

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, July 16, 2015

Present: Steve Hepworth (Chair), Peter Emery, Robert Carpenter Turner, Ben Owen, Alex Oliver. Apologies for absence: Polly Carson, Debby Lester. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway, PC1717 David McCalmont, Community Beat Manager

058/15 **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Peter Emery) and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

059/15 **Police report:** Members welcomed PC McCalmont, newly appointed community police officer. He reported recent thefts from the Workway Drove car park, with car windows smashed. There would be regular police patrols and visitors were warned not to leave valuables in the car. Following the theft of lead from All Saints church on July 6, police had made house to house enquiries and were checking scrap dealers across the county. Members agreed that crime prevention warnings should be displayed on the parish website and in the next newsletter. Steve Hepworth thanked DM for his attendance.

060/15 **Playground fence:** SH reported a positive reaction to the removal of the fence. Everyone he had spoken to said the appearance of the playground was much improved. Other PC members reported similar comments from playground-users and others. One resident welcomed the fact that she could now see children at play from her window.

061/15 **Honestreet sawmill:** Alex Oliver reported on the Pre-application Meeting held on May 28. This had suggested that the best way to proceed might be through a Neighbourhood Development Order. This could cover Honestreet rather than the entire parish. It would allow for discussion of the proposals followed by a local referendum, and a positive vote would open the way for consent. David King, Wiltshire Council Planning Officer, was prepared to meet and advise. But it would require time and effort from the PC. John Dunford, the owner of the site, intervened to say that he was happy with the proposal, which would give the parish more say. After discussion it was agreed that SH and RCT meet David King, along with any other PC members wishing to attend. Charles Reiss (Clerk) to arrange. CR outlined the requirements from Wiltshire Council to carry out a Housing Needs Survey, including tasks for the Parish Council. Proposed Peter Emery, seconded RCT to go ahead with the request for a survey. Agreed unanimously.

In further discussion, members said that in any development they would prefer affordable housing, preferably for those with a tie to the local area, rather than social housing.

- 062/15 Workway Drove car park:** SH reported continuing problems with long term and overnight parking and with litter. Wiltshire Council had still not installed the long-promised signs. Paul Oatway will chase.
- 063/15 War memorial maintenance:** PE reported that soil for the area would cost £59 a bag plus VAT. Two bags would be required. Agreed that dates be arranged for the work to be done.
- 064/15 Honeystreet lighting:** Alex Oliver reported on options to replace the existing sodium lights on Chimney Lane. The LED lights on offer would be more attractive and better for the environment and wildlife. The cost would be between £700 and £1000 for each light. There were several possible sources for grant but the Parish Council would probably have to contribute. Members agreed that the cost was far too high for the parish to contemplate but that it was worth investigating what grant might be available. Agreed that AO investigate grant options, including advice from Paul Oatway.
- 065/15 First aid volunteers:** PE reported that six people had taken part in in very useful training. SH thanked PE for organising and Carol Whittle for carrying out the course. Agreed that the names of those trained be published on the website and in the next newsletter, and that further training be arranged in about a year's time.
- 066/15 Defibrillator:** RCT reported that the defibrillator at the Barge Inn had been installed. There was a ring-fenced £178 in the parish account. Agreed that RCT ask the Barge how much money they have gathered inform them of the available money from the parish, and report back to SH. There were doubts whether the Coronation Hall machine should be inside or outside the building and there needed to be coordination between the pub, the Hall Committee and the Parish Council.
- 067/15 Pewsey Community Area Partnership:** SH reported that the organisation is seeking £100 a year from each parish, since other funding has been withdrawn. A number of other parishes have declined and said they will not attend meetings. The PCAP had managed to self-fund this year. Agreed that there should be no funding at this stage.
- 068/15 Wiltshire Association of Parish Councils membership:** SH reported that membership costs £90.72 a year, providing free advice including legal advice. 80% of parish councils are members. Alton membership had lapsed two years ago with the change of RFO. Since membership

runs from the start of each financial year it was agreed that the parish should rejoin from March next year.

069/15 Parish Council vacancy: Two parish residents, Michael Golden and Richard Heacock, had volunteered to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Kate Fielden. After discussion and by vote Michael Golden was elected. Members voiced their appreciation to both candidates.

Any other business:

070/15 Horse warning signs: SH reported that the warning signs, approved at least nine months ago, are still not in place. Paul Oatway to follow up with Wiltshire Council.

071/15 Theft from All Saints Church: The Churches Conservation Trust has called a meeting for the evening of August 10, with all welcome, to discuss next steps after the theft of lead from the church roof. The estimated damage is £60,000 and the building is not insured nor does the Trust have sufficient funds. AO suggested that New College Oxford, as landowners, might have responsibility under chancel rights. Agreed that details of the meeting be placed on the website.

072/15 St Mary's Church, heritage lottery fund: Michael Balston forwarded a list of community events necessary to secure the next stage of funding. Agreed that the PC can publicise events via the website and newsletter, and cover village events with insurance where appropriate.

073/15 New speed limit: RCT presented a petition to reduce the speed limit through Alton Barnes and over Honeystreet bridge and beyond to 30mph. It had been signed by 80% of Honeystreet residents, and others from the Altons. Proposed RCT, seconded SH to support this request. Agreed unanimously.

074/15 Honeystreet road sign: RCT said there had been a request to correct the road sign which currently reads Honey Street. The sign itself was worn and damaged; local residents might be ready to contribute to the cost of a new one. Agreed that CR pursue, including possible grant.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:49 PM.
