



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair), Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor R. Wood, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Three members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor H. Kelsall, Councillor N. Conway.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

32/24. Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

33/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024.

- i. The minutes of the above meeting was 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.

34/24. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk stated that he has reported the rotten fingerpost on footpath 36 to SCC (minute 20/24 i).
- ii. The pothole outside the village hall on Hurstons lane has been repaired (minute 23/24 ii).
- iii. Cllr Dronzek reported that the water butt in the cemetery does not need replacing as he first thought, it is filling properly with water (minute 24/24 i).
- iv. The clerk reported that he asked the lengthsman to sweep Lime Kiln Lane for debris on the footpath and this had been done (minute 25/24 i).
- v. Cllr Wood stated he has reported the manhole cover in New Road that needs tarmacking around the edge and it has been prepared for repair (minute 25/24 ii).

35/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

36/24. Footpaths.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

37/24. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported that she had been informed by the clerk of a free portrait of the King that can be ordered for the village hall via the parish council. The village hall committee would like a copy and on discussion the council agreed. **Action: Clerk to order.**
- ii. Cllr Ballard reported that the village hall is to have new lighting to make the venue more attractive to potential hirers. The bar is to be given a 'make over' and the back door replaced.



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38/24. Lengthsman.

- i. The renewal of the lengthsman's contract was discussed and Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded the contract be renewed. On a vote this was carried with all in favour, except one abstention. **Action: The clerk to arrange.**

39/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood gave an update on some staff changes at SCC and prompt updates to reports of potholes. If they are repaired more quickly remains to be seen.
- ii. Cllr Moulton has reported potholes at Battlesteads and Saltersford Lane (these have been previously reported by Cllr Wood). Cllr Moulton will check other reports of potholes in the parish. **Action: Cllr Moulton to report back with his findings.**
- iii. Cllr Moulton stated he has received two complaints of speeding in Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road. Cllr Shepherd explained that the council had decided against forming a community speed watch group and that the road had been checked in the past and not found to have excessive speeding. No further action at this time was agreed.

40/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported that the grass is getting long in the cemetery but due to the excessive rain recently it is not possible to cut the grass without damaging the ground. **Action: Clerk to discuss with the lengthsman.**
- ii. Cllr Wood pointed out that the cemetery planters are full of weeds and it would be nice to have flowers in them before the summer as is usual. Following a discussion Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Dronzek seconded that up to £50 should be spent on early spring flowers for the planters. This was carried on a vote with Cllr Dronzek offering to do the work. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**

41/24. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. A member of the public stated that tree branches in Hurstons Lane are hanging onto the footpath. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will check and report back.**

42/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2024/0014. Bara Brith, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Rear, single storey extension and general alterations to enlarge bedroom and improve the accommodation, including alterations to the existing parking arrangement. **Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Ballard, no objections. This was carried.**
- ii. SMD/2024/0030. Primitive Methodist Church, New Road, Alton. A full refurbishment inside the property is required for the proposal to change the use of property to a Holiday Let. **Proposed by Cllr Gwinnett and seconded by Cllr Ballard that the council object on the grounds that there is inadequate parking for a holiday let when holiday makers arrive in several cars. This was carried by 4 votes to 2 votes.**
- iii. SMD/2024/0108. Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton. Erection of 2no. Holiday Lodges. This application is very similar to SMD/2020/0656 and SMD/2023/0226 which the parish council objected to. The circumstances have only changed slightly in that no trees or shrubs are now proposed to



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be removed. **Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Brindley seconded that the council object on the following grounds which was carried.**

- **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.**
- **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 environmental impact outlined above means that the development is not sustainable.**

iv. SMD/2024/0109. Land Adjacent to Hurstons Lane, Alton. Erection of detached bungalow. **Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded that the council object to the development on the following grounds which was carried.**

- **The development is outside the village plan.**
- **It is overdevelopment.**
- **It is an area that has not been previously developed with a permanent structure.**

v. SMD/2024/0114. Alton Towers, Farley Lane, Farley. Removal of the existing 2 no. static and 1 no. portacabins and the decluttering of the site in general to provide a facilities building that consists of 6 no. containers (3 per side lengthways) and tensile domed roof between. **Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Dronzek seconded there should be no objections to this application, this was carried.**

43/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0456. Bradley Hall Farm, Bradley Lane, Bradley In The Moors, Alton. Erection of Agricultural Building for Beef Rearing and associated works. Planning Permission – **Approved.**

44/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Round House-update. Cllr Wood is awaiting a further update from Historic England.

45/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email re lengthsman's work following request from Audley PC. The clerk has replied to this request explaining the council are satisfied with the lengthsman's work.
- ii. Email from Cllr Moulton re cleaning of the outside patio/play area professionally cleaned & gutter replaced at the village hall and reply. **Cllr Ballard will take this issue to the village hall committee.**

46/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email road closure, High Street (circulated).
- ii. SMDC Chairman's charity 'pig race' event (circulated).
- iii. ACE group AGM 19 March 2024.
- iv. Email from SCC confirming fingerpost on footpath 36 has been reported as rotten.



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The clerk read out the correspondence.

47/24. Finance.

- i. Buxus Green February invoice £689.79 (paid)
- ii. Clerk salary £587.26.
- iii. Income from Nettlebank £110.00 new headstone.
- iv. Interest from bank accounts to 29.2.24 £35.28.
- v. Authorised payments to be signed off by the Council.
- vi. 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 Ballard and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 10th April 2024

Signed..... Clerk