



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7pm

Present: Councillor R. Wood, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor A. Dronzek.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor J. Shepherd, Councillor S. Hollins, Councillor P. Gwinnett.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Cllr Shepherd due to illness and the Vice Chair Cllr Gwinnett with an injury, Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Wood seconded that Cllr Brindley Chair the meeting, this was carried. Cllr Brindley declared the meeting open at 7pm.

33/22. Declarations of interest.

- i. None.

34/22. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th February 2022.

- i. The minutes of the above meetings were declared a true record proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Ballard and agreed by all and were signed by the Acting Chair and the clerk.

35/22. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Dronzek has cut back footpath 55 (minute 3/22 iv and 19/22 i).
- ii. Maintenance of the water pump area in Dimble Lane (minute 19/22 iii). The clerk gave an update on behalf of Cllr Shepherd. To pave the area and protect with seven bollards, including labour would cost in the region of £5,200. In view of the high cost the council agreed that the area would continue to be maintained by the lengthsman and monitored. Action closed.
- iii. The clerk reported for Cllr Shepherd that the mole traps have been removed from the cemetery and the problem alleviated.
- iv. Minute 24/22 iii, flooding in Hurstons Lane outside the village hall. The grids have been cleared by SCC. Action closed.
- v. Minute 26/22 ii. The clerk has reported the alleged speeding at Gallows Green which has been passed to the local PCSO Becky Gorman.
- vi. Minute 29/22 iv. The clerk has written to the author of the email requesting the Alton Parish Council website be renamed as the Alton Village website, explaining the name will not be changed with reasons for the decision.

36/22. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood stated that the 'Doctors Steps' and the footpath to the war memorial need attention for debris. **Action: Clerk to advise the lengthsman.**



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37/22. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Conway gave a report on a forthcoming meeting of the liaison group on Monday 14th March 2022 and requested that Cllr Shepherd or in his absence Cllr Brindley also attend with their local knowledge. This was agreed.

38/22. Footpaths.

- i. An email has been received from Cllr David Fowler regarding the maintenance of the Churnet Way footpath through several parishes including Alton. On behalf of Cllr Shepherd the clerk updated the meeting that the path runs through Alton at Dimingsdale which is in good order with no stiles, there is one gate which is solid and sound. No work is required in the parish. **Action: The clerk to update Cllr Fowler.**

39/22. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard had nothing for this item, however she was asked to remind the village hall committee that the council has not received an invoice for the hire of the hall for council meetings for this year. **Action: Cllr Ballard.**

40/22. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. The clerk gave an update on the Quiet Lanes project for Cllr Shepherd. The clerk has emailed Cllr Williams asking for support for Quiet Lanes in the parish and copied in Karen Bradley MP. He has received an automated reply from Cllr Williams he is unavailable and not monitoring his emails. The clerk will make further inquiries to see who is covering for Cllr Williams in his absence. **Action: The clerk.**
- ii. Cllr Wood gave an update that the pothole on the B5032 near the Peakstones PH has been repaired. The potholes at the Saltersford Lane junction have been marked ready for repair, Cllr Wood will monitor as these need repairing before the new Alton Towers season starts. **Action: Cllr Wood.**
- iii. Parking in the High Street was discussed and whether a fire tender could get past the parked vehicles. Following a discussion on possible solutions the clerk volunteered to speak with a contact in the fire service for advice. **Action: The clerk.**
- iv. Cllr Dronzek will check a broken bench opposite the Lord Shrewsbury PH and report back. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**

41/22. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. The bottom gate at the cemetery is not closing properly. Cllr Dronzek will repair. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**

42/22. Councillor Brindley declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. A member of the public stated Lime Kiln Lane needs sweeping. **Action: Cllr Wood to check the road.**

43/22. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. Cllr Wood suggested that the next meeting (when Cllr Roberts and Mr Ben Haywood are attending from the SMDC Planning Department) should have a structure with questions submitted in advance to allow the smooth flowing of the visit. It was agreed that the Q and A



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session should last about 20 minutes. The clerk will circulate suggested questions already received from Cllr Wood then each Cllr can submit their question(s) to the clerk. From these the clerk will formulate about 4 questions which he will circulate for approval prior to submitting to the visitors. This was all agreed.

- ii. SMD/2022/0077. Mr & Mrs P. Drake, 6, The Hurstones, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Proposed replacement of an existing conservatory with a brick built extension with a tiled roof. **No objections.**
- iii. SMD/2022.0104 and 0105. Dr and Mrs Webster, The Stone House, Malthouse Road, Alton. External Alterations to existing garage. **No objections.**

44/22. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2021/0692. Rose Cottage, Bradley Lane, Bradley In The Moors, Alton. Erection of a single storey side extension. Planning Permission – **Approved.**

45/22. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Wood stated that at the last meeting the council had approved spending which went slightly over the already agreed budget for planters, to regularise matters he proposed the total for the work to date be increased to £1225.04, from the £1,000 already approved. This was seconded by Cllr Conway and carried.
- ii. **Jubilee celebrations.** The clerk gave an update on behalf of Cllr Shepherd. Cllr Shepherd wishes to complete an application on behalf of the council for a grant of £425 towards the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, which can then go to the ACE group to assist with costs. Cllr Wood proposed that the council support this application and Cllr Conway seconded, the proposal was carried. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to complete the application and hand to the clerk for submission.**

46/22. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. None for this meeting.

47/22. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email to Mrs Sue Green re the Parish Council Website.
- ii. Email from SMDC notification of parish assembly.
- iii. Email re Alton Towers liaison meeting. Forwarded to Cllr Conway.
- iv. Email to Cllr Williams SCC re Quiet Lanes project and automated reply.
- v. Email to police re alleged speeding Gallows Green.
- vi. Emails re Queens Jubilee.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

48/22. Finance.

- i. Clerk national pay award 2021/22. This was discussed by the council. The details having been previously circulated. Cllr Wood proposed and Cllr Dronzek seconded the award be approved, this was carried.
- ii. Clerk salary £606.32. (Includes national pay award), backdated to 1.4.2021.



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- iii. Invoice SPCA annual subscription £263.00 and NALC affiliation £78.50. Total £341.50.
- iv. Buxus Green, ground maintenance and lengthsman February invoice £689.79 (Paid).
- v. Income £200 sale of APC lawnmower-J. Shepherd.
- vi. Nettlebank income £37.50.
- vii. Slaters Funeral Directors income £37.50.
- viii. Authorised payments since the last meeting were agreed and signed off by the council.
- ix. 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 Wood and seconded by Cllr Dronzek and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by The Acting Chair, Councillor Brindley at 7.50pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13th April 2022

Signed..... Clerk