



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor P. Gwinnett, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor P. Ballard, Cllr M. Worthington (SCC),

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr H. Kelsall, Cllr S. Hollins, Councillor N. Conway, Cllr H. Plimley (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

101/22. Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

102/22. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2022.

- 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.

103/22. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk reported he has asked the lengthsman to spray the weeds on Shirley drive, Glen Drive and the top of footpath 20 Glen Drive (minutes 88/22 i and v).
- ii. The clerk reported he has written to the owner of the land where the Laurel is growing over footpath 18 (minute 88/22 ii).
- iii. Cllr Shepherd reported the overgrown footpath opposite the village hall (No 25) and the hedge growing into the footpath on Smithy Bank opposite Londis have been cut back after he spoke to the owners (minutes 88/22 iii and iv).
- iv. The clerk has reported the diverted footpath Nos 43 and 28 to SCC (minute 90/22).
- v. Cllr Shepherd has checked footpath 25 through the Walton Homes development and recommended to the council that it would be best to wait and see if the footpath is reinstated as the work progresses (minute 90/22 ii).
- vi. There was no update on the proposal to place a new memorial bench in the cemetery as Cllr Kelsall was not present. Carried forward (minute 93/22 ii). **Action: Cllr Kelsall.**

104/22. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Ballard stated that via the clerk she had asked for the lengthsman to cut the nettles back on New Road, but this has been done probably by SCC.
- ii. It was noted that New Road to Station Road has nettles growing onto the footpath. **Action: Clerk to notify the lengthsman or SCC.**
- iii. Cllr Ballard stated that nettles and brambles are growing into the childrens play area at the village hall. The clerk stated that the lengthsman had stated there was about 3 hours work to clear and that for £100 (3 hours work plus removal of debris) he would do the work, or if the council believed it was in his contract he would just clear it. A discussion took place and Cllr Shepherd proposed to



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meet the lengthsmen halfway and offer £50 for the work, this was seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried. **Action: The clerk to notify the lengthsmen.**

- iv. Cllr Ballard mentioned litter being left in the play area at the village hall, although this is the responsibility of the village hall committee, Cllrs Wood and Ballard agreed to look at the problem a report back. **Action: Cllrs Wood and Ballard.**
- v. Cllr Brindley mentioned weeds near the village hall at the top of Lime Kiln Lane and in the High Street. Proposed by Cllr Brindley and seconded by Cllr Dronzek that the lengthsmen be asked to spray the kerbsides. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsmen.**

105/22. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Ballard stated that she had reported noise from Alton Towers and she had received a very good response, with someone being sent out to check the noise and steps taken to rectify the situation and vastly reduce the noise.
- ii. Cllr Ballard reported that two 90 year old ladies had been stuck at the bottom of Lime Kiln Lane because coaches were on the footpath. This had been reported to Alton Towers with a view to coaches taking a different route.
- iii. Cllr Shepherd reported that Cllr Conway had agreed an action plan with Alton Towers should roads become blocked causing congestion with Alton Towers traffic, e.g. the recent tree falling into Malthouse Road. Contact details for Alton Towers staff who will attend any incident to divert traffic are with the council.

106/22. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the footpath by Soli off New Road (footpath 32) has been re-surfaced by SCC. **Action: Clerk to write letter of thanks to SCC.**
- ii. Cllr Dronzek has cleared the Hurstons footpath overhanging branches.
- iii. Cllr Wood stated he felt it was not the job of councillors to clear overhanging branches on footpaths and that the lengthsmen should do those jobs. A discussion took place regarding responsibility to keep hedges in order with the point made that owners have a responsibility to keep their hedges trimmed. Proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Shepherd that the council write to hedge owners whose hedges are overhanging footpaths, this was carried. **Action: Cllr Wood and Shepherd to identify any problems and pass details of the owner and location to the clerk.**

107/22. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported that the flooring in the hall needs refurbishment work and the CCTV system needs attention.

108/22. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood noted that a new sign for Alton Towers has been placed in Malthouse Road.
- ii. Cllr Wood stated that Battlesteads needs re-surfacing work. **Action: Cllr Wood to correspond with Cllr Worthington to take this forward.**

109/22. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek stated the cemetery is in good order. A discussion took place regarding the council's responsibilities in relation to St. Peter's Church Yard and the cemetery if gravestones are leaning or otherwise considered dangerous. **Action: The clerk to check to law and report back.**



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- ii. Cllr Dronzek reported he has painted the door to the cemetery building and asked if he could be reclaim the cost of £38.70, he produced a receipt. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded the payment which was carried. **Action: Clerk to make the payment.**

110/22. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. There were no questions.

