



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

Two members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC).

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

145/24. Declarations of Interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

146/24. Guest Angela Dale, SMDC.

- i. Ms Dale gave a talk about the recent money allocated under Section 106, Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the improvement of the children's play space and the playing field on Hurstons Lane. The money is allocated as follows Play Area Contribution – £49,905.24 Playing Fields Contribution – £62,273.05. Ms Dale explained how the money was applied for and that the money is held by SMDC and that there are up to 10 years to spend it. She explained that the money can only be used for the playing field and play area. There could be possible match funding e.g. from the Football Foundation and F.A. (Football Association) and others who support other sports such as hockey. She further explained that the community must be consulted and in response to a question by Cllr Shepherd she added that the money cannot be mixed between the two areas of spend.

Cllrs Kelsall and Gwinnett asked if the playing field on the opposite side of Hurstons Lane belonging to Staffordshire County Council could also benefit, Ms Dale stated she thought it was possible but that she would check and let the clerk know.

A further question was asked by Cllr Wood regarding any interest on the money whilst it was kept on deposit. Ms Dale replied that the amount would not be increased, interest would be kept by SMDC, so over time the money would be worth less due to inflation.

Ms Dale was thanked by the Chairman Cllr Shepherd for attending the meeting and she stated she is available for advice at any time.

147/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

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

148/24. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk reported that as Cllr Worthington was not present there was no update regarding him requesting Cllr Flunder to a meeting, but Cllr Moulton will see both Cllrs Deaville and Flunder at a



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meeting tonight (9.10.24) and he will speak to them about a visit to the parish council. (Minute 132/24 iv).

- ii. Cllr Dronzek stated he will be attending to the planters in the cemetery shortly. Carried forward from minute 132/24 vi. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**
- iii. The clerk reported he has liaised with Cllr Shepherd and sent a letter by email supporting the addition of a footpath from footpath 39 Alton to St. Leonards Church, Bradley and has received an acknowledgement. (Minute 134/24 i).
- iv. The clerk reported that he asked the lengthsman to clear the footpath from New Road to Soli Hostel, which has been completed. (Minute 134 ii).

149/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall gave an overview of the report she has completed for the council following a meeting on 25th September, which she and Cllr Shepherd attended, which has been circulated. The report covered children's events, climate and sustainability, e.g. the planting of 50,000 trees by Alton Towers and the use of solar panels. An update on Alton Towers planning and traffic management was included. Cllr Shepherd updated the meeting on community events and details regarding Sat Nav's re-routing vehicles to ease congestion issues.
- ii. Cllr Wood stated he had been told by several residents in Bradly about bright lights from Alton Towers. Cllr Kelsall asked for them to be photographed and forwarded to her to discuss with Alton Towers.

150/24. Footpaths.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

151/24. Village Hall.

- i. Nothing for this item of business.

152/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that Post Office Alley is getting slippery due to the falling leaves. **Action: The clerk to contact the lengthsman.**

153/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that following heavy rain one gully at Battlesteads has been cleared and he has requested others to be cleared by SCC Highways. One pothole has been repaired and further repair work has been scheduled over the next month, areas include, Glen Drive, Cedar Hill and Nabb Lane amongst others. Cllr Wood will also report a pothole on Horse Road. **Action: Cllr Wood.**

154/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported that the perimeter path in the parish cemetery has been cleared by the lengthsman and he has cut overhanging branches back, it looks very nice and can now be used properly (photographs circulated).
- ii. Cllr Dronzek reported that parts of other cemetery footpaths need some tarmac repair. Cllr Shepherd volunteered to complete the repairs with cold tarmac. **Action: Cllr Shepherd.**
- iii. Cllr Dronzek enquired about the repair of several sucken graves. One grave has been repaired after the owner requested the grave digger to complete the work. As the graves are owned by



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private people and not the council the clerk was asked to take advice from Rev B. Leathers as to action taken in St. Peters Church yard to complete such repairs. **Action: The clerk.**

- iv. The graveyard at St. Peters Church is partly overgrown and Cllr Dronzek volunteered to assess the issue. **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**

155/24. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. A question was asked regarding how the section 106 (Town and Country Planning Act 1990) money will be spent. Cllr Shepherd explained that no decisions had been made yet, but that a formal process would be put into place by the council.

