



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.05pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC), Cllr Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

No public.

Apologies: Councillor N. Conway, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor H. Kelsall.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7.05pm.

179/24. Declarations of Interest.

- i. None.

180/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024.

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

181/24. Matters arising.

- i. The cemetery footpaths requiring tarmac repair by Cllr Shepherd has not yet been completed (minute 154/24 ii and 164/24 iii). **Action carried forward for Cllr Shepherd.**
- ii. Cllr Moulton reported that he has arranged for Cllr Deaville (Highways) to visit the next meeting in January (minute 164/24 vi). **Action: The clerk to ask APC councillors if they wish any questions to be forwarded and then to contact Cllr Deaville with any proposed questions.**
- iii. Cllr Shepherd stated that he has reported the overgrown and obstructed footpath at Wheel Farm (minute 166/24 i).
- iv. The clerk has replied to Croxden parish council stating the parish council's support for their bid to change the traffic sign in Nabb Lane (minute 169/24 iv).
- v. The clerk reported that he has circulated to the council and local funeral directors the increase in cemetery charges (minute 170/24 i).
- vi. The clerk reported that Linda Goodwin has been informed of her appointment to the Section 106 funds committee (minute 174/24 ii).
- vii. The clerk informed the meeting he had checked with Angela Dale (SMDC) and that the Section 106 funds cannot be used to pay the clerk for work done on the project. The money can only be used for the purpose it was allocated to improve the play area and playing field (minute 174/24 iv).
- viii. Cllr Dronzek has purchased and installed the Christmas lights at the Round House with no labour costs (minute 175/24 ii).

182/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.



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183/24. Footpaths.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

184/24. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

185/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood has visited all the public benches in Alton and circulated a reported on their condition. Four benches were recommended for maintenance by the lengthsman at the cost requested by the lengthsman of £75 each. The benches are as follows:
 - Cemetery, outer path on Town Head side nearest road, dedicated to Miriam Foster, 2003 - needs coat of varnish.
 - Cemetery, outer path on Town Head side nearest shed, dedicated to Natalie Jayne Rowlinson, 1997 - in need to coat of varnish.
 - Cemetery, outer path on Village Hall side nearest shed, dedicated to Paul Brookes, 2002, in need to coat of varnish.
 - Cemetery, outer path on Village Hall side, nearest road, dedicated to Kathleen Williamson, 1992, in need of coat of varnish.

Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded the motion which was carried. **Action: The clerk to arrange.**

- ii. The clerk stated he has spoken to the lengthsman who is proposing a 5% increase in his charges. After a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded that the council do not go to tender this year and that the 5% increase (the first by the lengthsman) is accepted. The new charges to apply from April 2025 when the contract is renewed. This was carried. **Action: The clerk to arrange with the lengthsman.**

186/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the majority of the potholes have been repaired except Back Lane. Battlesteads should be repaired in February and other work in January.

187/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

188/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

Nothing for this item of business.

189/24. Planning decisions.

Nothing for this item of business.

190/24. Section 106 funds for playing field and play area update.

- i. There was no update for this item, but suggested dates for the first meeting will be circulated early in the new year. **Action: Cllr Shepherd and the clerk to arrange.**



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191/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Round House-update.** Cllr Shepherd reported that in addition to the Christmas lights being installed he has also cleared the roof of weeds.
- ii. The clerk reported he has forwarded the condition report and maintenance plan to the council's insurers for a quote and he awaits a reply. **Action: The clerk to report back to the next meeting.**

192/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email from High Peak/SMDC requesting check of councillor declarations of interest and other details are correct. First response sent pointing out three councillors listed who are no longer members of the council. **Action: The clerk to update SMDC.**

193/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Road closure notice-Bradley Lane, Threapwood (circulated).
- ii. In Touch newsletter (circulated).
- iii. Emails regarding a cemetery enquiry regarding a burial from the 1950's.
- iv. Email from Chair of the Village Hall committee re membership of the Section 106 sub-committee.
- v. List of available courses (circulated).
- vi. Electoral register received from SMDC.
- vii. Email from Croxden PC to Alton Towers requesting support re 'no sat nav' signage on Nabb Lane.
- viii. Email from SPCA stating subscription likely to rise by 5% (already budgeted for).
- ix. Email re Samaritans 'Light up the Longest Night Campaign 2024' (circulated).
- x. Road closure notice-Cedarhill (circulated).
- xi. Mature Road users email (circulated).
- xii. Email to SMDC Planning re objection to SMD/2024/0478.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

194/24. Finance.

- i. The precept for 2025/26 was discussed. Options and a recommendation had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Following a discussion Cllr Gwinnett proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded that the council increase the precept by 5% to cover increased costs and allow for a slight reduction in reserves. This was carried. **Action: The clerk to arrange.**
- ii. Clerk salary £452.95
- iii. Buxus Green invoice November £689.79 (paid).
- iv. Interest income £36.22
- v. BHB Architects maintenance plan gross £264.00, net £220.00, VAT £44.00 (paid minute 141/24 i).
- vi. HMRC £975.76 – Due January 2025.
- vii. FWD Electrics Ltd – Christmas lights £183.96 (paid minute 175/24 ii).



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- viii. Authorised payments were signed off by the Council.
- ix. Current bank balances were presented to 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 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 8th January 2025

Signed..... Clerk