



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor S. Hollins, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm.

1/22. Declarations of interest.

- i. None.

2/22. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2021.

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

3/22. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported he has spoken to the owner of footpath 25 regarding cutting brambles back. It is better and he will monitor the situation.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported the parking cones have been removed from near the Ramblers Retreat (minute 187/21 iv).
- iii. The clerk reported he now has possession of the Deeds of Easement from Eric Whitehead Solicitors (minute 187/21 vi).
- iv. Cllr Wood reported that the overhanging trees on footpath 55 have not been cleared. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will speak with the owner.**
- v. Cllr Conway reported that he has spoken to Alton Towers regarding the noise on Remembrance Sunday, this will not reoccur (minute 189/21 ii).
- vi. Cllr Shepherd stated he is still working on the problem of molehills in the cemetery.
- vii. The clerk reported that he has completed an online check with the Information Commissioners Office and spoken to them by telephone. The council does not need to register for Data Protection (but must of course comply with the Data Protection Act 2018).

4/22. Lengthsman.

- i. Nothing for this item.

5/22. Alton Towers.

- ii. Cllr Conway also reported he has attended his first meeting with Alton Towers and that they are keen to work with the council and community. The question of light pollution from the hotel at



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the resort was discussed and agreed that Cllr Conway should take up the issue at the next meeting with Alton Towers. **Action: Cllr Conway.**

6/22. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Gwinnett reported she has walked a few of the paths recently, most are slippery due to the time of year but no other issues.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that the finger post of footpath 26 where it joins footpath 64 at Saltersford Lane is rotten. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to report to SCC.**

7/22. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item.

8/22. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the pothole outside the Bulls Head in High Street has been repaired. There is still a pothole on the B5032 outside the Peakstones Public House and another one at Tythe Barn, Uttoxeter Road. **Action: Cllr Wood to report to SCC.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that the gullies in Hurstons Lane have been cleared by Highways. There should be funding to clear the manholes in Hurstons Lane by the end of February.

9/22. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that other than the molehills already mentioned the Church yard and cemetery are in good order.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that St. Peter's Church are ready to repair the Church clock to which the council have pledged £1,000.

10/22. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. A member of the public stated that the area around the water pump in Dimble Lane is messy and muddy. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will check and report back.**

11/22. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. There were no planning applications to discuss.

12/22. Planning decisions.

There were no decisions on the agenda, but Cllr Wood stated that planning DET/2021/0039 had been refused. The Withering Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of Use of agricultural buildings to one dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. Prior Approval Refused.

13/22. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett stated that planter work at the war memorial would be completed first when the weather allows and she will get a third quote to present to the council for the work. She will also plant the planters in the spring.
- ii. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.** Cllr Shepherd stated that a meeting will be held at the Bulls Head Public House on Tuesday 1st February to discuss the jubilee celebrations and asked if



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a councillor would volunteer to attend. Cllr Gwinnett volunteered. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to keep the council updated as plans develop.**

- iii. **New website.** The clerk has now circulated the link for councillors to view the progress of the new website which he and Cllr Wood are working on with the webmaster on behalf of the council. The history page will be removed but the gallery will be kept as a pictorial record of events the council take part in. The website should go ‘live’ very soon and all councillors will be kept up to date.

14/22. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

15/22. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email to Cllr Roberts re planning talk to the council and reply. This talk will take place at the meeting on 13th April 2022 and will involve Cllr Paul Roberts, SMDC and Mr Ben Haywood Head of Planning at SMDC.
- ii. Email to Eric Whitehead Solicitors re Deeds of Easement and reply. Deeds now received.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

16/22. Finance.

- i. Precept 2022/23. The precept was discussed and Cllr Shepherd stated he had not been able to secure anyone to complete work on the Round House. It is also not clear who owns the Round House. **Action: Clerk to make inquiries.** The precept was therefore considered taking into consideration known costs and income for 2022/23, these were outlined by the clerk. The decision was to set the precept at £17,225 a 4.94% increase, taking a band D property to £32.50 per year. This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried. **Action: The clerk to submit the precept requirement to SMDC.**
- ii. Clerk salary £500.50.
- iii. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman December invoice £689.79 (Paid)
- iv. Authorised payments for December 2021 were agreed and signed off by the council.
- v. 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 7.50pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 9th February 2022

Signed..... Clerk