



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor N. Conway, Cllr H. Kelsall, Cllr M. Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

No members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor E. Brindley.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### **46/23. Declarations of interest.**

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **47/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

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

#### **48/23. Matters arising.**

- i. Councillor Shepherd now has a set of keys to the village hall on behalf of the council. The clerk has updated the village hall committee. (Minute 37/23 ii).
- ii. The clerk has submitted a request to SMDC for a grant regarding the King's Coronation celebrations (Minute 42/23 ii).
- iii. A letter of support for the upgrading of footpath 16 to a bridleway has been submitted by the clerk (Minute 36/23 i).
- iv. The lengthsman's contract has been updated to include 'Post Office Alley' (Minute 34/23 i).

#### **49/23. Lengthsman.**

- i. The War Memorial footpath is in need of clearing. **Action: Clerk to speak to the lengthsman.**
- ii. Cllr Wood suggested that a system whereby the lengthsman records in more detail work he has completed, this was agreed. **Action: Clerk to arrange with the lengthsman.**

#### **50/23. Alton Towers.**

- i. The clerk read out an email from Mr Denis Colgan, Specialist Pollution Officer, Environmental Health at SMDC. This email was a reply to a question regarding lighting sometimes used at Alton Towers and it explained the difference between light pollution and light nuisance and the steps being taken by Alton Towers to minimise issues. Following a discussion it was decided that Cllr Conway should speak to Alton Towers and ascertain the reasons for bright lighting which is sometimes late at night. Any instances witnessed will be documented for cordial discussion with Alton Towers. **Action: Cllr Conway to liaise with Alton Towers.**



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### 51/23. Footpaths.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

### 52/23. Village Hall.

- i. Dog fouling on the playing fields. The clerk give a brief update of a complaint he had received from a member of the public who visits the area with her daughter and Cllr Ballard pointed out the potential health hazards particularly if children coming into contact with dog faeces. It was noted that the day-to-day management of the playing fields rests with the village hall committee who are actively discussing this issue. The council will await the decision by the village hall committee. There is a sign which is not very prominently displayed forbidding dogs on the playing field. **Action: Cllr Ballard to report back when a decision has been made.**
- ii. Cllr Wood mentioned that vehicles are also clearly driving on the playing field land. Cllr Ballard explained that bollards had been bought sometime ago to prevent this but that they had not been put in place. There is also a sign forbidding vehicles on the playing fields, again not well displayed.

### 53/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood awaits some replies to the potholes he has reported and has several others to report.
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that there has been no update on the repair/replacement of the damaged railings in Malthouse Road.
- iii. Cllr Conway reported that he had reported a blocked sewer in Malthouse Road which has been repaired.

### 54/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the cemetery and Church yard are in good order.
- ii. Cllr Wood stated that there are three entrances to the cemetery, two have notices forbidding dogs but the centre gate, the main gate does not have a notice. **Action: Cllr Dronzek to check.**
- iii. Cllr Wood reported that the planters in the cemetery look rather poor. **Action: Cllr Dronzek to check and report back with suggested remedy.**

### 55/23 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. None for this meeting.

### 56/23. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2023/0048. Jays Barn, Bradley Lane, Bradley In The Moors, Alton. Erection of a single storey side extension. Planning Permission – Refused.
- ii. SMD/2023/0034. The Hollies, Cheadle Road, Alton. Replace windows, door and drain and other work. Planning Permission – Approved.
- iii. SMD/2023/0081. Former Coach House adjacent to, Stanford House, Denstone Lane, Alton. Continued use of former coach house as 2 dwellings. Planning Permission – Approved.

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.



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### 57/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Local elections update:** The clerk reported that the local parish election would be uncontested as only eight names have been put forward (the current councillors). He will post the result officially the day after the elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May.
- ii. **Bench New Road.** Cllr Shepherd now has two quotes for the repair of the bench. Churnet Valley Joinery, net £600 (VAT £120, gross £720) VAT can be reclaimed. The second from David Evans for £650, no VAT. Cllr Wood proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded the cheaper of the two quotes, Churnet Valley Joinery be accepted this was carried on a vote. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**

### 58/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

### 59/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email to SMDC planning re March applications.
- ii. Correspondence with Leander re the new Alton sign.
- iii. Email advice re holiday lets in Alton.
- iv. Various emails to the council re forthcoming elections.
- v. External audit documents received.
- vi. Email from a member of the public re dog fouling on the playing fields and reply.
- vii. Letter to SCC re footpath 16 supporting change to a bridleway and reply.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

### 60/23. Finance.

- i. Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 had been circulated and was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried. This was signed by the Chair Cllr Shepherd and the clerk.
- ii. Annual accounting statements for 2022/23 had been circulated to all councillors. They were proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Conway and carried. They had been previously signed by the clerk and were then signed by the Chair Cllr Shepherd.
- iii. HMRC April 2023. £418.80.
- iv. Clerk salary £558.34 expenses £21.95 (2 keys and keyring for the village hall, for use by the council).
- v. Buxus Green March invoice £689.79 (paid)
- vi. SPCA invoice £315.65 net (paid).
- vii. Zurich Insurance invoice £491.57.
- viii. Interest out to Nat West 0.27 pence.
- ix. Income Nettlebank £37.50.
- x. Income £800.00 Alliance Environmental Services (Lengthsman scheme).
- xi. Income £300.00 (Cllr Plimley Community Initiative Fund).
- xii. Income £150.00 Keates funeral services.
- xiii. Income £75.00 Nettlebank.
- xiv. Interest income reserve accounts on 31 March 2023. £24.62.
- xv. Authorised payments were agreed and signed off by the council.



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xvi. Current bank balances were presented to the Council.

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

**The rest of the finances were proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried.**

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

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Signed..... Clerk