

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, July 13, 2017

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

067/17 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

068/17 Broadband: Steve Hepworth confirmed that the entire parish was in the area marked for Ultrafast broadband. A meeting this autumn would look at build plans before finalisation to try to ensure best outcomes for the whole of the parish. Members said there were still question marks over the position of the fibre cabinet at Honeystreet and efforts must continue to secure a second cabinet in the Altons.

069/17 Wharf site: Alex Oliver reported that following the renewal of planning consent completion of the purchase was expected shortly.

070/17 New farm building, Honeystreet: Members renewed their serious concerns over this very large shed. They pointed out that it breaks the gap which defines the villages and that it is right next to an RAF war memorial and also to a listed building. They noted that it is just within the maximum permitted area and height. The PC Chairman said that enough people had voiced enough concern to justify taking the issue back to Wiltshire Council. After discussion, the following resolution was proposed Ben Owen, seconded Peter Emery:

The Parish Council is seriously concerned at the siting of the new farm building adjacent to Honeystreet and in a sensitive area. It has a disproportionate impact across a wide stretch of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It breaks the gap between Alton Barnes and Honeystreet which defines the two villages. It is next to a listed building and also next to a War Memorial. For these reasons, the parish council urges Wiltshire planning department to look again at this construction, given the exceptional circumstances. Agreed unanimously.

071/17 Parish records: Charles Reiss reported that, having checked the older, paper documents, he did not feel it was worth the secretarial time and expense of transferring them to digital. He noted that the PC minutes only appear to date back to 2003. Agreed.

- 072/17** **C38 Alton Barnes to Newtown - roadworks:** SH reported that options being considered after the recent spate of accidents on the downhill stretch included chevrons or 'slow' markings on the road-surface, 'slow' signs, or an anti-skid surface. Some could involve the parish council with costs. Yet another accident had occurred two weeks ago when a car span out of control. Members pointed out that cyclists and walkers were also at risk and warned "someone is going to be injured." Agreed that the PC should continue to push for action via the Pewsey Community Area Transport Group and the PCA Partnership. Paul Oatway to ask for a meeting on site.
- 073/17** **Highways meeting:** Peter Emery reported that Wiltshire Council will continue to trim verges for the next two years and is piloting new technology to record potholes and other road problems. The Parish Steward system appeared to be working well. BO to get the schedule of gully-cleaning etc from Wilts Council.
- 074/17** **Event signs:** SH reported on the removal by Wilts Council of events signs from the roadside, including as many as seven at the junction between Barnes and Priors. Members acknowledged that the council was doing its job, given that there could be no consent for such signs and some were unsightly and related to events far off. But they also regretted the loss of opportunity to advertise purely local events. They noted that advertising is allowed on private land within size limits and agreed to monitor the situation.
- 075/17** **Planning applications – printed copies:** Members objected strongly to the proposal from Wilts Council to cease sending hard copies of planning applications, leaving them available online only. Many parishes would not have the office space or the facilities to reproduce copies, and viewing online is not sufficient, particularly when an application is complex or contentious. Agreed that Ben Owen write to the council to insist that hard copies should continue to be available if a PC thinks it necessary, and applies.
- 076/17** **World War I memorial trees:** SH had registered PC interest in the project, still at an early stage, to plant trees across Wiltshire or on a single site in memory of the fallen from each area. One option would be four oak trees, either on a field-edge near the white horse or one at each entrance to the villages, but no decision need be taken yet. BO said it was something the parish should do even if there was also a collective Wiltshire site.
- 077/17** **Barge Inn – community asset / noise complaint:** CR noted for the record that members decided, after consultation by email, to support

the nomination to register the pub as a community asset, and that registration has now been approved. Robert Carpenter Turner asked the PC to back up a letter he had written to John Freegard, Public Protection Officer at Wilts Council, voicing concern at renewed noise from the pub well after midnight and with doors and windows open contrary to its licence conditions. Residents in Honeystreet were disappointed that assurances from the new owners regarding noise were not being met. After discussion it was agreed that a PC member should meet the owners to discuss the issue informally and that Ben Owen as PC chair should write to Mr Freegard.

078/17 Finance: Cheque to Manningford PC £220 for use of the speed indicator device approved and signed. Owners of 5 Rectory Close to be invoiced for access license and invited to pay by annual standing order.

079/17 Planning applications: 17/03958/LBC Chandlers House, Alton Barnes; 17/04216/TCA St Mary's Church, Alton Barnes; and 17/04823/106 Newtown Dairy Alton Barnes, circulated to pc members by email and accepted with no objections or comment, noted for the record

Any other business:

080/17 Pewsey Health and Well-being Centre: The contract has now been signed. PO reported that the £8.5 million rebuild of the leisure centre is on course for completion by spring/summer next year. Wilts Council had received an assurance that no flammable materials would be used.

081/17 Alton Priors issues: PE asked about past nuisance from parked vehicles, litter etc. The location concerned was much tidier and the matter could be left for now. PO had told the housing association that the situation was completely unacceptable and enforcement officers had since visited.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.43pm.