



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

No public

Apologies: Councillor M. Worthington (SCC), Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

1/24 **Declarations of interest.**

- i. Councillor Conway declared an interest in planning application SMD/2024/0002 17, High Street, Alton. He is the applicant. Cllr Conway will not comment or vote on this item. Cllr Shepherd also declared an interest as he may work on the development if approved. He will not comment or vote either.

2/24. **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023.**

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

3/24. **Matters arising.**

- i. The clerk reported that he had again written to Rural England regarding any information they may have on the ownership of the Round House (minute 174/23 i). There has been no reply at present. **Action: The clerk to report any response at the next meeting.**
- ii. Cllr Dronzek reported that he has repaired the faulty hinge on the central cemetery gates (Minute 174/23 ii). Consideration regarding painting the gates will be considered by the council when the weather is warmer.
- iii. Cllr Wood stated that he has reported the damaged pavement outside Londis to SCC, ref 4361857 (minute 179/23 ii).
- iv. The clerk reported he has implemented the new cemetery charges (minute 180/23 i).

4/24 **Alton Towers.**

- i. Cllr Kelsall had nothing for this item of business.

5/24. **Footpaths.**

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the finger post on footpath 21 at Gallows Green has rotted and needs replacing. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC.**



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6/24. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard had nothing for this item of business.

7/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood stated the Doctors Steps will need clearing soon. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**

8/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that all the proposed works by SCC Highways shown on their website had apparently been removed and cancelled, e.g. work in Hurstons Lane regarding the grid repair and flooding outside the village hall. He is following this up to try to discover the reasons. **Action: Cllr Wood to update the next meeting.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that the Cedar Hill pothole had been repaired.
- iii. Cllr Wood reported that he had emailed Cllr David Williams last July regarding potholes and had only received a standard reply on 4th January. He had forwarded this to Cllr Worthington for further advice. **Action: To be discussed with Cllr Worthington when he next attends a meeting.**

9/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. The cemetery and Church yard are in good order.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd informed the council that he has dealt with a further issue with moles in the cemetery and asked if the council would be prepared to reimburse him the cost of the mole traps £21.48 for which he produced a receipt. Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded the payment which was carried on a vote. **Action: The clerk to arrange payment.**

10/24 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2024/0002. Mr Nick Conway, 17, High Street, Alton. Proposed extension and alterations. For this application Cllr Conway the applicant left the meeting and Cllr Shepherd who may be involved in the construction did not vote. After a discussion Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Kelsall seconded the council do not object to the application. This was carried.
- ii. DET/2024/0002. Mr T Eyre, Shaw House Farm Cheadle Road Alton. 5 No. Dwellings created from converting 4 No. of existing Barn Buildings. This application is just a determination as to whether planning permission is needed and as such does not require any action from the council.

11/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2023/0516. Fresh Fish & Chips Nemises, Alton Towers. Extension and internal alterations to Ripsaw cafe to create new retail unit. Planning Permission – Approved.

12/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Round House-update. (See minute 3/24 i).

13/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.



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14/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Road closure notices-Great Gate-circulated.
- ii. Correspondence with Wootton PC Clerk re Alton Towers opening days.
- iii. Request to SMDC for electoral role (received).
- iv. Email to Rural England re the Round House and ownership.
- v. Correspondence sent to Linden Vernon (SMDC) re ambulance response times.
- vi. Correspondence with grave digger and grave owner from Canada and Edinburgh.
- vii. Acknowledgement from Croxden PC re email about alleged speeding in that parish.
- viii. Emails between clerk and councillors re cemetery gates, repair and painting.
- ix. SPCA bulletin with residents survey (circulated).

The clerk read out the correspondence.

15/24. Finance.

- i. Precept 2024/25 submitted to SMDC £17,225. Charge for band D property reduced.
- ii. Clerk salary £587.26.
- iii. Replace Christmas tree light bulbs in village £31.92 (net £27.15 VAT 5.32). FWD Electric Ltd.
- iv. Interest from bank accounts to 31.12.23 £38.58
- 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 Ballard and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.17pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 14th February 2024

Signed..... Clerk