



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.05pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC).

Cllr J. Shepherd (Chair) declared the meeting open at 7.05pm.

67/25. Election of the Chairman.

- i. Cllr Shepherd asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council. Cllr Gwinnett proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded Cllr Shepherd as the Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously, and Cllr Shepherd declared the Chairman for 2025/26.

68/25. Declarations of Interest.

- i. Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in the planning application, SMD/2025/0182. B Read And G Trivino, Fair Holme Limekiln Lane, Alton. Single storey rear extension to replace the existing conservatory. He will not take part in that item of business.

69/25. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 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.

70/25. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk reported that he had stopped the payment to the ACE from SMDC after they cancelled the VE Day events (minute 53/25 i).
- ii. The clerk reported that he has spoken to the lengthsman and the benches in the village have not yet been treated/repared but should be attended to in the near future. (Minute 53/25 iv). **Action: The clerk to follow up with the lengthsman.**
- iii. Cllr Shepherd reported he has now cleared footpath 0.1629 (a), (minute 53/25 ii).
- iv. The clerk reported that the lengthsman's contract has now been signed (Minute 57/25 i).
- v. Cllr Shepherd reported he has not yet been able to speak to the driver of the tractor using his mobile while driving. Carried forward. Cllr Kelsall also offered to help by speaking to the person suspected. **Action: Cllrs Shepherd and Kelsall.**
- vi. Cllr Wood stated he has reported the faded road markings at the junction of Saltersford Lane, Uttoxeter Road and Denstone Lane to Mr David Rushton (SCC) and it has been logged.
- vii. The clerk reported he has spoken to the lengthsman about leaving the cemetery tidy (Minute 59/25 i).



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71/25. Election of Councillors to various office's/responsibilities.

Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded the councillors keep the same responsibilities as the previous year and that as detailed below maintenance of the Round House is included and Cllr Kelsall be removed as monitoring social media, the proposition was carried.

- i. Vice Chairman and Website Monitor – Cllr Gwinnett
- ii. Cemetery- Cllr Dronzek.
- iii. Highways and Road Safety-Cllr Wood.
- iv. Village Hall- Cllr Ballard.
- v. Alton Towers Liaison- Cllr Conway and Cllr Kelsall.
- vi. Parish Assembly- Cllr Wood.
- vii. Footpaths- Cllr Shepherd.
- viii. Round House Maintenance – Cllr Shepherd.

72/25. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported that the person she was liaising with at Alton Towers no longer works for the company, which means that work on the school playground project and traffic management will now have to start again. She went on to explain the issues now faced in starting the projects again.

73/25. Footpaths.

- i. The footpath from St. Peters Church to Soli needs attention and the clerk has already tasked the lengthsman.
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that the stile on footpath 21 Bradley Lane is rotten. **Action: The clerk to report.**

74/25. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the weeds growing around the village hall. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**

75/25. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the footpath Glen Drive to Dimble Lane needs attention, as does the Doctors Steps. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported the bench on New Road has weeds around it. Cllr Shepherd offered to attend to this matter. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
- iii. Cllr Wood asked if the lady who arranged for the planters in the village last year be asked to plant them up again this year. Cllr Gwinnett proposed and Cllr Kelsall seconded that the lady be asked with a maximum of £300 to be spent. This was carried. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**

76/25. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that Mr David Rushton for SCC Highways has been out to check if hardcore can be used in Bradley Lane to repair some of the damaged road surface. Apparently, this cannot be done due to the type of surface.
- ii. Councillor Peter Mason is the new councillor at SCC for Highways.



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77/25. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek has applied to SMDC, Mr. Massey, for permission to reduce a large tree in St. Peter's Church Yard and awaits a reply. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**
- ii. Cllr Dronzek has had a quote from a local businessman, Mr Ron Baker to paint the cemetery gates, the cost will be £420.00. Cllr Dronzek proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded that the quote be accepted this was carried. **Action: Cllr Dronzek to arrange.**
- iii. Cllr Dronzek asked if a group of volunteers could help to keep the cemetery clear of weeds and tidy. Cllr Shepherd stated he would ask the ACE group (Alton Community Events Group). **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

77/25. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2025/0182. B Read And G Trivino, Fair Holme Limekiln Lane, Alton. Single storey rear extension to replace the existing conservatory. Cllr Shepherd did not take part in the discussion. **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2025/0200. Mr And Mrs Kevin And Claire Randell. Shrub Cottage Denstone Lane, Alton. A single self-build dwelling. Following a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Dronzek seconded the council object on the grounds that this application is overdevelopment and a visual intrusion into the surrounding countryside. The proposal was carried.

78/25. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2025/0085. 1 Old Vicarage Cottage, Dimble Lane, Alton. Single storey extension replacing an existing conservatory. Planning Permission – Approved.
 - ii. SMD/2025/0067. The Withering Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Agricultural building to cover a manure storage area. Planning Permission – Approved.
 - iii. SMD/2025/0124. The Old Vicarage, Dimble Lane, Alton. Proposed garage. Planning permission refused.
- The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

79/25. Section 106 funds for playing field and play area update.

- i. No update. The next meeting is in June.

80/25. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Request for a memorial bench. A request has been received for a memorial bench to be sited at Town Head. The site has been approved by SCC Highways, but the parish council must agree and also maintain the bench. All costs relating to the siting of the bench will be met by the applicant. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded that the council agree to the bench. This was carried. **Action: The clerk to liaise with the applicant.**

81/25. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

82/25. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Electoral register update.
- ii. Email from SMDC cancelling grant to ACE group re VE Day celebrations.
- iii. Road closure notice Nabb Lane (circulated).



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- iv. SMDC email re TPO to protect a mature Oak tree (circulated).
- v. Email on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation from SMDC (link placed on the Alton PC website).
- vi. SMDC email re Strengthening Relationships with Town & Parish Councils Working Group (circulated).

The clerk read out the correspondence.

83/25. Finance.

- i. Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 and the Annual accounting statements for 2024/25 were again shown to the council (they were approved at the last meeting), and the internally audited accounts were noted.
- ii. Clerk salary £452.95
- iii. Buxus Green invoice April £724.27 (paid).
- iv. SPCA invoice £343.98 (paid).
- v. Zurich council insurance invoice £801.80. In view of the increase in the premium Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded that the clerk attempt to find a better price from another insurance company, but if that is not possible then the quoted premium from Zurich be approved and paid. If the higher premium is paid, then next year further efforts should be made to find a better price for the insurance. This was carried.
- vi. Interest income £26.66p
- 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 Shepherd at 7.55pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 11th June 2025

Signed..... Clerk