



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

No members of the public.

Apologies: None.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### **94/23 Declarations of interest.**

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **95/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

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

#### **96/23. Matters arising.**

- i. The clerk was asked to invite Cllr Swindlehurst, SMDC Leisure and Tourism to the September meeting (minute 81/23 i).
- ii. The clerk confirmed he had sent a letter of thanks to the lengthsman for his good work (minute 84/23 i) and that he had asked the lengthsman to clear footpath 32 (minute 82/23 i) which has been done.
- iii. Cllr Gwinnett confirmed Alton Towers have bought £100 worth of flowers for the village planters, she is arranging collection over the next week. Alton Towers have also offered two staff members to help with planting. Several councillors offered to help, this will be arranged outside the meeting.
- iv. The clerk confirmed he has sent a further email to Cllr Williams (SCC) regarding ownership of the Round House (minute 93/23 iii). A reply from a member of Cllr Williams staff has been received stating the matter is still being looked into.

#### **97/23 Alton Towers.**

- i. Cllr Shepherd explained a minor variation to a licensing application for the Splash Landings Hotel regarding a bar in an existing bar area of the hotel. There were no comments.
- ii. Cllr Conway reported that the next meeting with Alton Towers that he and Cllr Kelsall can attend is on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- iii. Cllr Gwinnett reported that she has received concerns regarding coaches going to and from Alton Towers being unable to pass on the narrow roads in the village. Cllr Brindley pointed out that this is a problem every year as drivers often have to leave Alton Towers because of other work



## Alton Parish Council

and they then meet other incoming traffic. After a discussion Cllr Conway stated he would write to Alton Towers to see if anything can be done to ease the problem.

### 98/23. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that Walton Homes, the developer of the new estate in Alton have contacted the ACE Group (Alton Community Events) to see if there is anything they can do to support the village. Although in its early stages consideration is being given to applying to upgrade footpath No 26, which goes through part of the land they are developing, into a bridle path. Walton Homes support this. For information only at this time.
- ii. Cllr Gwinnett reported that the footpath at the bottom of Saltersford Lane is overgrown. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will visit and report back.**

### 99/23. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported the village hall committee will meet next week.
- ii. Cllr Wood asked if permission had been given by the village hall committee to place a large sign advertising an event in the village which is screening the mosaic on the village hall land. Cllr Ballard stated permission has been given as it will only be there for two weeks.

### 100/23. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood asked if the war memorial path could be cleared as dry leaves have fallen since the last cleaning. **Action: The clerk to arrange with the lengthsman.**

### 101/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. The council discussed the purchase of a speed indicator sign from Audley PC. The cost being circa £4,000. This was considered too expensive. The council were however interested in exploring the possibility of setting up a speed awareness team. Enquiries need to be made with both the police and SCC. **The clerk to make enquiries and report back.**
- ii. Cllr Wood mentioned he had received concerns about vehicles taking short cuts to Alton Towers via Malthouse Road to New Road, the road being very narrow with a sharp left turn into New Road. Following a discussion it was decided that there were no grounds to take this any further.
- iii. Cllr Wood reported that the damaged railings in Malthouse Road have now been replaced and painted.
- iv. Cllr Wood reported that some potholes had been repaired and that he has re-reported potholes at Town Head and notified SCC again about a large pothole in Dimble Lane.
- v. Cllr Wood asked the Chair if at this point he could update the council on the recent Parish Assembly meeting which was agreed. Cllr Wood stated that the new police chief inspector for the Moorlands was present and he outlined how his officers would be allocated to the various areas in the Moorlands. Moorlands rural which includes Alton will have two constables and two PCSO's. He also stated that the chief inspector had stated the importance of reporting any problems and that problems not resolved should be reported again and again.
- vi. Cllr Wood also reported that Cllr Nigel Yates spoke about climate change and that in 6 months time a paper on the subject would be produced by the SMDC.

### 102/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the cemetery is in good order and that he has replaced the missing 'no dogs allowed' sign on the centre gates and cut back some overhanging branches.



## Alton Parish Council

- ii. The clerk reported he had spoken to the lengthsmen and that the Church Yard has grown quickly but this would be resolved at the lengthsmen's next visit on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### 103/23 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. Appeal against refusal of planning SMD/2023/0048. Jays Barn Bradley Lane Bradley-in-the-Moors, Alton. This was for information only as the council has already submitted an objection.
- ii. SMD/2023/0200. Wood Farm, Red Road, Alton. Proposed Storage Building for Agricultural / Forestry purpose. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded no objections to this application, on a vote 3 were for the proposition and 4 against with 1 abstention. Cllr Wood then proposed and Cllr Ballard seconded the application be objected to on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the local vernacular, on a vote 4 were for the proposition and 3 against with 1 abstention. Decision to object.

### 104/23. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2022/0556. Alton Towers. Removal of existing structures and construction of new building to house indoor attraction, associated ground works, infrastructure and landscaping. Planning Permission – Approved.

### 105/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. The agenda item for village planters is covered at minute 96/23 iii.
- ii. Cllr Wood mentioned that ambulance response times had been discussed at the parish assembly following an incident in Ipstones of an excessively long wait for an ambulance during which a patient died. A letter from the chief executive officer for the West Midlands Ambulance Service, explained the reasons ambulances have difficulty meeting response times especially in rural areas.

The council were concerned about the clear dangers to patients who may have to wait a long time for an ambulance in the parish. The clerk was asked to write to the local MP, Rt. Hon Karen Bradley expressing the concerns. **Action: The clerk.**

### 106/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst, SMDC Cabinet Member: Tourism and Leisure. Possible visit September meeting? (See minute 96/23 i).
- ii. Email to Audley PC re cost of speed indicator signs they are selling. (See minute 101/23 i).
- iii. Email to Cllr Williams and his staff (SCC) regarding ownership of the Round House and reply that the matter is still under investigation.

### 107/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Village Planters update.
- ii. Ambulance response times-Cllr Wood.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

### 108/23. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £556.43.



## Alton Parish Council

- ii. Buxus Green June invoice £689.79 (paid)
- iii. Income Keates Undertakers £150.00
- iv. Income Nettlebank £137.50
- v. Interest from bank accounts to 30.6.23 £30.64
- vi. Authorised payments were agreed and signed off by the council.
- vii. 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 Gwinnett and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.50m.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Signed..... Clerk