

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30, June 7, 2012

- Present:** Peter Emery (Chair) Ben Owen, Polly Carson, Kate Fielden, Robert Carpenter Turner, Jayne Drew. In attendance: Sharyn Norecliffe (for boaters), Councillor Robert Hall
Apologies: Steve Hepworth, Charles Fletcher, Jenni Frost
- 043/12** **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous two meetings were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Matters arising: none.
- 044/12** **Great Stones Way:** Kate Fielden reported that she and Steve Hepworth had met the consultants and walked the proposed route through the parish. She and SH had pointed out and explained concerns, such as lack of car parking space, and footpath maintenance.
- 045/12** **Playing field – Community Asset Transfer (CAT):** Ben Owen, having declared an interest, left the meeting. In the absence of SH, Charles Reiss (Clerk) reported that solicitors for the pc were in contact with Wilts Council to implement the transfer. An issue had arisen over the northern boundary of the site. Members had examined the plans at the pc meeting on May 10 in the light of a discrepancy, questioned by our solicitor, between the site boundary and the field boundary. They agreed that it was of no significance (item 035/12). However Ben Owen, whose land adjoins the site, subsequently produced evidence to show that the existing fence was incorrectly placed on his land and should be relocated 2.1metres to the south, to coincide with the correct boundary of the site to be transferred from Wiltshire Council. Kate Fielden said that if the fence had been in place for 12 years then as a matter of law that land now belonged to Wilts Council and, once the CAT was complete, to the parish. Peter Emery said that he had spoken to the person who erected the fence and there was no doubt at all that it had been put up in the wrong place. That would be confirmed in writing if required. Polly Carson asked whether the pc required this very small amount of land. It clearly belonged to BO and had only been included on the site by mistake. A dispute, possibly involving further legal costs, would be pointless. Robert Carpenter Turner agreed, provided the change made no practical difference to the playground. The pc should not be greedy. Jayne Drew agreed, but suggested the pc's solicitor should be approached to ensure any correction was made in proper form. Peter Emery said the matter should be formally decided, by resolution, at the next pc meeting. The clerk was asked to check the time expected to complete the CAT.
- 046/12** **Canal issues - update:** CR reported that British Waterways had emailed in the past two days to indicate that the signs for the agreed

“Quiet Zone” on the canal at Honeystreet would shortly be made and put in place. BW had also promised that the agreed improvement to the towpath immediately to the west of the Barge Inn would be carried out, as part of the volunteer programme, by the end of the summer. RCT and others pointed out that the problems had already very much eased since the discussions with boaters. It was important that the improvement be firmed up by getting the signs in place as soon as possible. Sharyn Norcliffe, for boaters, said self-policing had been effective. She suggested that the pc contact boat hire firms to inform them of the situation at Honeystreet and the need for care. The following resolution was proposed by Polly Carson, seconded RCT:

The Parish Council welcomes the useful and positive discussions with the boating community about noise and other canal-related issues at Honeystreet, and the visit by BW to see the problems on the spot. We believe the proposal, agreed by boaters’ representatives, BW and the council, for a signed “Quiet Zone”, coupled with improvement to the towpath immediately west of the Barge Inn, is the best way forward. Provided this materialises, the Parish Council is happy to withdraw the earlier demand for a ban on mooring on the very short stretch of canal at Honeystreet immediately adjacent to dwellings. Agreed unanimously.

047/12 **Planning application:** E/2012/0664/TCA – Reduce size of one yew tree at St Mary’s, Alton Barnes. Members looked at the application and concluded that as long as the work had been approved by a tree surgeon they saw no objection. Wilts Council to be so informed.

048/12 **AOB: Planning applications held by the parish:** Members considered a proposal from Wilts Council for the pc to hold planning applications for inspection by local residents. Members unanimously agreed that in the case of a very small parish like Alton, with no office, this would be totally impracticable. Pewsey library / Pewsey Community Campus might be appropriate. Another option might be to make plans available at the Barge Inn, as the only regularly-open public place in the parish. Wilts Council to be so informed.

049/12 **Planning application:** E/2011/1438/FUL - Monks Hollow, Alton Barnes. This was approved by the pc on 13.11.11 but rejected by Wilts Council and on appeal. Members considered whether any further action was possible. They recalled that the pc had believed the changes proposed were an improvement on the existing structure but decided, with regret, that nothing more could be done.

050/12 **Jubilee band costs:** RCT proposed, PC seconded payment of £250 to the band hired for the village party on June 4. Agreed nem con and

cheque signed. RCT pointed out Steve Husk had kindly donated the remaining £300. Agreed Steve Hepworth to send thanks from the pc.

051/12 White Horse upkeep / playground bench: Peter Emery presented bills for bench repair (£150) and two sprayings of the white horse (total £80). KF proposed, JD seconded. Agreed. Jenni Frost to pay.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.33pm.

* Subject to approval by next pc meeting