Temp road closure-Threapwood, (circulated).
- iv. Email and photographs re planter removal Denstone Road (circulated).
- v. Interest reduction notification from Nat West.
- vi. 'In Touch' newsletter from SMDC (circulated).

The clerk read out the correspondence.

50/25. Finance.

- i. Confirm the internal auditor. The clerk explained the internal auditor should be re-appointed following a question by the external auditor last year. The Chair Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded that the current internal auditors, 'The Ford Partnership' be re-appointed, this was carried on a vote.
- ii. Clerk salary £452.95
- iii. Buxus Green invoice February £689.79 (paid).
- iv. St. Peter's Church £655.00 Paid (Tower Clock Strike Motor).
- v. Interest income £27.08
- vi. Authorised payments were signed off by the Council.
- vii. 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 7.25pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 9th April 2025

Signed..... Clerk