



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor H. Kelsall.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### 114/24. Declarations of Interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

#### 115/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 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.

#### 116/24. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the planters at Headland Way have been attended to (minute 100/24 ix).
- ii. Cllr Ballard reported that the hedge at the village hall overhanging the football pitch has been cut back.
- iii. Cllr Wood reported he has not had a reply from Highways regarding the potholes he has reported.
- iv. The clerk reported he has written Cllr Deaville regarding vehicles turning left from Malthouse Road into New Road and has received an acknowledgement (minute 100/24 iv).
- v. The clerk reported that he has again spoken to the lengthsman about clearing the perimeter path at the cemetery, the work has not yet been started. Cllr Wood expressed his dissatisfaction that the lengthsman has not done this work (minute 100/24 vii). **Action: The clerk to advise the lengthsman that this work must be commenced.**
- vi. Cllr Shepherd reported he has not caught any moles in the cemetery (minute 100/24 viii). There is still a mole problem. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to deal.**

#### 117/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall was not present at the meeting but had submitted a report which was briefly explained by Cllr Shepherd. The report outlines a meeting Cllr Kelsall has had with Laura Gerrard, Director of Strategic Development at Alton Towers and details the way Alton Towers wishes to have positive open lines of communication and to help community projects as and when possible.



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### 118/24. Footpaths.

- i. The clerk stated he has reported that footpath 16 is overgrown. (Minute 102/24 i).
- ii. Cllr Shepherd explained a report received from SMDC regarding an application to upgrade public footpath 16 Alton Parish to a bridleway. The council has previously in 2022 supported this idea.

### 119/24. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Moulton explained he has been in contact with SMDC regarding possibly moving the litter bin in the play area at the village hall to a more desirable position, this followed a request from a member of the village hall committee Alan Heath. Cllr Ballard explained that the village hall committee supported this move. This is a village hall responsibility. **Action: Cllr Moulton to assist in arranging the moving of the litter bin and liaise with the village hall committee.**
- ii. Cllr Ballard requested support from the council for paint to prepare playground equipment for the winter and prevent rot. The amount requested was £65.00. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded £65.00 to go towards the paint, this was carried on a vote with one objection. **Action: Cllr Ballard to arrange for the invoice when received to go to the clerk for payment.**

### 120/24. Lengthsman.

- i. There was a discussion regarding the perimeter path in the cemetery and the fact it has not been started yet. **Action: As per minute 116/24 v, the clerk to speak to the lengthsman.**
- ii. Cllr Wood stated that Post Office Alley also needs attention. **Action: The clerk to contact the lengthsman.**

### 121/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood stated he has not received a response from Mr David Greatbatch regarding his reports of potholes. There will be a talk regarding potholes at the next parish assembly which will give an opportunity to mention them again.
- ii. Cllr Gwinnett and the clerk reported that the letters for residents in Shirley Drive requesting them to check their hedges are not growing into Dimble Lane, have been completed. **Action: Cllr Gwinnett to deliver the letters.**
- iii. Cllr Deaville (Highways) has been unable to attend a council meeting and was on holiday for this meeting. Following a discussion it was decided to invite Cllr Keith Flunder (also Highways) when he is available to attend a council meeting. **Action: The clerk to liaise with Cllr Worthington to arrange.**
- iv. Cllr Ballard reported that vehicles are parking on the grass verge on the B5032 by Shirley Drive, obstructing the view for traffic turning out of Shirley Drive. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to visit and report back.**

### 122/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek had nothing further for this item.
- ii. Cllr Wood stated the planters in the cemetery need attention. **Action: Cllr Dronzek to attend to them.**

### 123/24. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. Nothing was raised.



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### 124/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2024/0338. Mr Sam Stabler, SPIF Ltd, 5 THE COTTAGE OAK ROW Cheadle Road, Alton. Retrospective application for replacement of existing staircase from conservatory down to garden level & low level garden decking. **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2024/0305. ALTON CASTLE Castle Hill Road, Alton. Listed Building Consent Like-for-like masonry repairs; repointing using a naturally hydraulic lime mortar, and replacement of defective rainwater goods using cast iron. **No objections.**

### 125/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0242. Blacksmiths Arms, Tythe Barn, Alton. Change of use and alteration of former public house to form 3no. apartments. Planning Permission – **Approved**
- ii. Planning Appeal – SMD/2024/0108 Rose Hill Nabb Lane, Alton. Appeal against planning refusal. **Note: APC have already objected to this application.**

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

### 126/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Round House-update.** The clerk reported that he has made further inquiries regarding insuring the Round House and has answered a number of questions asked by the councils' insurers. A further question the insurers have asked is 'will a qualified person/company maintain the building?' and will there be a schedule of maintenance?  
Cllr Shepherd has the names of two local stone masons he can provide. Cllr Brindley offered to provide the name of the company who maintain St. John's Church which is also listed and Cllr Wood suggested the Rev Brian Leathers may be able to provide the name of the company who maintain St. Peter's Church which is also listed.  
Cllr Gwinnett mention the need for a schedule of maintenance. Cllr Shepherd volunteered to speak to the JCB estates manager to see if he can help.  
This was all agreed. **Actions: Cllr Sheperd to provide the clerk with the names of his known stone masons and contact JCB, Cllr Brindley to provide the clerk with the name of the company who maintain St. John's Church and the clerk to contact the Rev Brian Leathers to see if he can help as above.**

### 127/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Emails with Cllr Deaville regarding possible visit to the council.
- ii. Emails with Zurich Insurance regarding the Round House.

### 128/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email from AEDdonate informing the council that they have been automatically enrolled in the SMDC Defibrillator Community Fund (circulated).
- ii. Email from SMDC granting an extension for comments on planning application SMD/2024/0338.
- iii. Email from Cheddleton PC containing a presentation called 'Unity and equal Acceptance'.
- iv. Various emails concerning the cemetery. All dealt with.



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- v. Emails giving updates on the Lithium-ion battery campaign.
- vi. Emails regarding the litter bin at the village hall play area and possible re-siting. Passed onto the village hall committee and copied to Cllr Ballard. Last discussed by the parish council July/August 2022 when the village hall was dealing with the issue.
- vii. Email from Cllr Deaville acknowledging correspondence regarding the left turn from Malthouse Lane into New Road.
- viii. Nature in Your Neighbourhood - Community Project email (circulated).
- ix. Community Issue Survey, Staffs Police (circulated).
- x. Emails from the clerk and Cllr Worthington regarding the white lines Farley Lane/New Road and Smithy Bank and response from SCC who will check at the next monthly inspection.
- xi. Email notification of an application to upgrade Public Footpath 16 Alton to a Public Bridleway. (APC has already commented on this 8/4/23).
- xii. Email acknowledgement from SCC following report of overgrown vegetation footpath 16.
- xiii. Email acknowledgement reporting of obscured signs B5032/Battlesteads.
- xiv. Email to Lengthsman regarding work to be completed.
- xv. Moorlands Connect flyer/leaflets.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

### 129/24. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £440.46
- ii. Buxus Green invoice July £689.79 (paid).
- iii. Townsend and Renaudon (Round House) invoice Gross £582.00 (Net 485.00 VAT £97.00). (Paid).
- iv. Lengthsmans scheme £400 received from Alliance Environmental Services.
- v. Interest income £40.00
- vi. Authorised payments to be signed off by the Council.
- vii. 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 Dronzek and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.35pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Signed..... Clerk