

# ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.22 pm, May 10, 2018

**Present:** Ben Owen (Chair), Polly Carson, Steve Hepworth, Robert Carpenter Turner, Mike Golden, Alex Oliver, Debby Lester (Treasurer), Charles Reiss (Clerk). Apologies: none. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway

**037/18 Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

**038/18 Planning consent, W. Stowell farm:** Ben Owen had conveyed doubts over the procedure to Cllr Oatway. On the agenda for the next PC.

**039/18 Footpath issue:** A complaint concerning the footpath south of the Barge Inn was not a matter for the Parish Council but had been reported via the MyWiltshire app. Wiltshire Highways to check.

**040/18 New Parish Council member:** The vacancy created by the resignation of Peter Emery had been advertised, with no request for an election, leaving the PC to co-opt. A number of individuals had been approached and Richard Heacock, a parish resident for the past seven years, was ready to join. Members welcomed his application (while hoping that in future female candidates would also apply). Ben Owen proposed Richard Heacock be co-opted, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner. Agreed unanimously.

**041/18 Local Green Space:** Members stressed the importance of preserving certain areas in the parish as open spaces, in particular the stretch separating Honeystreet from Alton Barnes; and the area around Tawsmead barn. It had been suggested they be designated under a Community Open Space Order. Agreed Alex Oliver and Ben Owen investigate and report back to the next PC, while Paul Oatway approaches Wiltshire Council.

**042/18 Data Protection:** Members again voiced concern at the complexity of the proposed new rules and the needless burden they threaten to impose on very small local authorities and their volunteer members and officers. They noted that key details in regard to small parish councils had yet to be settled. Mike Golden offered to oversee the situation going forward. Agreed with thanks.

**043/18 Speed detector:** The £220 cost of this year's contribution to the Speed Indicator Device was questioned, noting that the fund currently holds some £1,900, although repairs or new batteries could prove expensive. There were also questions over VAT and that no invoice had been received. Proposed Ben Owen, seconded Steve Hepworth that this year's funding be paid but that the concerns should be raised. Agreed.

- 044/18 Springs fund:** BO reported that a regular maintenance plan had been agreed, costs to be drawn from the fund. He reiterated that the PC is acting as fund-holder only.
- 045/18 Finance:** Cheques approved and signed: to Community First (playground insurance) £629.44, Wiltshire Association of Local Councils annual membership £99.65. Agreed Mike Golden be added as an authorised signatory in the place of Peter Emery.
- 046/18 Annual Governance Statement:** Debby Lester (RFO) reported that the annual audit had been completed, and checked independently by Arthur Johnson. As required, she put a series of questions regarding the audit to PC members. Each was answered satisfactorily. Having been approved by the Parish Council as a body, the audit was signed by the Chairman and by the Clerk.
- 047/18 Accounting Statement:** The Accounting Statement was presented by Debby Lester and signed by her as RFO and by the Chairman.
- 048/18 Barge Inn Co-operative – contact:** Members welcomed Robert Carpenter Turner’s agreement to act as main contact between the PC and the boating community. After discussion, resolution proposed Polly Carson, seconded Alex Oliver:  
Following the welcome proposal from the Barge Cooperative for closer links with the local community, it is proposed Robert Carpenter Turner is designated as the main point of contact from the Parish Council to provide a clear line of communication and maintain good relations over canal-related matters. As decided by the Parish Council on March 8 (minute 107/18) this is on the clear understanding that, apart from providing publicity where appropriate, neither the PC, nor RCT acting on their behalf, can play any part in bidding for or seeking ownership of the pub. Agreed unanimously.
- 049/18 Visitor noticeboards:** Charles Reiss reported Pewsey Heritage had agreed to a rewrite of the upper board at Knapp Hill car park. Members agreed he should draft the wording; also that the Hall Committee be informed of the intention to site the lower board outside the Coronation Hall.
- 050/18 Emergency coordinator:** Confirmed SH remains parish emergency coordinator, while Peter Emery continues as flood warden. Agreed that SH pursue the offer from Wilts Council for supplies of grit and salt in the event of snow, and investigate storage options.
- 051/18 Honeystreet Village Design Statement:** Members agreed CR should write to Wilts Head of Planning to seek advice for the much-needed update of the VDS. They also agreed strongly that the Altons and Honeystreet should each maintain a separate VDS.

Any other business

**052/18 Unauthorised roadside ads:** Members again voiced concern at large signs placed without permission at the Barnes/Priors crossroads. Wiltshire Highways should be notified through the MyWiltshire app.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.51pm.