156/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2024/0438, Merlin Attractions Operations Limited, Alton Towers. Construction of two log cabins and associated pathways/landscaping. **No objections.**
- ii. SMD/2024/0440. Mr & Mrs Heede, IVY COTTAGE Tythe Barn, Alton. Variation of condition 2 relating to SMD/2024/0128. **No objections.**

157/24. Planning decisions.

- i. SMD/2024/0338. 5 THE COTTAGE, OAK ROW, Cheadle Road, Alton. Retrospective application for replacement of existing staircase from conservatory down to garden level & low level garden decking. Planning Permission – Approved.
- ii. SMD/2024/0305. The Priests House, Church Terrace, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Listed Building Consent Like-for-like masonry repairs; repointing using a naturally hydraulic lime mortar, and replacement of defective rainwater goods using cast iron. Listed Building Consent – Approved.

The planning decisions were read out by Cllr Shepherd.

158/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Round House-update.** The clerk reported that he has arranged for BHB, Architects to advise the council on the maintenance of the Round House and that he and Cllr Shepherd will be meeting an architect on Tuesday 22nd October at the Round House for the initial assessment. **Action: Cllr Shepherd/Clerk.**
- ii. Cllr Shepherd recommended that the council should form a sub-committee to make recommendations to the full parish council regarding the spending of the Section 106 funds, this sub-committee should consist of councillors and other parties with an interest in the project. A discussion took place and the following councillors volunteered to be part of the committee: Cllrs Shepherd, Dronzek, Kelsall and Ballard. The following other people also to be asked if they would like to take part: Alan Heath (previous experience of playground management), Mr Heath was present a agreed to be on the sub-committee if so elected, Jade Power-Vaughan (office manager St. Peters School), Simon Eaton (Manager Londis and member of the football club in Alton). Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Gwinnett seconded that the above should form the Sub-committee, this was carried on a vote. Cllr Kelsall to ask Ms Power-Vaughan and Cllr Shepherd to ask Mr Eaton to take part.



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- iii. The clerk was asked to write a draft terms of reference for the sub-committee for approval by the council. **Action: The clerk.**

159/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Emails re the visit of Angela Dale, SMDC.
- ii. Emails with B H B Architects re Round House maintenance.

160/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Notice for prospective candidates 2025 local elections (placed onto the website).
- ii. Email from the Regeneration Officer, in relation to any Christmas events. (Forwarded to Cllr Shepherd).
- iii. Email from Ch.Insp Barlow re Remembrance Parades and police wreath laying. Forwarded to Cllr Shepherd.
- iv. Monthly electoral role update from SMDC.
- v. Email from SMDC providing useful contacts (circulated).
- vi. Email informing the clerk he has been added to a 'Teams' group of parish clerks.
- vii. Email 'Have your say on policing' from Police and Crime Commissioner (circulated).
- viii. Email from Cllr Mark Deaville re Malthouse Road (circulated).
- ix. Lithium-Ion Batteries Campaign: Update email (circulated).
- x. Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association: Eighty-Fifth Annual General Meeting (circulated).
- xi. Email re proposed memorial bench (circulated).
- xii. Thank you email re repair of a sunken grave.
- xiii. Email acknowledgement of support for footpath in Bradley (circulated).
- xiv. Email re road work at Battlesteads.

The clerk read out the correspondence.

161/24. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £440.46
- ii. Buxus Green invoice September £689.79 (paid).
- iii. Precept received (final instalment) £8,612.50
- iv. Income Boulton and Sons £330.00 (Funeral directors).
- v. Interest income £35.94
- 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.



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Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 13th November 2024

Signed..... Clerk