



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor P. Gwinnett, Cllr H. Kelsall, Cllr M. Worthington (SCC),

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

3 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor P. Ballard, Cllr S. Hollins (absent), Cllr H. Plimley (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### **85/22. Declarations of interest.**

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **86/22. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

- i. The minutes of the above meetings 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.

#### **87/22. Matters arising.**

- i. The Doctors steps have been cleared by the lengthsman who had provided a photograph of the work. Cllr Wood stated he thinks the overhang from trees is still too low. Cllr Shepherd stated he would visit and report back. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
- ii. Cllr Dronzek reported he still has the painting of the cemetery building to do and that he has checked and there are no mole hills in the cemetery.

#### **88/22. Lengthsman.**

- i. Cllr Shepherd identified the following areas as needing attention. Shirley Drive and Glen Drive the weeds need to be sprayed. **Action: Clerk to notify the lengthsman.**
- ii. Footpath 18 New Road to the Talbot public house, the laurel needs to be cut back. **Action: Clerk to write the owner.**
- iii. Footpath 25 is overgrown, opposite the village hall. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to speak to the owner.**
- iv. The hedge is growing into the footpath on Smithy Bank opposite Londis. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to visit.**
- v. Footpath 20 Glen Drive to the Nook needs weed spraying at the top. **Action: Clerk to notify the lengthsman.**

#### **89/22. Alton Towers.**

- i. Cllr Conway updated the meeting on recent reports of noise from Alton Towers. Alton Towers have visited sites in Alton where the noise was reported and have agreed to take action to eliminate the problem.



## Alton Parish Council

- ii. Cllrs Shepherd and Kelsall have had a meeting with Alton Towers who donated £500 for the parish Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- iii. Cllr Worthington reported he would be attending a liaison group meeting at Alton Towers on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### 90/22. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that footpaths 43 and 28 have been fenced off and people using the footpaths have been diverted around the edge of the fields. **Action: Clerk to report to SCC.**
- ii. Cllr Gwinnett reported that footpath 25 through the Walton Homes development has been damaged by the contractors who have piled up earth over the path. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will visit the site and report back.**

### 91/22. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

### 92/22. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood has reported further potholes including one at Battlesteads.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that the recent tree which fell down in Malthouse Road damaged some railings. This has been reported to SCC with a request the replacement matches the damaged railings. Cllr Conway reported that Alton Towers have been asked to put a system in place for traffic management should a similar incident occur in the future.
- iii. Cllr Wood mentioned that Dimble Lane hedging may need action again in September.
- iv. Cllr Shepherd reported he had attended a meeting to discuss Quiet Lanes at Alton Towers along with other councils. Alton Towers want to deal initially with lanes from the Ashbourne direction with a possible reduction in speed from the national speed limit (60mph), to 30 or even 20mph. Cllr Shepherd explained due to the cost and work involved the Quiet Lane project would be paused whilst this work goes on. This is a start to the traffic calming measures in the area. There will be a further discussion at the next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 when Highways will be present.

### 93/22. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek asked if the council would be willing to spend any money tidying up St. Peter's cemetery which has for example grave stones in poor repair or fallen over. **Action: Cllrs Shepherd and Dronzek to visit and bring to the next meeting any proposals.**
- ii. Cllr Kelsall asked if it would be possible for a lady who had approached her to place a memorial bench in the parish cemetery. There are already several benches in the cemetery. **Action: Cllr Kelsall to speak to the lady a report back with a firm proposal.**
- iii. The cemetery grass is quite long. To be monitored by Cllr Shepherd and Dronzek to ensure it is cut every fortnight. **Action: Cllr Shepherd and Dronzek.**

### 94/22. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. There was a brief discussion about the traffic calming measures proposed by Alton Towers in minute 92/22 v. A member of the public thought it would not achieve the desired outcome. Another member of the public wondered what evidence of the effectiveness of lower speed limits would be provided. It was pointed out the Alton Towers do traffic surveys to identify problems.



