



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Three members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor S. Hollins, Cllr H. Plimley (SMDC).

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

17/22. Declarations of interest.

- i. None.

18/22. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022.

- i. The minutes of the above meetings were 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.

19/22. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Dronzek will cut back footpath 55 (minute 3/22 iv). **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**
- ii. Cllr Shepherd has reported the broken fingerpost footpath 26 to SCC. (minute 6/22 ii).
- iii. The water pump area in Dimble lane needs to be tidied up (minute 10/22 i). Cllr Shepherd will make enquiries as to costing for paving the area and report back. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
- iv. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. (Minute 13/22 ii). Cllr Shepherd stated a meeting had been held involving the ACE (Alton Community Events) group and outlined various events that had been discussed, including a beacon lighting, street party and history exhibition at the village hall. All at a very early stage of planning.
- v. The clerk reported he has written to Eric Whitehead solicitors for advice in ascertaining the ownership of the Round House. (Minute 16/22 i).
- vi. The clerk has submitted the precept required and received confirmation of acceptance from SMDC. (Minute 16/22 i).

20/22. Lengthsman.

- i. Mole traps have been set at the cemetery. Clerk to advise ground maintenance. **Action: The clerk.**

21/22. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Conway reported he and the Chair had attended a meeting with Alton Towers to discuss the quiet lanes initiative. This was well received and supported. Cllr Conway will be attending a further meeting towards the end of the month.

22/22. Footpaths.



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- i. Cllr Gwinnett reported that the footpath at the bottom of the building site for Walton homes is no worse than usual for this time of year, although the pond on the site has overflowed due to recent rain.
- ii. Cllr Gwinnett will try to get a meeting with planning at SMDC to ascertain what processes they have in place to monitor the building work being undertaken by Walton Homes to ensure that all the rules and regulations are being complied with. **Action: Cllr Gwinnett.**

23/22. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item.

24/22. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Shepherd explained he has compiled a letter to go to SCC asking for support for the Quiet Lanes initiative. Also other local parish council's will be asked if they wish to be included in the initial letter but will then pursue their own agenda for any initiative in their parish's. He has also received a supportive letter from Karen Bradley MP and a letter from the chief executive of SCC.
- ii. Cllr Wood stated he has reported the potholes on the B5032 near the Peakstones PH and the one at Tythe Barn, Uttoxeter Road (with photographs) to SCC (minute 8/22 i).
- iii. Cllr Brindley reported that Hurstons Lane outside the village hall is still flooding badly. Cllr Wood will report the blocked grid. **Action: Cllr Wood.**

25/22. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Shepherd is dealing with the mole problem otherwise the cemetery and Church yard are in good order.

26/22. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. Two faulty street lights were reported, one at the top of Dimble Lane and one on B5032 near Saltersford Lane.
- ii. A member of the public stated he thought vehicles are speeding at Gallows Green. **Action: Clerk to make the police aware.**

27/22. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2022/0009. Kirk House, Malthouse Road, Alton. Proposed new one bedroom bungalow within the domestic curtilage of Kirk House. **No objections but the council would like the build to be in stone to match the local vernacular.**
- ii. SMD/2022/0022. Alton Castle, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Existing external oak entrance gates to be replaced with new metal gates (forged steel). **No objections.**
- iii. DET/2022/0009. The Withering Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to one Dwellinghouses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. **No objections.**
- iv. SMD/2021/0850. Mr Tim Robbins, Oakhill, Dimble Lane, Alton. The proposals seek to provide a new double-garage with first-floor office space and balcony area located above, in replace of an existing redundant store and timber-framed summer house. Separate to the existing dwelling. **No objections.**



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28/22. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2021/0771. Holme Farm, Red Road, Alton. Extensions to improve the accommodation generally including additional bedrooms, a new sitting room and the replacement of the existing conservatory. **Refused.**
- ii. SMD/2021/0723. Area adjacent The Lord Shrewsbury, New Road, Alton. Installation of a Stand Alone Jacobs Ladder (by specialist company) for outdoor activity within the site's existing outdoor activity area. **Approved.**
- iii. Cllr Wood stated that planning application SMD/2021/0692 had been approved after the plans had changed but not returned for the councils views. Cllr Wood will discuss with the SMDC representatives attending the April meeting.

29/22. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett stated that She had been unable to get a third quote for work at the war memorial for planters. Cllr Shepherd has two quotes one for £650 plus VAT and one for £590 plus VAT. He proposed that the least costly of £590 plus VAT from R & R Building Contractors, Alton be approved, Cllr Dronzek seconded the proposal which was carried.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd also has two quotes for tree work at the war memorial, one for £220 and one for £180 and he again proposed that the lower quote of £180 from Michael Johnson Tree Surgeons be accepted, Cllr Dronzek seconded this proposal which was carried.
- iii. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.** See minute 19/22 iv.
- iv. **New website.** The website is now 'live'. The clerk stated that an email had been received and circulated to the council from Sue Green, John Moorhouse and Simon Shirley asking that the website be changed from a parish council website back to the Alton Village website containing subjects outside the parish council remit such as businesses, accommodation and other links. Cllr Wood stated he felt the new website was excellent. All through the process the council had been open and transparent about its plans publishing them in minutes and at public council meetings. No one had come forward with suggestions prior to going live. The council discussed the email and decided that advertising was out of the question as the council could be seen as supporting and endorsing businesses. Links to non-profit groups such as the village hall and Churches is acceptable and desirable.
The council decided not to change from the website being the parish council website, but links approved by the council could be added. Any changes to the website must be approved by the council.
The following links were approved to be added: Churches, doctors, village hall and scouts. Any other local groups will also be considered as the website is a 'living' document which will continually evolve. **Action: The clerk to update the author of the email requesting change.**
- v. The clerk has advertised a vacancy on the council, on the notice board and website.

30/22. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

31/22. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email requesting extension for planning comments to SMDC.
- ii. Emails regarding the set-up of website to the webmaster.
- iii. Confirmation of precept requirement from SMDC.



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- iv. Email re check of village de-fib which is in order.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

32/22. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £500.50.
- ii. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman January invoice £689.79 (Paid).
- iii. Invoice Seedy Pea (set up of new website). Net £625.00 VAT £125.00 (Gross £750.00).
- iv. Income Keates Funeral £660.00.
- v. Income Nettlebank £37.50.
- vi. Authorised payments for January 2022 were agreed and signed off by the council.
- vii. 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 Wood and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Chair, Councillor Shepherd at 8.05pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 9th March 2022

Signed..... Clerk