



Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillor J. Shepherd (Chair), Councillor P. Ballard, Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. Brindley, Councillor H. Kelsall, Councillor N. Moulton (SMDC), Councillor M. Worthington (SCC).

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk).

No members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor P. Gwinnett (Vice Chair), Councillor N. Conway, Councillor A. Dronzek.

Cllr Shepherd declared the meeting open at 7pm.

130/24. Declarations of Interest.

- i. Cllr Wood declared an interest in the item regarding footpath 39 as it runs through his grounds.

131/24. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th August 2024.

- i. The minutes of the above meeting were 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.

132/24. Matters arising.

- i. The clerk reported that about half the cemetery perimeter footpath has been cleared by the lengthsman. This has not been completed as the lengthsman reported to the clerk he has sprained his wrist doing the work. It will be completed as soon as the injury heals (minute 116/24 v).
- ii. Cllr Moulton reported that costs to move the litter bin in the play area at the village hall have been submitted, there are two options (minute 119/24 i).
- iii. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has delivered the letters to residents in Shirley Drive re preventing hedges growing into Dimble Lane (minute 121/24 ii).
- iv. Cllr Worthington reported he has received an email from the clerk requesting he make arrangements for Cllr Flunder to visit the council. He will follow up with him to make a visit to a council meeting in the near future (minute 121/24 iii). **Action: Cllr Worthington.**
- v. Cllr Shepherd reported he has spoken to the person in charge of works where vehicles are parking on the grass verge on the B5032 by Shirley Drive, obstructing the view for traffic turning out of Shirley Drive. The vehicles will be moved very soon and the grass will be cleared and tidied (minute 121/24 iv).
- vi. The clerk reported that Cllr Dronzek had messaged him to say he will be looking at the planters in the cemetery (minute 122/24 ii). **Action: Cllr Dronzek.**
- vii. Cllr Shepherd has made initial enquiries with JCB estate managers to see if they would be willing to assist with the maintenance costs of the Round House, he reported they are unable to assist (minute 126/24 i). **Action: After the initial assessment of the work required on the Round House, the clerk to write formally to JCB to request assistance.**



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133/24. Alton Towers.

- i. Cllr Kelsall gave a comprehensive report on her recent meeting with officials at Alton Towers. She stated the meeting was very positive with the resort wishing to help the local community where possible. This includes but is not restricted to work at St. Peters School, traffic management at appropriate times in the village, a possible school crossing patrol, school trips and village planters. Early requests are essential for matters like the planters and traffic management. Next month there is a meeting regarding the ‘quiet lanes’ initiative which will be attended by herself and Cllr Shepherd.

134/24. Footpaths.

- i. Cllr Shepherd explained the possible addition of a footpath from footpath 39 Alton to St. Leonards Church, Bradley. Following a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Shepherd will liaise with the clerk to send a letter supporting the addition of the footpath. **Action: Cllr Shepherd and the clerk.**
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that the footpath from New Road to Soli Hostel is overgrown. **Action: The clerk to task the lengthsman.**

135/24. Village Hall.

- i. Cllr Shepherd announced that SMDC have received on behalf of the parish council Section 106 funds relating to the development off Saltersford Lane, Alton. The funds cover two areas; one being Play Space Contribution and the second being Playing Field Contribution. The Section 106 agreement shows that the funds for the play space contribution should be directed towards the “development, maintenance and/or refurbishment including the purchase of new equipment and/or provision of other facilities at the existing playing fields and for the playing field contribution “development, maintenance and/or refurbishment of the existing playing fields. Therefore, both contributions need to be spent on relative works/improvements at the playing field/play area.
Play Space Contribution – £49,905.24
Playing Fields Contribution – £62,273.05
Councillors were requested to send any ideas to the clerk so that a structured discussion can take place at a future meeting. The village hall committee will also be updated by Cllr Ballard and their ideas likewise should be submitted to the clerk for the council to consider. **Action: Agenda item for the next meeting and the clerk to invite Gareth Knapper Senior Strategy & Partnerships Lead, Service Commissioning (Leisure & Parks) SMDC to a future meeting to advise the council on how to manage the funds.**

136/24. Lengthsman.

- i. Cllr Shepherd reported that he has strimmed the footpath by the allotments.

137/24. Highways and Road Safety.

- i. Cllr Wood stated some potholes had been marked for attention by Highways.
- ii. Cllr Wood reported that he has been in touch with Mr Rushton from Highways who has been helpful and visited Battlesteads himself to see the road surface, an inspector from SCC will also assess the road and it should be re-surfaced.



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- iii. Cllr Wood reported that once a couple of potholes have been repaired in New Road the centre lines will be re-painted.
- iv. Both Cllr Shepherd and Cllr Wood reported they have cleared foliage from around the road signs on the B5032 at Battlesteads.

138/24. Parish Cemetery and St. Peter's Church Yard.

- i. The clerk reported that a lady has asked if she can place a memorial bench somewhere in the village in memory of her late husband (not in the cemetery). Cllr Wood suggested that a bench at the playing fields might be suitable. The village hall committee to be consulted. **Action: Cllr Ballard to inform the village hall committee.**

139/24. Planning and Licensing Applications.

- i. None for this meeting.

140/24. Planning decisions.

- i. No planning decisions for this meeting but Planning Appeal – SMD/2024/0109 Appeal against planning refusal was mentioned by Cllr Shepherd who stated that the council have already objected to this application.

141/24. Parish Council Updates.

- i. **Round House-update.** The clerk reported that he has made further inquiries regarding an initial condition report (Quinquennial Survey) and a maintenance plan for the building and has been in correspondence with Adrian Mathias, Managing Director, BHB, Architects who have quoted £495 (+vat) for a Condition report and £220 (+ vat) for a maintenance plan for the building. In view of the fact that the charge for each item is less than £500 net Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Wood seconded these quotes be accepted, this was carried. **Action: The clerk to arrange.**

142/24. Correspondence requiring response.

- i. Email re possible deployment of the defibrillator and reply from the clerk.
- ii. Email to Cllr Worthington requesting he invite Cllr Flunder to a future meeting and reply.
- iii. Email from resident regarding applying for an allotment and reply.

143/24. Correspondence for Information.

- i. Email from Natural England re request for the Churnet Valley to be classed as an area of outstanding beauty (circulated).
- ii. Invite to the chairman of the District Councils curry night (circulated).
- iii. Grants to help arts, culture and heritage thrive email (circulated).
- iv. Emails re rubbish overflowing in a skip in Dimmingsdale. Cllr Moulton reported the skip has now been removed, although there is ongoing work due to some rubbish still at the scene.
- v. Road closure Tythe Barn (circulated).

The clerk read out the correspondence.



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144/24. Finance.

- i. Clerk salary £440.46
- ii. HMRC £880.80 (due October).
- iii. Buxus Green invoice August £689.79 (paid).
- iv. Mazars (external auditor) Invoice. Gross £252.00. Net £210.00 VAT £42.00. (Paid).
- v. Income £82.50 Harold Leese-cemetery.
- vi. Interest income £34.96
- vii. Authorised payments to be signed off by the Council.
- viii. 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 Wood and carried.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by Councillor Shepherd at 7.45pm.

Signed..... Chairman Wednesday 9th October 2024

Signed..... Clerk