



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.23pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

Four members of the public.

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

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7.23pm.

64/24. Election of the Chairman.

- i. Cllr Shepherd asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council. Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Kelsall seconded Cllr Shepherd as the Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously and Cllr Shepherd declared the Chairman for 2024/25.

65/24. Declarations of Interest.

- i. Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in planning application SMD/2024/0182 as he had been involved in the construction. He would not express any opinion on this application or take part in any vote.

66/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024.

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

67/24. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported that she has spoken to Alton Towers regarding light pollution and will be having a meeting when the issue will be further discussed (minute 51/24 i).
- ii. Cllr Kelsall reported that she had received a complaint about litter in Wootton Lane, she has been in contact with Alton Towers and it is on their litter picking route.
- iii. Cllr Conway reported that the flooding on Bridle path 13 has now dried up. He will monitor (minute 52/24 i).
- iv. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has asked the owner of the land where the culvert needs digging out at Townhead if he would attend to the work. This has been agreed but not yet completed (minute 54/24 i).
- v. Cllr Wood stated he has not received any further information regarding the potholes discussed last month (minute 55/24 i), repair is therefore still awaited. **Action: Update next meeting Cllr Wood.** Cllr Mark Deaville (Highways) has been invited to a future meeting (date to be agreed), to discuss highways issues. **Action: The clerk to follow up with Cllr Deaville.**
- vi. Cllr Dronzek reported that he and the clerk had met with the lengthsman at the cemetery to discuss the clearing of the perimeter footpath (minute 56/24 ii). The lengthsman will complete



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the work which will only take probably 2 or 3 hours at £25 per hour. The footpath will then be kept clear as part of the lengthsmans contract.

68/24. Election of Councillors to various office's/responsibilities.

Cllr Brindley proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded the councillors keep the same responsibilities as the previous year which was carried.

- i. **Vice Chairman and Website Monitor** – Cllr Gwinnett
- ii. **Cemetery-** Cllr Dronzek.
- iii. **Highways and Road Safety-**Cllr Wood.
- iv. **Village Hall-** Cllr Ballard.
- v. **Alton Towers Liaison-** Cllr Conway and Cllr Kelsall.
- vi. **Parish Assembly-** Cllr Wood.
- vii. **Footpaths-** Cllr Shepherd.
- viii. **Social Media Monitor -**Cllr Kelsall.

69/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Nothing for this meeting.

70/24. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that part of Saltersford Lane has been fenced off by a farmer to keep cattle in. However, it is a bridle path so cannot be fenced off. Cllr Shepherd has been in dialogue with the farmer to resolve the issue. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to report to the next meeting.**
- ii. Cllr Wood stated that last year the footpath at Townhead had become overgrown, he did not want the same issue this year. The footpath is clear at the moment. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will speak to the landowner if it becomes necessary.**

71/24. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported that the new electrics repair and replacement are now underway for part of the village hall.
- ii. Cllr Ballard reported that the clerk had handed over to the village hall the official portrait of the King offered free to parish councils and other public bodies by the government.
- iii. Cllr Shepherd mentioned that the local football team requested use of the changing room at the village hall which is presently used for storage of children's toys. A member of the village hall committee who was present was allowed to address the meeting and stated that another group already pay extra for use of that room, but that the garage had been cleared which the team can use.

72/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

73/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported she had received a complaint of cones being used outside a B&B in Malthouse Road to reserve parking, but this has now been resolved and the cones removed.
- ii. Cllr Brindley reported serious potholes at Battlesteads on the B5032, Gorsty Hill side of the junction. The potholes cause traffic to drive in the centre of the road to avoid them Cllr Moulton stated he has reported these potholes twice. **Action: Cllr Wood will take further action.**



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74/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported both the cemetery and Church Yard are in good order. However, a comment has been made by a member of the public concerned that grass cutting could damage gravestones. No damage has been reported. **Action: The clerk to mention to the lengthsman.**

75/24. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. A member of the public reinforced the potential danger the potholes at Battlesteads junction with the B5032 could present.
- ii. A member of the public stated that Uttoxeter Road junction with Hurstons Lane and Lime Kiln Lane needs re-lining. **Action: Cllr Wood to inspect.**
- iii. A member of the public mentioned grids silted up in the village. **Action: Cllr Wood to check.**
- iv. A member of the public mentioned alleged speeding vehicles in Malthouse Road which after a brief discussion, he will report to the police.
- v. A member of the public mentioned inconsiderate parking Cedar Hill junction Cheadle Road. **Action: The clerk to check and report back to the next meeting.**
- vi. A member of the public mentioned that a building had been erected without planning permission at Hurstons House (SMD/2024/0182 to be discussed under planning), he wished to make the council aware.

