



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair), Councillor H. Kelsall, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC), Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

16/24. Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

17/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

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

18/24. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk reported that he has still not had a reply from Rural England about the Round House and he doubts there will be any response (minute 3/24 i)
- ii. The clerk has reported the rotten fingerpost on footpath 21 to SCC (minute 5/24 i).
- iii. The clerk tasked the Lengthsman to tidy the Doctors Steps which has been done and photographs circulated (minute 7/24 i)

19/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

20/24. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Wood reported the fingerpost on footpath 36 opposite Bradley Hall Farm has fallen over due to rot. **Action: The clerk to report to SCC footpaths.**

21/24. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported that the 'no dogs' signs have been fixed on the playing fields with thanks to Cllr Wood for the work.

22/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.



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23/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the footpath outside Londis has been repaired.
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that he has been unable to contact SCC to check on other work on potholes he has requested, the contact is on holiday. The pothole outside the village hall is now very bad and a traffic cone has been placed in the hole as it is full of water and cannot be seen. The clerk volunteered to measure the depth and further report the issue to support Cllr Wood. This was agreed. **Action: The clerk.**
- iii. Cllr Ballard stated she had been asked two questions by a parishioner. How much do road signs cost and where are the current First Responders based. Advised to tell the parishioner that the parish council do not deal with road signs and that SCC Highways would be able to assist as it is their responsibility. Cllr Ballard was advised to speak with Cllr Kelsall regarding the First Responders as she is the liaison with Alton Towers who have First Responders.

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

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported that the water butt in the parish cemetery is damaged and needs replacing. Cllr Dronzek proposed a new one is purchased at a cost of approximately £80, this was seconded by Cllr Shepherd and carried. **Action: Cllr Dronzek to arrange.**

25/24. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. The member of the public present stated the footpath down Lime Kiln Lane needs sweeping. **Action: The clerk to task the Lengthsman.**
- ii. The member of the public stated that there is no tarmac around the manhole cover half way up New Road. **Action: Cllr Wood to assess/arrange repair.**

26/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2024/0016. Alton Towers, Farley Lane. Application for Variation of a Conditions 1, 3, 4 and 6 in relation to application SMD/2021/0330 Re: Installation of a seasonal temporary stage. **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2024/0018. 1, The Mount, High Street, Alton. Single story rear extension. **No objections.**
- iii. SMD/2024/0064. Ripsaw Cafe, Alton Towers, Farley Lane. The proposal is for the removal of the existing Funk n Fly ride and to replace it with an attraction that sits atop a concrete structure that has an approximate overall height of 18m. **There are no objections, but the council would like any lighting at night to be either low lighting or preferably no lighting to prevent light pollution.**

27/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2021/0089. Capri, Gallows Green, Alton. Outline planning application with all matters reserved for a residential development. Outline Application – Approved.
 - ii. SMD/2023/0515. Air Shop, Alton Towers. The proposal is for the demolition of an existing poor-quality arcade offering and replacement with a purpose-built steel frame structure of the same function. Planning Permission – Approved.
 - iii. SMD/2024/0530. Royal Oak, Cheadle Road, Alton. Proposed change of use from public house (Use Class A4) to offices. Planning Permission – Approved.
- The planning decisions were read out and explained by Cllr Shepherd.



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28/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Round House-update. (See minute 18/24 i). Cllr Wood stated he has been in contact with Historic England who will check their records regarding the Round House. **Action: Cllr Wood to report back.**
- ii. **Litter in the parish.** Cllr Wood report that there is a lot of litter on Denstone Lane. Cllr Brindley stated that during the season Alton Towers staff clear that area. Cllr Shepherd stated he will arrange a litter pick. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

29/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email from Denstone PC asking for support re alleged speeding Alton Road, Denstone. (Circulated). **Action: The clerk to write to Denstone PC and state that Alton PC are sympathetic and support Denstone in their efforts to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph, however no councillor has direct evidence of the alleged speeding.**

30/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email from Cheadle Town Council re launch of a three week exhibition celebrating the life and works of Cheadle Astronomer, Mary Adela Blagg. (Circulated).
- ii. Numerous emails from SPCA re training and other advice. All dealt with.
- iii. Email from Cheadle Town Council re launch of a three week exhibition celebrating the life and works of Cheadle Astronomer, Mary Adela Blagg. (Circulated).
- iv. Numerous emails from SPCA re training and other advice. All dealt with.
- v. Email acknowledging finger post on footpath 21 at Gallows Green has been reported as rotten.
- vi. Email re SMDC Chairman's charity curry night (circulated).
- vii. Email re Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board People's Panel (circulated).
- viii. Email acknowledging lamppost number 1 is not working in Hurstons Lane.
- ix. Email re Cheadle Town Mayor afternoon tea (circulated).
- x. Freedom of information request from Kacper Zwierzynski re audit documents (dealt with).
- xi. Email re John Lindley (poet) at the Nicholson Institute, Leek (circulated).

The clerk read out the correspondence.

31/24. Finance.

- i. Buxus Green January invoice £689.79 (paid)
- ii. Net Factory Ltd (website) invoice £79.00
- iii. Clerk salary £587.26.
- iv. Interest from bank accounts to 31.1.24 £41.73
- v. Authorised payments to be signed off by the Council.
- vi. 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 Wood and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.30pm.



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Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13th March 2024

Signed..... Clerk