



## Alton Parish Council

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

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

1 member of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

#### **156/23 Declarations of interest.**

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **157/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

- i. The minutes of the above meeting was 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.

#### **158/23. Matters arising.**

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported he has not yet been able to remove the damaged/worn out planter in Denstone Road due to heavy traffic making it dangerous (minute 131/23 ii). **Action: Cllr Shepherd will remove shortly when traffic eases. Closed.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that he has checked the street lights in back Lane and they are working (minute 148/23 iv).
- iii. The clerk reported that the speed indicator sign used by SCC is no longer in use (minute 152/23 i)
- iv. The clerk stated he has not had a reply from Rural England regarding the Round House (minute 152/23 ii). **Action: Carried forward.**

#### **159/23 Alton Towers.**

- i. Cllr Kelsall reported that Alton Towers are going to donate £100 to the children's playgroup at the village hall.

#### **160/23. Footpaths.**

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

#### **161/23. Village Hall.**

- i. The clerk reported that the 'no dogs on the playing fields' signs were about to be ordered.

#### **162/23. Lengthsman.**

- i. The clerk reported that the lengthsman had informed him he would tidy the war memorial before Sunday's Remembrance Service.



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### 163/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported had had received a report of alleged near road accidents at the junction of Battlesteads with the main Cheadle Road (B5032). Cllr Wood stated he had discussed this with the clerk and that mirrors could not be placed on the public highway as a visual aid at the junction because it could be dangerous, impeding the view, e.g. dazzling lights, rain, frost and a number of other issues which would make the use dangerous. The SCC website goes into greater detail. There have been no recent accidents and the signage on the road and on street furniture is in place. Cllr Wood will inform the resident that nothing further can be done.
- ii. Potholes at Battlesteads were discussed. **Action: Cllr Wood to Check.**
- iii. Cllr Brindley reported that there is still flooding outside the village hall in Hurstons Lane. **Action: Cllr Wood to follow up with SCC.**

### 164/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported both the cemetery and Church yard are in good order.
- ii. Cllr Dronzek will repair the centre gates at the cemetery as one of the hinges needs a pin replacing. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**

### 165/23. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues. Nothing was raised.

### 166/23 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2023/0516. Mr David Taylor, Merlin Magic Making - Merlin Entertainments. Fresh Fish & Chips Nemises Alton Towers Farley Lane Farley. **No objections.**

### 167/23. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2023/0200. Wood Farm, Red Road, Alton. Storage Buildings for Agricultural / Forestry purpose for produce and equipment. **Approved.**
- ii. SMD/2023/0288. Bradley Elms Farm, Alton Road, Thrapwood, Erection of a replacement agricultural machinery and equipment store. **Approved.**

### 168/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. Speed indicator sign. See minute 158/23 iii.
- ii. Round House-update. See minute 158/23 iv.
- iii. Royal British Legion poppy appeal annual donation for a poppy wreath. Cllr Shepherd stated that the poppy wreath would be made from plastic and that as last year the council wished to move to renewables, he has made a wreath which is degradable for use instead, but he still proposed and Cllr Wood seconded the usual £50 donation, which was carried.

### 169/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Croxden PC speed limit correspondence. Following a discussion the clerk was asked to write to Croxden PC explaining that whilst the council understood what they are trying to achieve in reducing the speed limit on Hollington Road, no councillor has direct experience of problems on the road, so Alton PC cannot supply evidence to support the speed reduction. **Action: The clerk the write to Croxden PC.**



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- ii. Email from Cheadle Clubs, Groups and Societies Directory-from Community Officer Sharon Middling. The email requests a list of Groups and Societies in Alton. It was decided the clerk should write to Sharon Middling advising her to contact the village hall for a list of groups who use the village hall and also to the ACE Group and the Rev B. Leathers who may be able to help.  
**Action: The clerk to arrange.**

### 170/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Denstone Neighbourhood Plan.
- ii. Emails from Cllr Wood and replies from the clerk re Battlesteads junction and use of mirrors placed at road junctions.
- iii. Correspondence from Joseph Allen and Sons Funeral Directors in Belper Dealt with.
- iv. 'Be a better councillor' course. Circulated.
- v. Email to SCC from a resident re white road lines (Council copied in).
- vi. Future road closure Threapwood. Circulated.
- vii. Email from Cllr Williamson re speed indicator sign. Circulated.
- viii. Correspondence and check of defibrillator, following report possible use.
- ix. Email to Ch. Insp Barlow re Alton Remembrance Service 12.11.23.
- x. Letter to HM Customs and Revenue. Second request for VAT refund.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

### 171/23. Finance.

- i. Precept 2024/25. The precept was discussed with the clerk advising that a decision could be deferred until the December or January meeting as all information was not yet available. Following a discussion the matter will be discussed again in December when sufficient information will be available for a decision. In the meantime Cllr Wood volunteered to review the cemetery charges so that they can be taken into consideration as well (Last reviewed December 2021). **Action: To be discussed in December and Cllr Wood to review the cemetery charges.**
- ii. Clerk salary £556.43.
- iii. Buxus Green October invoice £689.79 (paid)
- iv. Interest from bank accounts to 31.10.23 £45.09
- v. Income Nettlebank £200.00

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 7.35pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Signed..... Clerk