



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor A. Dronzek, Cllr m. Worthington (SCC), Councillor S. Hollins, Councillor N. Conway, Councillor P. Gwinnett.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

2 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr H. Plimley (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7.10pm and welcomed a new co-opted councillor Holly Kelsall.

67/22. Election of the Chairman.

- i. Cllr Shepherd asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Council. Cllr Ballard proposed and Cllr Wood seconded Cllr Shepherd as the Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously, and Cllr Shepherd declared the Chairman for 2022/23.

68/22. Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

69/22. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th April 2022.

- 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.

70/22. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Wood stated the Doctors Steps had still not been cleared by the lengthsman. The clerk stated the lengthsman had assured him they have received attention. The clerk will again speak to the lengthsman about this issue (minute 51/22 i). **Action: The clerk.**
- ii. The clerk has still not received an invoice for the hire of the village hall last year from the village hall committee (minute 51/22 iii). **Action: The clerk to follow up with the treasurer of the village hall.**
- iii. The clerk reported that he has sent the lengthsman/groundsman Buxus Green a copy of his contract for 2022/23 and obtained a copy of the insurance covering work undertaken. Also Buxus Green will undertake ad hoc work at £25 an hour, but smaller jobs will not be charged (minute 55/22 i and ii).

71/22. Election of Councillors to various office's/responsibilities.

Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Dronzek seconded the below responsibilities for councillors which was carried.

- i. **Vice Chairman** – Cllr Gwinnett
- ii. **Cemetery**- Cllr Dronzek.



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- 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. Cllr Wood requested that a councillor took responsibility for keeping the website up to date. After a discussion Cllr Gwinnett volunteered to monitor and arrange updates on the website and Cllr Kelsall volunteered to take a responsibility for social media, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The council under the same proposition decided that the two named councillors and the clerk should liaise and put forward a strategy for communications at the next meeting for the council to consider. **Action: Agenda item next meeting.**

72/22. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Conway reported that there had been a number of complaints about the noise from Alton Towers following the introduction of a new attraction which has loud music. He has been in contact with the resort and they have tried to reduce the noise by re-locating speakers. Cllr Conway will monitor the situation and Janet Gurr from Alton Towers would take any complaints which should be reported at the time. **Action: Cllr Conway/Kelsall to update the next meeting.**

73/22. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Wood outlined a newspaper article just for information about re-opening Crumpwood bridge which is on private land.
- ii. Cllr Wood, regarding footpath 32 by the Lord Shrewsbury/Wild Duck public house, stated the poor and potentially dangerous surface has been reported by himself to SCC, but nothing has been done to date, he asked that the clerk also reports the matter to reinforce the priority the repair should be given. **Action: The clerk.**

74/22. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported there will be a village hall committee meeting this coming Thursday, 12th May.

75/22. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported the footpath at the side of the allotments and at the side of Castle Hill (No 32) requires attention. **Action: Clerk to inform the lengthsman.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported weeds growing in the High Street opposite the White Hart and also in Shirley drive along the kerbs. **Action: Clerk to inform the lengthsman.**

76/22. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the potholes in Knight Lane and Dimble Lane have been repaired, but the pothole by the water pump in Dimble Lane has marked for repair but not yet completed. Two further potholes in Hurstons Lane will be reported by Cllr Wood. **Action: Cllr Wood.**
- ii. Cllr Shepherd has a quiet Lanes meeting with Alton Towers on Monday 16th May.



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77/22. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the mole hills have returned in the cemetery, which Cllr Shepherd will address. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
- ii. Cllr Dronzek will paint the door of the cemetery building. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**

78/22. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask questions/raise issues.

- i. No issues were raised.

79/22. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2022/0225 and 0237. Care Of Agent Cornerstones, Flag Tower Alton Towers Farley Lane, Farley. Planning permission for the Removal of 3No. antennas and all ancillary development, installation of 6No. antennas and all ancillary development (inc. the upgrade of existing apparatus within the internal equipment room). Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded there be no objections. This was carried.

80/22. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2020/0581. Land On The Corner Of Hurstons Lane, Uttoxeter Road, Alton. Residential Dwelling. **Planning Permission – Refused**
- ii. SMD/2021/0744. 1, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Proposed demolition of single storey flat roof kitchen and construction of new 2 storey extension comprising kitchen/dining with 2 bedrooms at first floor level. **Planning Permission – Approved.**
- iii. SMD/2022/0104 and 0105. The Stone House, Malthouse Road, Alton. External Alterations to existing garage. **Planning Permission – Refused. Listed Building Consent – Refused.**
- iv. DET/2022/0009. The Withering Farm, Cheadle Road, Alton. Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to one Dwellinghouses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. **Prior Approval Refused.**

The planning decisions were read out by the Chairman.

81/22. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Cemetery lock-up building.** Cllr Shepherd reported that he has replaced the lock in the building saving the cost of a locksmith. Cllr Shepherd proposed that the lock-up be loaned to the ACE group (Alton community Events) for storage, this was seconded by Cllr Brindley and carried.
- ii. **Village Planters.** Cllr Gwinnett showed the council a flyer with flowers she proposed should be purchased in addition to the flowers from Alton Towers, just for the Queen's Jubilee at a cost of £146.00, seconded by Cllr Kelsall and carried.
- iii. Cllr Shepherd stated the new War Memorial planter would soon be in place.
- iv. **Jubilee celebrations.** Cllr Shepherd showed the meeting a poster which has been distributed in the village detailing the jubilee celebrations.
- v. **Round House ownership.** The clerk explained he has made enquiries with Alton Towers and they do not own the Round House. He will make enquiries with SMDC to see if they can help to identify the owner.
- vi. **Planning letter.** Cllr Shepherd outlined a letter he wished to send to SMDC planning to clarify how much approved plans can be altered before those plan are sent back to the public/parish



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council for further comments. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Ballard and carried. **Action: Cllr Shepherd to prepare a draft to discuss with the clerk and send to SMDC Planning.**

82/22. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email from parishioner re Walton Homes development and reply.
- ii. Emails re alleged dog fouling in the Churnet Valley from Mrs Green and Times and Echo and reply.

83/22. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Thank you letters to Mr Ben Haywood and Cllr Roberts for attending the parish council meeting in April.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

84/22. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £509.41.
- ii. Cheadle and Tean Times. £15.00 net VAT £3.00 (gross £18.00). (Advert re Annual parish meeting).
- iii. St. Peters Church clock repair. Invoice received showing work has commenced (Cumbria Clock Company Ltd). £1,000 donation paid authorised by Minute 129/21 (ii), August 2021 meeting.
- iv. Queens Platinum Jubilee Grant Fund Application (submitted to SMDC).
- v. Precept income from SMDC 1st payment £8612.50.
- vi. Authorised payments were signed off by the Council.
- vii. 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 8pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 8th June 2022

Signed..... Clerk