

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, September 15, 2016

- Present:** Steve Hepworth (Chair), Peter Emery, Polly Carson, Robert Carpenter Turner, Mike Golden, Debby Lester. In attendance: Councillor Paul Oatway, Nicholas Wordie (architect, Fernbank). Apologies: Ben Owen, Alex Oliver
- 082/16** **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising not on the agenda:
- 083/16** **Defibrillator:** Steve Hepworth reported that the defibrillator had been delivered and was awaiting installation. Exact position to be decided.
- 084/16** **Hedges, St John's Cottage:** As agreed at the previous PC, Ben Owen wrote to the owners asking for the hedge to be cut back. Some work has been done and it is understood that more will be done in November. The Parish Steward has been asked to clear the footpath, at present a danger to users.
- 085/16** **Planning application 16/04718/FUL Fernbank, Honeystreet:** Paul Oatway reported that he had dropped plans to call in the application to the Planning Committee since his fellow-councillors would not support. But he felt the "threat" had encouraged the applicants to make some changes in line with residents' wishes. Nick Wordie, architect, outlined the changes, including reductions in size and height. He stressed that his clients wished to stay on; the application thus constituted a self-build, not a development. Members agreed that the changes had moved in the direction requested by the PC and residents. After further discussion SH proposed that a comment be submitted to Wiltshire Council confirming PC support and thanking those concerned for taking note of the modifications requested. Agreed nem con.
- 073/16** **Highways and transport issues:** Charles Reiss (Clerk) suggested that in order to spread an increasing workload one member of the PC be invited to take responsibility for highways and transport matters. Agreed that Ben Owen be approached to fill that role. Members raised a number of serious outstanding road issues: flooding caused by blocked culvert in front of The Bank, Alton Priors; hedges and trees not cut at the junction of C8 and C38 blocking vision, and streetlight not working; and poor state of the roadside bank in Brown's Lane. SH to draw these to the attention of the Parish Steward. Two other issues raised were repeated flooding and break-up of road surface of the C38 at Honeystreet, just south of Well Cottage; and speed of vehicles on the stretch of the C38 between the canal bridge at Honeystreet and Well Cottage. Agreed that the first of these be taken forward by a site meeting with Wiltshire Highways engineer and the second referred to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG).
- 074/16** **Internet:** SH reported that both he and Ben Owen had written to Claire Perry MP to complain at the appallingly slow and erratic speed of broadband across the parish. No substantive reply had yet been received. PC members, and members of the public speaking with the consent of the chair, gave examples of poor or non-existent customer service and repeated failure by BT to deliver on speeds promised. Paul Oatway offered to take up the matter.
- 075/16** **Parish emails:** Robert Carpenter Turner said work to provide a parish-wide email facility is ongoing.

- 076/16** **Newsletter:** Topics for the Autumn Newsletter were agreed.
- 077/16** **Cheques and invoices:** Cheques to Ben Owen, playing field mowing for year, £565; to Play Safety (RoSPA) £92.40. Other payments: Community Heartbeat Trust – defibrillator - £2,020; use of Speed Indicator (rota) £250.
- 078/16** **Browns Lane light:** CR reported that the contractors had quoted a price of £263.58 to install a new LED light. An email from Jo Bedford confirmed residents were prepared to pay that cost, although billing would probably have to be through the parish council. The work was scheduled to be carried out in October. CR said he had reminded the contractor of the PC decision that the existing sodium light be turned on in the meantime. SH said an attempt to switch on the light had failed. He had emailed to query progress.
- 079/16** **Accidents – Lockeridge-Alton road:** SH reported five accidents in the past 6/7 weeks with vehicles overturned, all on the short stretch of hill descending towards Alton Barnes. The problem appeared to be a combination of road camber and speed, particularly in rain. The speed limit was unrestricted. That should be reviewed, along with warning signs and possible anti-skid surfacing. Agreed the issue be referred to CATG, and a site meeting arranged.
- 080/16** **Priors issues:** SH reported ongoing problems at one property. Derelict vehicles had been removed after a Notice from Wilts Highways. But the front garden was still full of car parts and other debris. Dogs were still fouling nearby gardens. A PC member had called but had been met with abuse and the door slammed in her face. PO said he had made clear to council officers he wanted speedy action. The conduct of those involved was unacceptable and he was prepared to meet the Chief Executive of the landlords, Aster Group, to press for action.
- 081/16** **Barge Inn / Canal noise:** CR reported that the pub tenants had been contacted over the issue of overflow parking. They had responded swiftly but pointed out that the busy season is at an end and they themselves are only holding the tenancy for a year. Members complained strongly at the continued failure of the Canal and River Trust to deal with the serious nuisance of noise from moored boats, and overstaying at moorings. The CRT had failed to appear at community meetings and were sometimes not answering phone calls.
- Any other business:
- 081/16** **New build? – Honeystreet:** RCT questioned what appeared to be footings for a new building in the field near the RAF Memorial. It was pointed out that agricultural building does not need planning consent.
- 082/16** **Planning application 16/07673/FUL The Priory, Alton Barnes:** CR reported that the application had been notified today. It could not be dealt with under AOB but any comment must be made by October 11, before the next PC. Agreed that a site visit be made on September 17 immediately followed by an ad hoc PC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 21.02