## Alton Parish Council

### 95/22. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2021/0850. Mr Tim Robins, Oakhill Dimble Lane, Alton. The proposals seek to provide a new double-garage with first-floor office space and balcony area located above, in place of an existing redundant store and timber-framed summer house. Separate to the existing dwelling. (Revised plans). **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2022/0119. Mrs Anita Adams, 11, Fair View Battlesteads, Alton. New vehicle access to the garden (revised information, objected to by APC April 2022). **The council believe the revised plans do not address the concerns expressed in the original application and therefore object on the same grounds as the original plans, namely on the grounds that the removal of the dry-stone wall to facilitate the opening for the access will result in a loss of heritage in the area. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried.**

### 96/22. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2022/0077. 6, The Hurstones, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Proposed replacement of an existing conservatory with a brick built extension with a tiled roof. **Planning Permission – Approved.**
- ii. SMD/2022/0142. 2, The Mount, High Street, Alton. Proposed single storey rear extension. **Planning Permission – Approved.**
- iii. SMD/2022/0154. Alton Castle, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Existing external oak entrance gates to be replaced with new metal gates with new ironmongery. Remedial isolated repairs to the oak posts following new gates installation. Isolated surface works to the existing tarmac finish surrounding the gates (to remedy water puddling issues). **Planning Permission – Refused.**

### 97/22. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett stated she has planted the planters in the village, she has spent £159 on the flowers. This was slightly over budget by £12 which Cllr Gwinnett was willing to pay herself, however Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded that the full amount be approved and this was carried on a vote. The Chairman, Cllr Shepherd expressed his thanks for the hard work undertaken by Cllr Gwinnett and this was supported by the council.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that the work to build the planters at the war memorial has now been completed to a high standard by Mr Plant. The invoice of £590 plus VAT is awaited.
- iii. **Platinum Jubilee celebrations:** Cllr Shepherd reported that the events to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee had been a great success with events well supported over the long weekend. Cllr Gwinnett proposed and Cllr Wood seconded a vote of thanks to the Alton Community Events Group (ACE) this was carried on a vote. The clerk was asked to write to ACE and put the thanks of the council onto social media.
- iv. **Communications Strategy:** A discussion took place on a draft strategy document completed by the clerk and it was agreed that Cllrs Gwinnett, Kelsall and the clerk work together to set up social media along the lines suggested in the document and also manage the council website. **Action: Update next meeting.**



## Alton Parish Council

### 98/22. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Letter to Mr Ben Haywood (SMDC planning), requesting clarification on a planning issue. Reply awaited.
- ii. Email to Mr Paul Rochfort (Rights of Way SCC) re repair of footpath 32, reply received explaining the case officer is Gordon Batey who will contact the clerk with an update as to when the work is likely to take place.

### 99/22. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email to lengthsmen requesting work to be completed.
- ii. Email to Alton village hall committee requesting invoice for hire of the hall.
- iii. Email from Cllr Kelsall explaining action she has taken to resolve an issue of light pollution which is resolved. – Cllr Kelsall stated this refers to light pollution and the Guildhall gates being locked preventing people from walking in the grounds of St. John's Church. On speaking to the very helpful lady who manages the grounds the matter was quickly resolved, with a sign to be placed welcoming people to the Church grounds and lighting will not be left on unnecessarily.
- iv. Email to SMDC planning re comments on planning applications by APC.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

### 100/22. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £509.41.
- ii. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsmen April and May invoices £1,379.58 (paid).
- iii. Invoice The Ford Partnership payroll function and internal audit. £360 net, VAT £72.00 (Gross £432.00).
- iv. Invoice – Alton Village Hall (11 meetings @ £20 per meeting April 2021 to March 2022), £220.00
- v. The council has received the £425 grant from SMDC, for the ACE group towards the cost of the Jubilee celebrations. This to be transferred to the ACE group.
- vi. Authorised payments to be agreed and 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 Wood and carried.**

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 8.10pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Signed..... Clerk