111/22. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2022/0283. Mr Wilkinson. Holme Farm, Red Road, Alton. Resubmission following the refusal of planning application SMD/2021/0771. Extensions to improve the accommodation generally including additional bedrooms, and relocated sitting room and kitchen etc. including the replacement of the existing conservatory and front porch. **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2022/0279. Mr Swinson. Kirk House, Malthouse Road, Alton. Proposed new one bedroom bungalow within the domestic curtilage of Kirk House. Resubmission of previously refused application SMD/2022/0009. **No objections.**
- iii. SMD/2022/0290. Mr Geal. Woodbine Cottage, Saltersford Lane, Alton. Alterations to outbuilding in association with conversion to ancillary living accommodation. A discussion took place including the height of the roof, which may be too high, traffic issues, and the vernacular of the build. It was proposed by Cllr Gwinnett and seconded by Cllr Shepherd that the council object on the grounds that **it is over development in the area and that the building is not in keeping with the street scene. Saltersford Lane already has considerable problems with the number of vehicles using and parking in the road, this extra living accommodation will add to the problem.**
- iv. SMD/2022/0201. Mr and Mrs Keeling, The Withering Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Proposed change of use from agricultural building to single dwelling. **No objections.**
- v. SMD/2022/0345. Mr.T Jones, Fairfield Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Conversion of existing garage. **No objections.**

112/22. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2021/0850. Oakhill, Dimble Lane, Alton. New detached double-garage with first-floor office space above to replace an existing redundant store and timber-framed summer house. **Approved.**
- ii. SMD/2022/0119. 11 Fair View, Battlesteads, Alton. New vehicle access to the garden. **Approved.**

113/22. Parish Council Updates. Village Planters.

- i. Cllr Gwinnett stated there is no update at present but she will be presenting further proposals in due course.



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Communications Strategy:

- ii. Cllr Gwinnett stated she and the clerk had had a discussion regarding the website and Facebook. The parish already has a Facebook account which the council has access to it is not proposed to have a separate account.
- iii. With regard to Facebook Cllr Gwinnett stated that an events page could be created for updating with photographs after events e.g. the recent Jubilee and also to advertise forthcoming events. She and the clerk will do more work in this area. **Action: Clerk to liaise with the webmaster to update the website.**

114/22. Correspondence requiring response.

None for this meeting.

115/22. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email from Cllr Plimley and reply re Cheadle Levelling Up bid. This item was discussed in some detail as Cllr Plimley (who was not present due to illness) is asking for support for the bid from surrounding parish councils. All councillors were in favour in principle but two councillors were concerned about certain aspects. E.g. the lack of notice and detail about the request and would money be made available to reinstate the bus service between Cheadle and Alton. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Dronzek seconded that a letter of support as outlined by councillor Plimley be sent this was carried by a vote of 4-2. **Action: Clerk to send the letter to Cheadle Town Council.**
- ii. Thank you email from ACE group to APC comments on the Queen's Jubilee.
- iii. Policing survey from Police, Fire and Rescue Commissioner.
- iv. Email about new policing model.
- v. Email from SMDC re a festival in 2023.
- vi. Email re a tree preservation order (email was to SMDC with APC copied in).
- vii. Email from Cllr Brindley re cemetery responsibilities.
- viii. Email from Gordon Batey SCC re repair of footpath 32.
- ix. Email to planning requesting extension for planning comments this month.
- x. Email from council accountant re clerks pay increment.
- xi. Email re blocked roads procedure for notifying Alton Towers.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

116/22. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary increment (due 1st June 2022). This increment had been previously circulated to the council. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded the increment be approved. This was carried.
- ii. Clerk salary £523.85 plus £14.44 back dated to June, total £538.29.
- iii. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman June invoice £689.79 (paid).
- iv. Paula Gwinnett payment £159.00 flowers expenses for village planters (paid minute 97/22 i).
- v. ACE group transfer of Jubilee grant from SMDC £425.00 (transfer complete).
- vi. Income from Nettlebank £37.50 additional headstone inscription.
- vii. HMRC £385.56.
- viii. Income £4.60 Western Power (19th May 2022) Noted by Cllr Wood as missing as an oversight from last months minutes.



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- ix. Income £150.00 Keates funeral directors (19th May 2022) Noted by Cllr Wood as missing as an oversight from last months minutes.
- x. Authorised payments to be agreed and signed off by the council.
- xi. 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 Gwinnett and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 8.15pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 10th August 2022

Signed..... Clerk