

## ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, May 19, 2016

- Present:** Steve Hepworth (Chair), Peter Emery, Ben Owen, Robert Carpenter Turner, Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Polly Carson, Debby Lester. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway
- 050/16** **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising not on the agenda: none.
- 051/16** **Barge Inn:** Steve Hepworth reported a request for the parish council to support an effort to register the pub as a Community Asset in the light of possible changes to the pub and campsite. He had replied to say that the council has no remit to interfere with how a business is run. Members pointed out that registering the pub would change little and would at best delay a change of use. Wiltshire Council would not sanction a change of use in any case.
- SH also reported on a meeting with the pub's owner, Ian McIvor, who had outlined recent developments. These included running the campsite as a separate business and a number of improvements to the campsite and pub. Two new tenants had recently taken over and the Parish Council wished them luck in their venture.
- Members voiced concern at overcrowding in the pub car park and overflow into the roads around, made worse by the fact that it was misused by people who were not customers and were parking long-term. The overflow problem could become more serious if a music event was held. Signs to restrict parking had been put up, but removed without permission.
- 052/16** **Playing field:** Peter Emery reported that the repair to the playground slide was almost complete. A "No dogs" sign had been installed. The removal of the fence did not seem to have created any problems. A "Children playing" sign could be erected if that was felt necessary.
- 053/16** **Browns Lane lighting:** Following a request at the previous PC meeting, Charles Reiss (Clerk) reported on possible alternatives to the existing sodium light in the lane. Various kinds of LED streetlights could be provided by Wiltshire Council. These would be less polluting, could be shielded, and could be set to dim or turn off at appropriate times. The cost including labour would be about £300. SH said that although some nearby residents wanted the light removed, the consensus within the parish council was that it should stay. However it would be welcome to find a better alternative than the sodium. Members pointed out that the PC should not be expected to pay since

that would set a precedent. They asked if Cllr Oatway could look at possible grant. Jo Bedford, present on behalf of the residents of the Lane, suggested that those living nearby might be ready to cover the cost. Agreed that SH look at some of the proposed lights in action and report back to the next PC.

**054/16**      **County Councillor's report / Canal bridge speed limit:** With the consent of the chairman this item was brought forward to allow Paul Oatway to go on to another meeting. PO welcomed the attendance of the public, saying it was good to see so many people supporting the Parish Council. He outlined his work for the parish and the wider community over the past year including grants for a defibrillator and equipment for the hall; continued support for a lower speed limit over the canal bridge and more efficient road repairs elsewhere; numerous planning issues; and the effort to save the Everleigh recycling centre from closure. The centre was now guaranteed to stay open at least until 2017. That year, too, should see the opening of a new £8 million sports centre in Pewsey. SH thanked Cllr Oatway for his work, to applause.

**055/16**      **Chimney Lane - complaint:** SH reported that nine emails and letters had been received concerning the eastern end of the lane. Complaints covered the poor state of the partly-demolished building; the unsightly security fencing; the unauthorised use of the area as a car park; the very large unrepaired pothole; and the state of the wooden barn. Although the PC had no powers in these matters, the concerns would be relayed to the site owners and it was hoped they would take them into consideration. One of the owners intervened to say that a contractor would be dealing with the pothole at the end of the following week. A no parking sign would be put in place and if that was not effective they would look at further action.

**056/16**      **Fernbank planning application:** Three members of the parish council had visited the site, and the architect had provided plans. However CR reported that the application had not yet been registered by Wiltshire Council nor had it appeared on their website. Members agreed that it would be inadvisable for the PC to decide its response until that process was in place and local residents had time to consider the application. They further agreed to call a special meeting specifically to deal with the application once registered. A provisional date was set for Monday, June 6 at 7:30 PM, to be confirmed on the village notice boards and parish website.

**057/16**      **Planning and sawmill site - meeting with consultant:** Alex Oliver reported that the meeting had concluded that the Neighbourhood Development Order begun for the site but then abandoned had probably never been appropriate. A Neighbourhood Development Plan

would have greater authority but would probably be a two-year effort with many hundreds of hours of work, beyond the PCs manpower or resources. SH confirmed that the site developers have withdrawn.

- 058/16 Chandlers House – Orangery:** SH reported that while the parish council had approved this application there had been objections from the Listed Buildings officer. Paul Oatway thought the plans were fine and was ready to call in the application to Wilts Planning Committee. AO declared an interest, having given professional though unpaid advice to the property owner. He pointed out that the Planning Committee could not overrule a Listed Buildings officer.
- 059/16 Highways meeting** Members welcomed the report from Ben Owen that the post of Parish Steward is to be reinstated. They were less happy with the news that roadside verges will in future be cut only once a year, except at junctions. Residents were encouraged to use the MyWilts app or the Wilts website to report any problems. Peter Emery highlighted the £1.2 million cost of collecting roadside rubbish. Members suggested a parish litter pick might be organised. SH thanked Ben Owen and Peter Emery for attending the meeting.
- 060/16 RAF building:** PE reported that the buildings, on the site of the wartime airfield, are not listed. David Carson would look into that and keep the PC informed.
- 061/16 Internet:** BO reported that the much-promised high-speed Internet was available to only a few parts of the parish. For many it was still below the government minimum. Wiltshire Council had accepted this was not adequate and were investigating. Members pointed out that the local MP, Clare Perry, had shown interest and concern. Proposed Ben Owen, seconded Steve Hepworth that the parish council write to Ms Perry to raise the matter. Agreed. Members also encouraged residents to write to her direct.
- 062/16 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils:** Annual subscription confirmed and paid.

Any other business:

- 063/16 Google groups:** Robert Carpenter Turner suggested this could be an option for delivering a single email to the whole parish. Agreed RCT to pursue and report back.
- 064/16 Brown's Lane -access:** Members voiced concern at the overgrown state of the lane, and the state of the hedge and road surface. After

discussion it was agreed the farm should have access for any necessary work, although wiring would be a matter for the electricity board.

**065/16 Payments:** Cheques were authorised and signed to J Slater, planning consultant, £363.70; Community First insurance £648.89; Wicksteed Leisure, playground £93.92; WALC £91.72; SH printing costs £19.90; BO dog warning sign £21.10.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.39pm.