



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor N. Conway, Cllr M. Worthington (SCC), Cllr H. Plimley (SMDC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

No members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor P. Gwinnett, Cllr H. Kelsall.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

1/23. Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

2/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 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.

3/23. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has spoken to Alton Towers regarding the strobe lights reported at the last meeting (minute 183/22 i), his concerns had been listened to, but there was no commitment to stop the light shows. Cllr Wood stated he would be writing to Alton Towers in a personal capacity as he has concerns about the lights disturbing wildlife.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported there has not been a Quiet lanes meeting since the last council meeting (minute 186/22 iv).
- iii. The clerk reported that details regarding the closure of Hurston Lane have been added to the council website (minute 186/22 iii).

4/23. Lengthsman.

- i. The clerk reported that the lengthsman had informed him that the leaves outside the village hall would be cleared on Thursday 12th January. He had been unable to do so due to the recent freezing and then wet weather and when he visited today (Wednesday 11th January) the car-park was full due to an event at the village hall.

5/23. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Conway stated he would follow up the lighting issue at Alton Towers and report back.
Action: Cllr Conway.

6/23. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that footpath 37 has a broken stile which he will report. **Action: Cllr Wood.**



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- ii. Cllr Wood also reported that part of footpath 39 may be on private land. This is currently going through a legal process. He will make further inquiries and report back in due course.. **Action: Cllr Wood.**

7/23. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

8/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that he awaits an update on the repair of the damaged railings in Malthouse Lane. **Action: Cllr Wood to report back when he receives an update from SCC Highways.**
- ii. Cllr Brindley stated that there is still flooding in Hurstons Lane outside the village hall despite the grid having been cleared. Cllr Wood offered to follow this up. **Action: Cllr Wood.**
- iii. The clerk reported he had noticed the Back Lane sign is broken where Back Lane joins Hurstons Lane. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Highways.**

9/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

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

10/23. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. Appeal against refusal of planning application SMD/2021/0771 Holme farm, Red Road, Alton (information only the council has already objected to this application). Cllr Shepherd read out and explained that no further comments can be made regarding this appeal, but the council had already objected to the application. No further action required by the council.
- ii. SMD/2022/0666. Mrs Sandra Satchell, Kenelm Youth Trust, Alton Castle, Castle Hill Road Alton. Installation of an external timber clad bike shelter for bikes storage. There were no objections to this application.

11/23. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2021/0635. Land at, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Erection of 2no. detached dwellings and detached garage. **Appeal dismissed.**
- ii. SMD/2022/0082. Threapwood Farm, Alton Road, Threapwood. Change of use of attached outbuilding to additional living accommodation with minor external alterations. Planning Permission – **Approved.**

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

12/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Round House:** The clerk has not yet heard back from Cllr Williams SCC regarding ownership of the Round House. A further email has been sent to his office requesting an update.
- ii. **Alton Village Sign.** Cllr Wood reported that the Alton village sign on Farley Lane is in a state of very poor repair, he asked the council for their views on repairing the sign or having a new sign or removing the sign. Following a discussion, it was decided to repair the sign. Cllr Worthington stated that after the May elections if he is returned he would offer £500 from his community fund towards the cost and Cllr Plimley stated she could offer £200-£300 if an application is received before the end of January. She will send the details to the clerk. **Action: Cllr Wood to obtain**



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the necessary cost estimates and report back and Cllr Plimley to send details regarding funding to the clerk.

- iii. The clerk mentioned that he would be attending a meeting at the council offices in leek on 24th January regarding the forthcoming local elections. **Action: Clerk to report back to the next meeting.**

13/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

14/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email to Cllr Williams (SCC) office re an update on the Round House ownership.
- ii. Various correspondence regarding the cemetery and grave identification.
- iii. Correspondence received regarding the forthcoming council elections.
- iv. Correspondence from the pensions regulator. Dealt with by accountant.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

15/23. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £558.34
- ii. HMRC £495.10 (£33.34 higher than reported last month) paid.
- iii. Buxus Green December invoice £689.79 paid.
- iv. Income Co-op Funeral Services, Uttoxeter £660.00 (new grave plot).
- v. Interest out to Nat West 0.78 pence.
- vi. Income Nettlebank £137.50 (New headstone and a re-inscription).
- vii. Precept requirement £17,225.00 submitted to SMDC.
- viii. Authorised payments were agreed and 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.

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.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 8th February 2023

Signed..... Clerk