76/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2024/0189, Mr & Mrs Mather, 14 Shirley Drive, Alton. Two storey / single storey rear extension and alterations. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Brindley there be no objections, this was carried.
- ii. SMD/2024/0182. Mr S Massey, C/O Sammons Architectural Ltd, Hurston House, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Partially retrospective application for tractor and hay store. Cllr Shepherd explained the planning application but did not express an opinion or take part in the discussion. The council were unable to decide on a view on this application and no propositions were put forward. Therefore, the council has no opinion on this application.
- iii. SMD/2024/0124. Mr Sam Stabler, SPIF LTD, 5 Oak Row, THE COTTAGE, Cheadle Road Alton. Dropped Kerb for vehicular access. Cllr Wood proposed the council object on the grounds of the loss of an off-street parking space and loss of heritage as the kerb is made of granite this was seconded by Cllr Shepherd. There were three votes for and three against (Cllr Kelsall having left the meeting earlier there were only six councillors present). Cllr Shepherd declined to use his casting vote but after consideration made a second proposition that the council do not object providing that the dropped kerb is replaced with like for like, i.e. a granite replacement, this was seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried by four votes to two. Cllr Wood asked that his objection be noted in the minutes.

77/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0002. 17, High Street, Alton. Proposed extension and alterations. Planning Permission – Approved



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- ii. SMD/2024/0016. Alton Towers, Farley Lane, Farley. Application for Variation of a Conditions 1, 3, 4 and 6 in relation to application SMD/2021/0330 Re:Installation of a seasonal temporary stage. Planning Permission – Approved.
- iii. SMD/2024/0064. Ripsaw Cafe, Alton Towers, Farley Lane, Farley. Demolition of existing Funk n Fly ride and erection of replacement ride. Planning Permission – Approved.
- iv. SMD/2024/0108. Rosehill, Nabb Lane, Alton. Erection of 2no. Holiday Lodges. Planning Permission – Refused.
- v. SMD/2024/0109. LAND ADJACENT TO, Hurstons Lane, Alton. Erection of detached bungalow. Planning Permission – Refused.

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

78/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Village Planters.** Cllr Shepherd stated that a lady in the village known to him was willing to plant up the planters if the council provide the finance. Cllr Wood proposed and Cllr Shepherd seconded that the council provide up to £250 for the flowers. This was carried. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to arrange.**
- ii. Round House-update. Cllr Wood reported that he has received a further update from Historic England that the Round House is owned by the parish council. He has documentary evidence from 1951 that strongly points to this. The documents have been handed to the clerk. The deeds are still not in the possession of the council, but the evidence is strong enough for the council to take on this responsibility. **Action: The clerk to add to the asset list and make enquiries regarding insurance and value.**
- iii. **Vacancy on the Council.** The clerk reported that the council has a vacancy for one councillor. He has asked SMDC for permission to advertise the vacancy and awaits a reply. **Action: The clerk to update the next meeting.**

79/24. Correspondence requiring response. None for this meeting.

80/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email to Cllr Conway from Alton Towers regarding a future visit to the council.
- ii. Road closure notices Dimble Lane and Shirley Drive, Alton (circulated).
- iii. Email from SCC regarding Data Protection.
- iv. Email re deployment of the defibrillator at the village hall.
- v. SPCA email re a zoom meeting about planning (circulated).
- vi. Email from Croxden PC re a damaged road sign, Bradley Bank (incorrect road name but Cllr Shepherd checking the area).
- vii. Email from Alton Towers re litter picking in Wootton Lane (this area is covered).
- viii. Email re membership of Staffs Branch of Local Council Clerks. No further action on this at this time.
- ix. Email from Cllr Mark Deaville re possible visit to APC June or July.
- x. Email from about a workshop called 'Be yourself and love it', offering a presentation to young people 6-16 years about self-worth.



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- xi. Email from SPCA re model financial regs.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

81/24. Finance.

- i. Internal audit of council accounts. The clerk explained the parish council accounts have passed internal audit.
- ii. Clerk salary £440.46
- iii. Staffs Parish Councils Association invoice £330.00
- iv. Buxus Green invoice April £689.79 (paid).
- v. HMRC additional payment £39.87 (paid).
- vi. Income Field Funeral Services £165.00 (pending).
- vii. Precept income SMDC £8,612.50 (first payment).
- viii. Interest income £37.40.
- ix. Authorised payments to be signed off by the Council.
- x. 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 8.20pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 12th June 2024

Signed..... Clerk