



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th August 2023 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Four members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor N. Conway, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor H. Kelsall, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

109/23 Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

110/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2023.

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

111/23. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that he had not yet had the opportunity to visit Saltersford Lane re the overgrown weeds but will do so shortly (minute 98/23 ii). **Action: Carried forward for Cllr Shepherd.**
- ii. The memorial footpath has been cleared by the lengthsman. (Minute 100/23 i).
- iii. The clerk gave an update on the community speed watch initiative. Explaining the website details had been forwarded to Cllr Gwinnett and that he has telephoned the department twice to get more details without an answer and had also emailed community speed watch requesting details of the cost of a radar device and awaits a reply (Minute 101/23 i). **Action: The clerk will liaise with Cllr Gwinnett and a further report will be made at the next meeting.**
- iv. The clerk has written to Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP regarding ambulance response times and awaits a reply. (Minute 105/23 ii).

112/23 Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Shepherd explained that Cllr Kelsall will be solely responsible for liaison between the council and Alton Towers and that Cllr Conway would be available for other responsibilities.

113/23. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that there is a damaged stile on footpath No 45 which he will report. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**



Alton Parish Council

114/23. Village Hall.

- i. The clerk reported that the defibrillator batteries which were only replaced last December and should last for 3 years are running low. He has spoken to AEDdonate who supplied the equipment and they will remove the existing defibrillator next week and replace with one on loan whilst the councils equipment is checked for faults. The clerk and Chair checked the defibrillator before this meeting and it was in working order. **Action: Clerk to follow up and report back.**
- ii. Cllr Wood observed that a second banner advertising an event has been placed in front of the mosaic outside the village hall, blocking it from view. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to ask for the banner to be relocated.**

115/23. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Brindley stated that a car keeps parking right next to the water pump in Dimble Lane, blocking the view of the pump. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will check and if possible ask the driver to park elsewhere.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that areas of the village have unsightly weeds growing out of kerbsides and footpaths. These areas include Shirley Drive, Glen Drive, Limekiln Lane and the bus shelter. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman to weed kill all affected areas.**
- iii. Cllr Wood stated there are overhanging branches at the Doctors Steps. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**

116/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported the large pothole in Dimble Lane has been repaired and that he will re-report one in Hurstons Lane. There are other potholes awaiting repair.

117/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. The cemetery and St. Peter's Church yard are in good order.

118/23. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. Several members of the public raised issues regarding the speed of vehicles travelling along Uttoxeter Road and asked what could be done. Cllr Moulton explained the use of a speed radar device and the training implications and the JCB signage in Denstone. It was noted that in the relatively recent past a speed indicator sign was often placed in Uttoxeter Road. **Action: The clerk to ask SCC if the speed indicator sign could once more be placed in Uttoxeter Road.**
- ii. A member of the public mentioned the waste bin on the playing field is blocked and cannot be used. **Action: Cllr Ballard to speak to the village hall committee and report back.**

119/23 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2023/0288. Mrs Julie Carney, Bradley Elms Farm Alton Road Thrapwood. Erection of a replacement agricultural machinery and equipment store. **No objections.**

120/23. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2023/0206. Old Vicarage Cottage, Dimble Lane, Alton. Application for Removal of condition 12 relating to SMD/2016/0427. Approved.
- ii. SMD/2023/0226. Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton. Erection of 2 Holiday Lodges. Planning Permission – Refused.



Alton Parish Council

121/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Village Planters:** Cllr Shepherd reported that all the planters had now been planted up by himself and Cllr Gwinnett with the flowers paid for by Alton Towers.
- ii. **Community Speed Watch:** This item had been covered elsewhere in the meeting.

122/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Letter to Karen Bradley MP re ambulance response times (reply awaited).
- ii. **Email from resident of Baldwins Gate re a refused planning application.** This letter related to a refused planning application for a large estate in Baldwins Gate, Newcastle for which residents were seeking support to challenge the process by which the Government Planning Inspectorate in Bristol had overturned the refusal and granted the planning permission, in similar fashion to the current Walton Homes estate being developed in Alton.

A discussion took place during which the Chair pointed out that the council could not become involved in a specific planning application in another area. The email from the residents did however ask for support in challenging the process whereby the unelected Planning Inspectorate in Bristol can overturn the decision of the local elected council. Following a discussion Cllr Wood proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded the motion that the council write to Karen Bradley MP setting out concerns regarding the overturning of planning decisions made by the local council by the unelected Planning Inspectorate. On a vote this was carried. **Action: The clerk.**

123/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Code of conduct seminar via Teams from SMDC-circulated.
- ii. Hedgerow project email from CPRE (Countryside charity). Circulated.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

124/23. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £556.43.
- ii. Buxus Green July invoice £689.79 (paid)
- iii. Interest from bank accounts to 31.7.23 £34.58
- iv. Remittance advice received from Alliance re lengthsmans scheme, not yet showing in accounts-£400.
- v. Authorised payments were agreed and signed off by the council.
- vi. Current bank balances were 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 7.5pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13th September 2023

Signed..... Clerk