



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor N. Conway, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### 98/24. Declarations of Interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

#### 99/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

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

#### 100/24. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk reported he has again emailed Cllr Deaville regarding a visit to the council but has not yet received a reply. **Action: The clerk to follow up.** (Minute 84/24 i).
- ii. The clerk reported that he has spoken to the lengthsman regarding watering the planters, the overgrown footpath on Church Bank, Post Office Alley clearing (minutes 84/24 iv, 88/24 I, 88/24 iii).
- iii. Cllr Shepherd has cut back the weeds in New Road (minute 88/24 ii).
- iv. Cllr Dronzek has cleared the sycamores on the war memorial path (minute 88/24 iv).
- v. The clerk reported he has written to Cllr Williams (SCC) regarding concerns over the left turn from Malthouse Road into New Road. Cllr Wood pointed out Cllr Williams no longer has the Highways responsibility it is Cllr Deaville. **Action: The clerk to correct the mistake and write to Cllr Deaville and will include Cllr Flunder.**
- vi. Cllr Kelsall reported she is to have a meeting with Alton Towers to seek support for 'no left turn' as per minute 100/24 v above. **Action: Cllr Kelsall to report back after the meeting.**
- vii. The clerk reported that he has spoken to the lengthsman about clearing the perimeter path at the cemetery, although the work has not yet been completed (minute 90/24 i). **Action: The clerk to check progress with the lengthsman.**
- viii. Cllr Shepherd reported he has not caught any moles in the cemetery (minute 90/24 ii). There is still a mole problem. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to deal.**
- ix. Cllr Wood mentioned that the planters at Headland Way have not been attended to and are full of weeds. Cllr Shepherd proposed that £30 be made available for bedding plants, Cllr Wood seconded the proposal which was carried. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**
- x. Cllr Wood reported that the drainage ditch at Town Head has not been dug out, the land has just been flattened. **Cllr Shepherd to check and report back.**



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### 101/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall mentioned that her meeting with Alton Towers staff will be at the local school (see minute 100/24 vi).

### 102/24. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported that footpath 16 is overgrown from Toothill Road. **Action: The clerk to report.**

### 103/24. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

### 104/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood reported there is Ivy growing up the Doctors Steps. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that the brown Alton Towers sign at Battlesteads needs foliage clearing away. **The clerk to speak to the lengthsman.**

### 105/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood gave a comprehensive update regarding the position with respect to the repairing of potholes. Tythe Barn has been judged low priority by Highways and he awaits reports on several others including Battlesteads. Cllr Wood has also reported others including at Spond Farm. Cllr Wood has requested someone from Highways attends the Parish Assembly to answer questions on potholes. There is a strategic plan to tackle potholes, but it appears Alton is not included in this plan.
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that Dimble Lane is becoming overgrown again. Whilst hedges should not be cut until August is out to protect nesting birds he felt action to remind residents of their responsibilities needs to be taken so that come September the hedges are attended to. Following a discussion Cllr Wood proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded that a letter be delivered to relevant houses as above this was carried. Cllr Gwinnett volunteered to deliver the letters. **Action: the clerk to prepare the letters and Cllr Gwinnett to deliver them.**
- iii. Cllr Wood stated that the road markings on New Road which have not been reinstated have already been reported but that he will follow up again (in response to an email from a parishioner see minute 112 viii). **Action: Cllr Wood.**

### 106/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek had nothing further for this item other than the actions discussed at minutes 100/24 vii and 100/24 viii.

### 107/24. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. The member of the public present mentioned that the speed camera warning sign at Battlesteads has been obscured by foliage (near to the sign mentioned at minute 104/24 ii). **Action: The clerk to mention this to the lengthsman.**



## Alton Parish Council

### 108/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. None for this meeting.

### 109/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0128. IVY COTTAGE, Tythe Barn, Alton. Variation of a Conditions 2, 4 & 5 in relation to application SMD/2017/0497. Planning Permission – Approved.
- ii. SMD/2024/0189. 14, Shirley Drive, Alton. Two storey / single storey rear extension and alterations. Planning Permission – Approved.
- iii. SMD/2024/0124. 5 Oak Row, THE COTTAGE, Cheadle Road, Alton. Dropped Kerb for vehicular access. Planning Permission – Approved.

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

### 110/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Round House-update.** The clerk reported that he has made further inquiries regarding the valuation of the Round House and the assessment should be carried out by a person who has specialist knowledge regarding listed buildings. He has spoken to a specialist from Townsend and Renaudon, Chartered Surveyors and as a one off for the council they will complete a survey for £485 plus VAT. As the VAT can be recovered and the price is under £500 there is no need to go to tender. Following a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded that the survey be undertaken this was carried. **Action: The clerk to arrange with Cllr Shepherd.**
- ii. **Parish Assembly.** Cllr Wood reported that SMDC are preparing a protocol for dealing with parish councils. They are forming a working group of four Parish and four District councillors who will prepare a paper. Cllr Wood stated that if certain items of interest are to be discussed at the Parish Assembly then a wider audience can attend, including more councillors.

### 111/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Emails with a parishioner advising how to report overgrown footpath Saltersford Lane.
- ii. Email to Cllr Deaville re visit to APC.
- iii. Email letter to Cllr Williams (SCC) re left turn from Malthouse Road into New Road.

### 112/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email from Historic Buildings and Places re Round House Insurance.
- ii. Nat West notice of changes to business accounts.
- iii. Nat West information on interest rates for saving accounts.
- iv. Email from Cllr Moulton re potholes (circulated).
- v. Email sent from APC in support of making lithium batteries safer.
- vi. Dimble Lane, road closure notice (circulated).
- vii. Email re possible grants for village halls. Forwarded to the Village Hall Committee with Cllr Ballard copied in.
- viii. Email from a parishioner re no road markings New Road and potholes (reply sent and circulated).



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The clerk read out the correspondence.

### **113/24. Finance.**

- i. Clerk salary £440.46
- ii. Buxus Green invoice June £689.79 (paid).
- iii. Invoice from Alton Village Hall re hiring the hall £240.00.
- iv. Purchase order for £400.00 Lengthsmans scheme.
- v. Interest income £36.60
- vi. Authorised payments to be signed off by the Council.
- vii. 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 Dronzek and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.35pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Signed..... Clerk