



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

No members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC), Cllr S. Beardmore (SCC).

Cllr J. Shepherd (Chair) declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### 101/25. Declarations of Interest.

- i. None.

#### 102/25. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

- 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.

#### 103/25. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk reported that he had received an email from Cllr Beardmore stating that there have been two reports regarding the rotten stile on footpath 21 on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> June priority of C3 (No specific target. Problems will be addressed as and when resources allow or carried out by volunteers). The email did not address why the original reports from the clerk and Cllr Wood were not showing on the SCC system. (Minute 86/25 ii). This action carried forwarded. **Action: Cllr Beardmore.**
- ii. Cllr Dronzek is due to have a meeting with Mr Massey (SMDC) on 17th July regarding reducing the size of the large Yew tree in St. Peter's Church Yard. (Minute 86/25 iv). **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**
- iii. Cllr Kelsall reported that she has again spoken to the farm regarding tractor drivers using mobile phones whilst driving (minute 86/25 v). The person is very supportive and asks for evidence of which driver(s) is using their phone, e.g. reg number of the tractor. This matter is now closed the parish council have done what they can and any offences should be reported to the police by the person witnessing the behaviour.
- iv. The cemetery gates have now been painted and the invoice paid (minute 86/25/vi).
- v. The clerk reported that he had asked the lengthsman to clear the village water pump of weeds. To remove the Ivy growing over the handrail on the footpath at Soli after the last meeting (minutes 90/25 i and 90/25 iii). On Monday this week (7<sup>th</sup> July) the clerk spoke to the lengthsman who informed him that the grass cuts had been done but that he was behind with the other work, including painting/restoring the benches identified in Alton due to recent incapacity, but that the work would be completed very soon and the water pump and Ivy removal before the council meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July. A comment was made that the Ivy had been removed, but before Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, the clerk to confirm this was done or not done by the lengthsman. **Action: The clerk.**



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- vi. Cllr Shepherd reported that he had not seen a car parked by the water pump (minute 90/25 ii) since the last meeting. It was confirmed the car does still park there sometimes. **Action carried forward for Cllr Shepherd.**
- vii. Cllr Wood has reported the pothole in the High Street (minute 91/25 i).

### 104/25. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall gave an overview of the work she is doing with new staff at Alton Towers to try to continue the proposed work at St. Peters school playground, the Quiet Lanes project, traffic management and Alton Towers staff using Malthouse Road as a short cut with its very sharp left turn into New Road, amongst other matters. Cllr Kelsall has met Mr Simon Burge from Alton Towers. This is ongoing work.

### 105/25. Footpaths.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

### 106/25. Village Hall.

- i. A village hall meeting was taking place at the same time as the council meeting.

### 107/25. Lengthsman.

- i. A discussion took place regarding the lengthsman and the fact that he was once again behind with his work in the parish. There have been a number of times when personal reasons and machinery failure have caused delays to work. Cllr Wood stated he believes the council are owed a grass cut as one has been missed. Cllr Kelsall stated it was very important to consider and monitor the lengthsman's welfare. It was decided that to help the lengthsman no extra work other than his normal duties would be given to the lengthsman for the foreseeable future. Cllr Gwinnett proposed that the council write to the lengthsman to inform him that in view of his recent incapacity the council would not increase his burden with extra work, but request that usual duties are quickly attended to. Cllr Gwinnett continued that the council should consider testing the market by going to tender for both the lengthsman's and the ground maintenance contracts in good time for it to be considered by the council before the next financial year. This was seconded by Cllr Shepherd and carried. **Action: The clerk to work with Cllr Gwinnett to arrange the letter.**
- ii. Consideration will be given to bringing in someone to do 'one off' jobs that are not part of the lengthsman's regular duties.
- iii. Cllr Shepherd stated that together with his wife he is going to set up a volunteer group to do jobs around the parish which would assist the lengthsman. This might incur expenses, for example fuel or strimmer wire. The Ace Group might be able to assist but he might ask the council for support.

### 108/25. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Brindley reported another pothole in the High Street, Cllr Wood stated he would review and if necessary report. **Action: Cllr Wood.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that he will follow up with SCC Highways the missing bollard at the Round House. **Action: Cllr Wood.**
- iii. A property in Horse Road has a bulging perimeter wall. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to speak to the owner.**



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- iv. Croxden PC have improved Alton Lane by filling in the verges. **Action: The clerk to write to thank Croxden PC.**
- v. The road markings at Tythe Barn are very poor. **Action: Cllr Wood to follow up.**

### 109/25. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Nothing for this item of business, both in good order.

### 110/25. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. GEN/2025/0050. Rumun Dosanjh Davisons Law, 1 Flag Tower View, Battlesteads, Alton. Confirmation of conditions, 5, 7, 8, 15IV and 15V in relation to planning application SMD/2018/0017. **No comment required on this matter.**
- ii. SMD/2025/0318. 5, Town Head, Alton. Proposed new front porch, a two storey extension to the rear of the property replacing an existing single storey flat roof extension and a new garage. **There were no objections.**

### 111/25. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0440. IVY COTTAGE, Tythe Barn, Alton. Proposed garage. Planning Permission – Approved.
  - ii. SMD/2025/0200. Shrub Cottage, Denstone Lane, Alton. A single self-build dwelling. Planning Permission – Refused.
- The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.**

### 112/25. Section 106 funds for playing field and play area update.

- i. The next meeting is on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, when a final recommendation should be made regarding the play area.
- ii. The project has been advertised as part of the public consultation.

### 113/25. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Round House maintenance: Cllr Shepherd-No action required at present.

### 114/25. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email from a gentleman moving to Alton asking for advice re his business. The clerk directed the gentleman to SMDC for the correct advice.
- ii. Email from resident re the condition of various roads in the parish. The council thanked the resident for the well thought out comments and action taken. **Action: The clerk to reply.**

### 115/25. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Meet the Army invite-circulated.
- ii. Section 106 training-circulated.
- iii. Local Government reorganisation update-circulated.
- iv. Local Government Reorganisation - invitation to meeting Guild Hall Cheadle-circulated.
- v. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Media Release-circulated.
- vi. Email from RBLI re the commemoration of the end of WW2.
- vii. Email from ACE re an event 31<sup>st</sup> August in Alton-circulated.
- viii. Charity afternoon tea invite-circulated.



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The clerk read out the correspondence.

### **116/25. Finance.**

- i. Clerk salary £452.95
- ii. Buxus Green invoice June £724.27 (paid).
- iii. Invoice from Ron Baker re painting cemetery gates £420.00 (paid).
- iv. Invoice Alton Village Hall (Room Hire) £240.00
- v. HMRC £1,056.87 (paid).
- vi. Keates Funeral Services income £182.00.
- vii. Interest income £28.68p
- viii. Authorised payments were signed off by the Council.
- ix. Current bank balances were signed off by the Council.

The finances were read out by the clerk to the meeting and 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 8.10pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Signed..... Clerk