



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7pm

Present: Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair in the Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor H. Kelsall, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC), Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Three members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor J. Shepherd, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor E. Brindley.

Cllr Gwinnett declared the meeting open at 7pm.

78/23 Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

79/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023.

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

80/23. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Dronzek has not yet been able to replace to 'no dogs' sign at the parish cemetery. Carried forward. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**(Minute 54/23 ii).
- ii. The bench a New Road has been repaired.(Minute 57/23 ii).
- iii. The lengthsman has cleared the war memorial footpath (Minute 49/23 i).
- iv. The clerk reported he has tried to report the large pothole in high Street, but as it has already been reported the system will not allow a second report.

81/23 Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Matt Swindlehurst SMDC Leisure and Tourism has offered to attend a council meeting to engage in a listening/clarification exercise for his portfolio. **Action: Clerk to ascertain Cllr Swindlehurst's availability.**
- ii. Cllr Kelsall reported she has had a very productive meeting with Alton Towers regarding light and noise pollution. She asked that any concerns are directed to her and she will take them up with the resort.

82/23. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Kelsall mentioned she had received a question from a member of the public about the maintenance of footpath 32 (Castle Hill Road, Church Bank area). Cllr Wood explained it is on the lengthsman's contract. The clerk will ask the lengthsman to check the footpath. **Action: The clerk.**

83/23. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.



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84/23. Lengthsman.

- i. The council were very pleased with the work of the lengthsman over the last month in clearing footpaths and cutting back overhanging branches in the parish. He also provided photographs of his work. The clerk was asked to write and thank the lengthsman. **Action: The clerk.**

85/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported the large pothole in the High Street is being treated as urgent and should be repaired in the next few days.
- ii. Cllr Wood has also reported a large pothole in Dimble Lane but has not had a response as yet.
- iii. Cllr Wood still awaits an update on the replacement of the railings in Malthouse Road, but work should be completed by the end of June.

86/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the cemetery is in good order.
- ii. The clerk reported that following a site visit for a funeral he had asked the lengthsman to remove some overhanging branches which has been done.

87/23. Councillor Gwinnett declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. A member of the public raised objections to planning application SMD/2023/0226, outlining why she felt the council should object to the application. Cllr Gwinnett thanked her for the comments and stated the application would be discussed later in the agenda.
- ii. The same person also mentioned an old application SMD/2020/0679, which the council has commented on in the past.

88/23 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2023/0201. Wood Farm, Red Road, Alton. Storage Buildings for Agricultural / Forestry purpose for produce and equipment. **Cllr Wood proposed and Cllr Kelsall seconded that the council could not comment on this application and object to it as there is insufficient information regarding access to the site on which to base any comments. This was carried.**
- ii. SMD/2023/0206. Old Vicarage Cottage, Dimble Lane, Alton. Application for Removal of condition 12 relating to SMD/2016/0427 (re checking for bats). For information only. This is an issue the council did not feel qualified to comment on and will have been dealt with by experts on bats.
- iii. SMD/2023/0226. Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton. Erection of two Holiday Lodges. Cllr Gwinnett outlined the application and the previous comments of the council to the similar application SMD/2020/0656 which the parish council objected to in 2020. The circumstances have not changed.

Following a discussion Cllr Gwinnett proposed and Cllr Wood seconded application SMD/2023/0226 should be objected to by the parish council for the following reasons:



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- **Nabb Lane is a narrow road and the additional traffic would be a safety issue, indeed vehicles cannot safely pass each other on the lane (Cllr Worthington will speak to SCC Highways regarding the traffic issues).**
- **It is overdevelopment in the area and outside the village plan.**
- **The application is out of keeping with the area, invasive and unneighbourly, by the very nature of the lodges being holiday lets there will be an increase in noise and light pollution for neighbours.**
- **The council is also concerned if mature trees and shrubs have to be removed to facilitate the development.**
- **The environmental impact outlined above means that the development is not sustainable.**

The proposition was carried by the council.

89/23. Planning decisions.

None for this meeting.

90/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Cllr Gwinnett informed the council the parish notice board has been removed, repaired and replaced by the joiner due to the work deteriorating over a short period of time. The work was completed at no cost to the council by Churnet Valley Joinery Ltd.
- ii. Village Planters. Cllr Gwinnett explained that she will be able to put the plants in the planters early in July and Cllr Dronzek volunteered to help. Cllr Kelsall offered to speak to Alton Towers to see if they will be providing any plants this year. Cllr Gwinnett will be able to get some plants if needed and as usual claim the costs back. This was all agreed. **Action: Cllr Gwinnett, Cllr Dronzek and Cllr Kelsall.**
- iii. Cllr Wood asked if there is an update on the ownership of the Roundhouse. The clerk explained that although several emails to Cllr Williams (SCC) and his staff about this subject earlier this year have been acknowledged, an answer to the question of ownership has not been received. **Action: The clerk will follow up his emails to SCC.**

91/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email from parishioner re SMD/2023/0226. Response sent.
- ii. Emails to planning regarding request for extension to respond to planning application SMD/2023/0226. Reply received granting permission.
- iii. Email to Cllr Moulton (SMDC-Alton) inviting him to every APC meeting.

92/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Emails regarding the cemetery and new grave for family from northern England and Canada. Concluded with a site meeting.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

93/23. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £556.43.
- ii. Buxus Green May invoice £689.79 (paid)



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- iii. Invoice Churnet Valley Joinery Ltd (Bench New road) Net £435.00 VAT £87.00. Total £522.00. (Paid minute 57/23 ii refers).
- iv. Leander Architectural Ltd (Middle Peak Engineering Ltd) (Alton sign) Net £782.50 VAT £156.50. Total £939.00. (paid minute 27/23 ii refers).
- v. Income from Rev David de Pomerai £150.00 cemetery fees re deceased Marian Routledge.
- vi. HMRC June 2023 (due by 19th July 2023) £417.30
- vii. Income Nettlebank £37.50
- viii. Interest from bank accounts to 31.5.23 £33.60.
- ix. Authorised payments were agreed and signed off by the council.
- x. 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 Gwinnett and seconded by Cllr Dronzek and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Gwinnett at 7.45m.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 12th July 2023

Signed..... Clerk