



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

Four members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Worthington (SCC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

48/24. Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

49/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024.

- 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.

50/24. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk stated that he has ordered a copy of The Kings portrait for the village hall. Delivery is 2-6 weeks (minute 37/24 i).
- ii. The clerk reported the lengthsman's contract has been signed by Paul Goodall of Buxus Green and himself on behalf of the council, he also has a copy of the insurance certificate and an ID card regarding use of pesticides (minute 38/24 i).
- iii. Cllr Moulton give an update on some potholes. He has reported Battlesteads twice and although Saltersford Lane has been reported and repaired there are still potholes there (minute 39/24 ii). Cllr Moulton also reported that Cllr Mark Deaville is now Head of Highways for SCC for future reports.
- iv. The clerk reported he has spoken to the lengthsman and the cemetery has now had a grass cut but due to the sloping nature of the ground in the Church Yard and the very wet weather that is still to be cut. It will be completed as soon as the weather permits.
- v. Cllr Dronzek reported he has put flowers in the cemetery planters (minute 40/24 ii).
- vi. Cllr Shepherd reported that the overhanging branches on Hurstons Lane have been cut back (minute 41/24 i).

51/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported that she has received a complaint of light pollution from Alton Towers which she has reported to the resort and awaits an update. **Action: Cllr Kelsall to report back to the next meeting.**



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- ii. Cllr Kelsall reported she has received a complaint about litter in Wootton Lane. She has passed this on the Alton Towers to see if their litter picking will cover that area. **Action: Cllr Kelsall to report back to the next meeting.**

52/24. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Conway reported that part of Bridle path No 13 has become flooded. He will follow this up with the owner of the land and report back. **Action: Cllr Conway.**

53/24. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

54/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the drain/culvert at Townhead is flooded and the area needs digging out. Following a short discussion it was agreed that the work would be too much for the lengthsman as a digger would be needed. Cllr Shepherd stated he would speak to the farmer and see if the problem can be resolved. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

55/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood gave an update on potholes stating that New Road potholes have been repaired. Both he and Cllr Moulton outlined the difficulties in getting potholes repaired by SCC Highways and that some are repaired on parts of a road but nearby ones left. Cllr Wood will continue with his efforts to get more of the potholes repaired. Consideration will be given to inviting the Cllr Mark Deaville to a future meeting to discuss highways issues. **Action: Cllr Wood to make enquiries.**

56/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported both the cemetery and Church Yard are in good order.
- ii. Cllr Wood stated that the perimeter path around the cemetery is overgrown and asked that the lengthsman be asked if he could clear it. It is not in his contract at present. This was agreed. **Action: The clerk to speak to the lengthsman.**

57/24. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. A member of the public gave an update on screening issues regarding planning application SMD/2024/0108 Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton. Erection of two holiday lodges. The council has already lodged an objection to this application. Cllr Moulton stated that Conservation have already objected as well.
- ii. A member of the public mentioned a planning application in East Staffordshire bordering the Moorlands. This is not something the council have been invited to comment on by SMDC Planning..

58/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2024/0128. IVY COTTAGE, Tythe Barn, Alton. Variation of a Conditions 2, 4 & 5 in relation to application SMD/2017/0497. After a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded there should be no objections. This was carried.
- ii. SMD/2024/0136. Woodcutters Bar & Grill, Alton Towers. Removal of the existing 9 no. containers plus temporary maintenance tent scaremaze attraction to provide a facilities building



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that consists of 6 no. containers (3 per side lengthways) and tensile domed roof between. After a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded that there should be objections. This was carried.

59/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0002. 17, High Street, Alton. Proposed extension and alterations. Planning Permission – Approved.
- ii. SMD/2024/0018. 1, The Mount, High Street, Alton. Single story rear extension. Planning Permission – Approved.
- iii. SMD/2024/0014. Bara Brith, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Rear, single storey extension and general alterations to enlarge bedroom and improve the accommodation, including alterations to the existing parking arrangement. Planning Permission – Approved.

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

60/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Round House-update. Cllr Wood reported that he has received an update from Historic England that the Round House may be owned by SMDC and managed by the parish council. This has not been confirmed and Cllr Wood will make further enquiries and report back. **Action: Cllr Wood.**

61/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email from the treasurer St. Peter's Church requesting name of the current lengthsman for possible further work in the old graveyard and reply.
- ii. Email re the pond on the Alverton View development to the developer requesting confirmation that a risk assessment has been completed and that a fence will be placed around the pond. This follows a concern expressed by a resident who has been updated. **Action: The clerk to follow up with the developer.**
- iii. Email to Alton Towers from Cllr Kelsall asking if there will be a litter pick in Wootton Lane.
- iv. Email to SPCA querying membership renewal (invoice to renew not received). The clerk updated the meeting that SPCA had now contacted him stating the renewal notice will be sent out shortly.

62/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email from resident regarding planning SMD/2024/0108 (see minute 57/24 i above) for further comments.
- ii. Email from Cllr Kelsall to Alton Towers regarding complaints of intrusive lighting from the park.
- iii. Letter from SMDC to Karen Bradly MP re Churnet Valley being designated an area of outstanding natural beauty.
- iv. Online police surgery email from Staffs Police.

The clerk read out the correspondence.



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63/24. Finance.

- i. Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 was proposed to be approved by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried.
- ii. Annual accounting statements for 2023/24 was proposed to be approved by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried.
- iii. HMRC April 2024. £440.40
- iv. Zurich Town and Parish insurance policy renewal £494.80.
- v. Payment to £37.00 to Adam Dronzek for flowers cemetery planters (minute 40/24 ii).
- vi. Clerk salary £587.26.
- vii. Interest from bank accounts to 31.3.24 £32.83
- viii. Authorised payments to be signed off by the Council.
- ix. Current bank balances to be presented to the Council.

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

The finances were proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Gwinnett and carried.

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

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 8th May 2024

Signed..... Clerk