



## Alton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor A. Dronzek, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor N. Conway, Cllr H. Kelsall.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

One member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett, Cllr M. Worthington (SCC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### **31/23. Declarations of interest.**

- i. Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in the item regarding footpath 16 as he owns land adjacent to the footpath. He will not take part in any voting on the issue.

#### **32/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

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

#### **33/23. Matters arising.**

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported regarding the complaints about the lighting at Alton Towers over the New Year. She has asked residents to keep a log if there are any problems in the future, so that concerns can be raised with Alton Towers in a constructive way. The clerk stated he awaits a reply to his email to Mr Colgan from SMDC on the subject. (Minute 18/23)
- ii. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has visited Saltersford Lane (minute 21/23). The road is not classified, but the council do maintain it to the last house in the road. All the ancient stones are present but covered in mud due to use by tractors (which is a legitimate use of the road). Cllr Shepherd will make periodic checks.

#### **34/23. Lengthsman.**

- i. The lengthsman's contract was discussed. Cllr Wood asked that 'Post Office Alley' be included in the contract. This is an area the lengthsman already maintains. Cllr Shepherd proposed that the contract be renewed with the amendment requested by Cllr Wood, this was seconded by Cllr Wood and carried. **Action: The clerk to amend the contract and arrange signing with the lengthsman, Paul Goodall.**

#### **35/23. Alton Towers.**

- i. A date for a meeting regarding 'Quiet Lanes' is awaited.

#### **36/23. Footpaths.**

- i. The parish council have received notification of a proposed upgrade to footpath 16 to a bridle path. Cllrs Shepherd and Wood outlined the proposal which the council felt was an improvement



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and in the interests of the parish. Cllr Brindley proposed and Cllr Wood seconded that the clerk write a letter supporting the use of use to a Bridle Path, this was carried (Cllr Shepherd did not take part in the vote). **Action: The clerk to arrange.**

### 37/23. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported a committee meeting has been held and a new booking secretary appointed.
- ii. Cllr Shepherd asked if as chairman it would be a good idea if he had a set of keys to the village hall in case the clerk was for some reason either late for a meeting or could not attend. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded a set of keys for the chairman. This was carried. **Action: The clerk to arrange and update the village hall committee.**

### 38/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood has reported a number of potholes in Alton Lane and Bradley Lane to SCC. He has also written a letter to SCC Highways regarding the way potholes are repaired and the difficulty reporting further problems on the website reporting system. e.g. one pothole may be repaired but others adjacent not repaired.
- ii. The clerk reported he has received an email from SCC Highways stating the faded road markings in New Road have not yet been rectified, but that the work has not been forgotten.

### 39/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the cemetery and Church yard are in good order.

### 40/23. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. No questions were raised, but the member of the public present mentioned that SMDC tourist strategy to increase visits to Alton Towers as a matter of interest.

### 41/23 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2023/0081. Former Coach House adjacent to, Stanford House, Denstone Lane, Alton. Continued use of former coach house as 2 dwellings. **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2023/0112. Alton Castle, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Installation of an external timber clad bike shelter (specialist designed) for bikes storage. **No objections.**

### 42/23. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2022/0225 and 0237. Flag Tower, Alton Towers. Listed building consent for the Removal of 3No. antennas and all ancillary development, installation of 6No. antennas and all ancillary development. Listed Building Consent – Approved.
- ii. SMD/2022/0622. Old Grove Cottage, Smithy Bank, Alton. Internal alterations to provide a first floor bathroom and 2No replacement windows. Listed Building Consent – Approved.
- iii. SMD/2022/0666. Alton Castle, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Installation of an external timber clad bike shelter for bikes storage. Application Withdrawn.

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.



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### 42/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Replacement Alton Village Sign, New Road.** Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Dronzek seconded that dark green and cream should be the colours of the new sign. This was carried. **Action: The clerk to arrange.**
- ii. **Local Council Elections update.** The clerk handed out the election nomination papers and explained how to complete and submit them.
- iii. **Coronation Grant.** Cllr Shepherd explained the parish councils can apply for a grant from SMDC for events for the King's Coronation in May. The grant is for £435 and would go towards events being planned in the parish through the ACE group (Alton Community Events). This was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried. **Action. The clerk to arrange.**
- iv. **Bench in New Road.** The public bench in New Road is in a poor state of repair. Cllr Shepherd stated he has obtained one quote for the work to repair from Churnet valley Joinery Ltd for £600 plus VAT £120. The wood to be Oak. Cllr Shepherd will get a further quote for the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**

### 43/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email to Denis Colgan re lighting at Alton Towers.

### 44/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email to SMDC planning re February's applications.
- ii. Correspondence with Leander re the new Alton sign.
- iii. Email from and to a resident of Ellastone re proposed Traffic Regulation Order in Ellastone.
- iv. Various emails to the council re forthcoming elections.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

### 45/23. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £558.34
- ii. Buxus Green February invoice £689.79 (paid)
- iii. Invoice Net factory Ltd (website) £91.00 net.
- iv. Interest income reserve accounts on 28 February 2023, £20.54.
- v. Authorised payments were agreed and signed off by the council.
- vi. 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 Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wood and carried.**

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.50pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Signed..... Clerk