

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, March 2, 2017

Present: Steve Hepworth (Chair), Peter Emery, Ben Owen, Robert Carpenter Turner, Debby Lester (RFO), Charles Reiss (Clerk). Apologies: Polly Carson, Mike Golden, Alex Oliver. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway

022/17 Minutes: At the request of a resident to correct an address, a manuscript amendment to item 006/17 (minutes 12.1.17) was agreed and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the most recent meeting, on 19.1.17, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

- 023/17 Street lighting / highways:** Steve Hepworth reported that after a meeting on the site outside White Horse Cottage, Wiltshire Council accepted that the light and the state of the verge are a highways responsibility and would ensure vegetation was cut back. They had also visited and agreed work on ditches and blocked culverts etc in Alton Priors, Browns Lane and Honeystreet.
- 024/17 Waste recycling cuts:** SH reported that the Everleigh centre had been saved for now. Paul Oatway said no recycling centre was to be closed and some would open longer hours. He suggested the issue be left to rest. Members thanked PO for his efforts.
- 025/17 Internet:** The failure to include Alton Priors in the superfast broadband now available to the rest of the parish had been flagged up with John Thompson, lead Wilts councillor on this issue, who would be at the next meeting of Pewsey Area Board. Ben Owen to attend.
- 026/17 Accidents, Lockeridge-Altons road:** It had not proved possible to produce details of the recent series of accidents since police did not record them unless personal injury was involved. PO stressed the importance of keeping a log, with dates and details as evidence to press for action. He had visited the danger point with the council's highways engineer, who was looking at ways to improve safety. Agreed that residents be asked, via the website, to report any further incidents.
- 027/17 Canal bank erosion:** Ben Owen reported severe damage to the bank on both sides of the waterway. Other members confirmed and voiced concern. Agreed that Charles Reiss contact the Canal and River Trust to seek a meeting.
- 028/17 Drainage outside Kate's Cottage:** To be cleared, see 023/17 above.

- 029/17** **TV proposal, The Repair Shop:** In response to an offer from the programme-makers, SH had submitted a proposal for repair of the turnstiles on the path between the two churches in the parish. There had been no reply.
- 030/17** **4 Priory Cottages, update:** The DVLA had undertaken to tow or clamp any unlicensed vehicles parked outside. Currently four cars were still parked. The garden was in a worse state than ever, piled with debris. PO said he would contact the landlords, Aster, and demand action. This was the worst property in the whole of his division.
- 031/17** **Cheques and invoices:** None. £100 donation to Pewsey Community Area Partnership agreed at the previous PC was initialled by SH.
- 032/17** **Roof appeal, All Saints Church:** After discussion it was proposed, Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Steve Hepworth: That the Parish Council offers its full and strong support to this appeal to save a cherished and historic community asset. Agreed unanimously. Members voiced thanks to Maggie Faultless for her efforts in getting the appeal underway.
- 033/17** **Application 17/00374TCA:** Application for tree work at The Old Rectory, Alton Barnes, circulated to pc members by email and accepted with no objections or comment, was noted for the record.
- 034/17** **Application 17/01500TCA:** Tree work at St John's Cottage, Alton Barnes. Members voiced concern at the proposal to fell a sycamore and two conifers. The trees appeared healthy and no threat to buildings nearby. They considered the sycamore an asset to the conservation area. They also noted the apparent lack of any report from a tree surgeon. Members agreed unanimously that these views be submitted to Wiltshire Council along with a request for the Council to send an appropriate officer to inspect.
- 035/17** **Spring Newsletter:** Topics were discussed and agreed.
- 036/17** **Elections – procedure:** CR reminded members of the procedure and deadlines for the parish elections on May 4.
- 037/17** **Clerk's duties – review:** SH reported that, at the request of CR, he, along with Peter Emery and Ben Owen, had reviewed the duties and functions of the Clerk. They had concluded no change was required.

Any other business:

038/17 Sign to St Mary's Church: Members welcomed an offer from a resident to fund a replacement signpost to the church. Details to be arranged with David Carson.

039/17 Statement, Cllr Oatway: Paul Oatway outlined the work he had done for the parish and more widely over the past four years. Steve Hepworth, on behalf of the PC, thanked him for all he had done.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.38pm.