



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

No members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor N. Conway, Cllr H. Plimley (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

16/23. Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

17/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023.

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

18/23. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Kelsall read out a letter from Alton Towers outlining their lighting policy following concerns about search light type lighting at events over the new year causing light pollution and probably disturbing wildlife. The letter talked in general terms about lighting required for safety of staff and guests and that most was turned off by 10pm. Cllr Wood felt that the letter had not addressed the issue of lighting for events which was the complaint, there was no issue with general lighting. It was agreed that Cllr Kelsall should write again specifically about special events lighting. Cllr Worthington suggested that SMDC Environment Services be copied in. **Action: Cllr Kelsall.**
- ii. Cllr Wood stated he has reported the broken stile on footpath 37 and the flooding outside the village hall.
- iii. The clerk stated that the 'Back Lane' broken sign had been reported and repaired.

19/23. Lengthsman.

- i. The lengthsman's contract is due for renewal in April and will be on the agenda next month.
Action: The clerk.

20/23. Alton Towers.

- i. Nothing further than the action outlined at minute 18/23 i.

21/23. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Gwinnett reported that the footpath at the bottom of Saltersford Lane is very muddy due to use by large agricultural vehicles it is difficult for use by walkers. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to check on the ownership of the land.**



Alton Parish Council

22/23. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported there is a committee meeting on 22nd March.

23/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the damaged railings in Malthouse Road will be repaired by SCC Highways who are awaiting a quote for the cost. There is no date for the replacement.
- ii. Cllr Wood stated he has reported about 12 potholes to SCC Highways, mainly in the Bradley Lane area.
- iii. Cllr Wood reminded the council that Hurstons Lane will be partially closed later this month.
- iv. Cllr Brindley reported that there are potholes in Back Lane by Town Head. **Action: Cllr Wood to report to SCC Highways.**

24/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the cemetery and Church yard are in good order.

25/23. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2023/0048. Jays Barn, Bradley Lane, Bradley In The Moors. Erection of a single storey side extension. **The council voted to object to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment in the area with three councillors voting against the application, two councillors for the application and two councillors abstaining on the vote.**
- ii. SMD/2023/0034. The Hollies, Cheadle Road, Alton. Replace the existing pantry window with a larger timber double glazed sash window. New external timber double glazed 'french' style kitchen doors. Re-siting of kitchen drain. **There were no objections to this application.**

26/23. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2022/0232 and 0210. White Hart Hotel, High Street, Alton. Listed Building Consent for the Change of use of outbuilding to rear of listed building. Listed Building Consent – Approved.
- ii. SMD/2022/0424. Greenways, Smithy Bank, Alton. Extension to enlarge kitchen and provide a loft bedroom. Planning Permission – Approved.
- iii. SMD/2022/0638. 2, Shirley Drive, Alton. Alterations and extension to dwelling. Planning Permission – Approved.
- iv. SMD/2022/0557. Earls Rock, Red Road, Alton. Erection of Oak Framed Garden Room and Porch following demolition of existing Conservatory. Planning Permission – Approved.

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

27/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Round House:** A further email has been sent to Cllr Williams office and a reply has been received by the clerk stating the matter is being followed up and apologising for the slow response.
- ii. **Alton Village Sign.** Cllr Wood reported that he has obtained three quotes to replace the damaged Alton sign on the Farley Road as follows:
 1. Majestic Metals £540 + VAT
 2. Ward Signs, Bristol £850 + delivery + VAT.
 3. Leander £825 + VAT.



Alton Parish Council

Although not the cheapest Cllr Wood proposed that the quote from Leander was accepted, it is a company the council have used in the recent past for the Alton sign on the Denstone Road which was completed to a high standard. The cheapest quote was from a Bristol company, Majestic Metals who seem like a small business and the council do not have any recommendations on which to base a business decision. Cllr Worthington suggested Leander may consider reducing the price if asked. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried for Leander to have the business and for Cllr Wood to see if a better price could be negotiated.

Action: The clerk and Cllr Wood to arrange for the sign to be replaced.

- iii. **Local Council Elections update.** The clerk confirmed he had attended a meeting at the council chamber in Leek for a briefing on the forthcoming elections. He has ordered election packs for the councillors to apply to stand again for election and will collect them in due course.

28/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

29/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email re boundary changes (circulated).
- ii. Email from parishioner re faded road markings and reply.
- iii. Email from parishioner re rubbish dumped near his house and reply.
- iv. Emails re community fund for village sign Cllr Plimley and Cllr Wood.
- v. PowerPoint presentation re the election and info on voter ID (circulated).
- vi. Email from Alton Towers via Cllr Conway re noise and lighting from the resort.
- vii. Email confirming the damaged 'Back Lane' sign has been reported to SCC.
- viii. Email to SMDC planning re January's planning application.
- ix. Email to Adell Landon (SCC) requesting an update on the Round House ownership question.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

30/23. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £558.34
- ii. Buxus Green January invoice £689.79 paid.
- iii. Income £75.00 Sigleys Funeral Services.
- iv. Interest income reserve accounts on 31 January 2023, £21.62.
- 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 Wood and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.25pm.



Alton Parish Council

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 8th March 2023

Signed..... Clerk