



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7pm

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

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Five members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair), Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor N. Conway.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

125/23 Declarations of interest.

- i. There were no declarations of interest.

126/23. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th August 2023.

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

127/23. Matters arising.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has visited the footpath at Saltersford Lane and it is too overgrown for him to tackle (minute 111/23 i). **Action: Clerk to report to SCC Footpaths.**
- ii. Cllr Shepherd has reported the damaged stile on footpath number 45 (minute 113/23).
- iii. Cllr Shepherd reported that the banner in front of the mosaic at the village hall will be removed over the next few days (minute 114/23 ii).
- iv. Cllr Shepherd has checked for cars parking blocking the water pump in Dimble Lane and has not seen any (minute 115/23 i).
- v. The clerk reported he had asked the lengthsman to tackle the weeds in Shirley Drive, Glen Drive, Limekiln Lane and the bus shelter and this had been done (minute 115/23 ii).
- vi. The clerk reported that he has emailed Cllr Williams SCC requesting the mobile speed indicator sign is brought back into use in Uttoxeter Road, Alton (minute 118/23 i).

128/23 Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall gave an overview of upcoming events at Alton Towers and the steps being taken to avoid residents being troubled by noise she also stated that there will be an open day for residents when they will be able to express any concerns. Cllr Kelsall also gave a report on refurbishments at the resort and litter picks by staff. Residents of Nabb Lane will be offered free tickets. The website to be updated with routes to avoid for drivers.

129/23. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Wood gave an overview of a section 53 application for a public footpath from Bradley Lane junction with Church Lane. This is already used as a footpath and it is just 35 yards that needs to



Alton Parish Council

be made an official footpath. The council were content with this application and have no comments to make.

130/23. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Ballard reported that the village hall committee had voted to continue the ban on dogs being allowed on the playing fields.
- ii. The clerk reported he had forwarded to the council information regarding electric vehicle charging points, which the village hall may wish to discuss. Cllr Ballard has a copy.

131/23. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Wood requested that the weeds on footpath 20, Glen Drive be sprayed. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**
- ii. Cllr Wood also mentioned the damaged/worn out planter on the Denstone Road. **Action: Cllr Shepherd will remove.**

132/23. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood reported that the potholes at Town Head he last reported in July have not yet been repaired. Cllr Worthington was going to assist with this matter. **Action: Cllr Wood will liaise with Cllr Worthington and report back.**

133/23. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. Cllr Dronzek reported the cemetery and St. Peter's Church yard are in good order. The grass is a bit long because the lengthsman's mower had broken down, but the grass will be cut Thursday 14th September.

134/23. Councillor Shepherd declared an open forum to allow parishioners present to ask question/raise issues.

- i. Several members of the public were present who had commissioned a traffic survey to support their objections to an appeal to the planning inspectorate regarding a proposed development of up to 4 dwellings on land at Cedar Hill (SMD/2022/0409). They requested support from the council. Cllr Shepherd explained that the council did object to the development and a letter of objection had been submitted to SMDC planning which will also be considered by the planning inspector. Without new reasons to make further objections there is no reason to re-submit the original letter. The traffic report should be submitted by those who had arranged it to SMDC planning.
Both Cllr Shepherd and Cllr Moulton offered to attend the appeal hearing to support the objections. The clerk will monitor the appeal.

135/23 Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. SMD/2023/0386. Mr and Mrs Barks, Plot 2, Hurstons Lane, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4AP. Variation of condition 2 relating to SMD/2021/0062. Cllr Shepherd explained that this application is almost the same as a previous application which the council objected to. The main difference being that a proposed integrated garage would now become a further living space. **Action: The clerk to re-submit a letter of objection with the same reasons as previously discussed, namely on the grounds that the dwelling will be too large and**



Alton Parish Council

inappropriate for the area, obstructing historical views across the village, together with lack of infrastructure and the fact the village has already meet its quota for new houses.

- ii. SMD/2023/0370. Edward Heath. Town Head Farm, Castle Hill Road, Alton. Listed building consent for repair and restoration of external envelope of the building, including restoration of stonework to original windows, new steel frames to original window openings, rebuilding of north-west gable end and chimney, re-roofing, new rainwater goods, new front door, and alteration / re-glazing of fanlight. **No objections.**

136/23. Planning decisions.

- i. Cllr Wood informed the meeting that SMD/2023/0048, Jays Barn, Bradley Lane, Bradley In The Moors. Erection of a single storey side extension had been approved on appeal.

137/23. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Community Speed Watch:** The clerk updated the meeting that he had been in touch with the community speedwatch co-ordinator at Staffordshire Police and the cost of the equipment would be around £500, with full training for volunteers for free. The clerk stated that Cllr Gwinnett had indicated she would be prepared to lead on this if approved. The council decided that Cllr Gwinnett should be asked update the next meeting with how many volunteers she has before a decision is made on spending the money. **Action: The clerk to liaise with Cllr Gwinnett.**
- ii. **Round House.** The clerk reported that over a long period he has made enquiries with a number of organisations, including, SCC, SMDC, Land Registry and no-one appears to own the Round House. Cllr Wood suggested checking with Historic England to see if they have any knowledge. **Action: The clerk to make enquiries.**

138/23. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Request from the village hall committee for a list of keyholders of the village hall. Reply sent.

139/23. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Code of conduct seminar via Teams from SMDC-circulated (rescheduled event).
- ii. Notification from SMDC of the intention to extend the current Dog Fouling and Nuisance Public Spaces Protection Order in October. (Circulated).
- iii. Enjoy Staffordshire Flyer and application form for businesses from SMDC (added to website).
- iv. Emails re loan defibrillator, which is now in place.
- v. Email from resident of Farley to Alton Towers requesting info re litter picks.
- vi. Reply from Karen Bradley MP re ambulance response times.
- vii. Email from SCC re roadworks Red Road, Farley.
- viii. Email from SCC re roadworks Nabb Lane, Alton.
- ix. Local authorities Road Safety email from Cllr Moulton (circulated).
- x. 20 mph zone online presentation (circulated).
- xi. Email to SCC requesting the mobile speed indicator for Alton.
- xii. Speed survey results-Cedar Hill.

The clerk read out the correspondence.



Alton Parish Council

140/23. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £556.43.
- ii. Buxus Green August invoice £689.79 (paid)
- iii. Mazars external audit £252.00 (£210.00 net, VAT £42.00). Paid.
- iv. HMRC £417.30
- v. Interest from bank accounts to 31.8.23, £34.75 income.
- vi. £400 received from Alliance re lengthsmans scheme.
- vii. Authorised payments were agreed and signed off by the council.
- viii. 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 11th October 2023

Signed..... Clerk