

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, September 14, 2017

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

090/17 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising: none

091/17 World War I tree memorial: David Carson had generously offered a memorial area in Alton Barnes with space for 4-6 trees. It was suggested beech might be the best option. Agreed that Steve Hepworth complete the necessary forms to take this forward.

092/17 Finance: Debby Lester presented cheques to Ben Owen, grass cutting, £565; Play Safety, playground inspection, £92.40; Robert Carpenter Turner, parish website domain name (two years) £11.99.

093/17 Springs Fund, Alton Priors: BO reported a request for the Parish Council to take custody of donations for the upkeep of the springs. It is understood that £500 has been received but that has yet to be confirmed. Debby Lester, as Responsible Financial Officer, said she would be happy to do so. Members stressed the PC should act as fund-holder only, with no further commitment or responsibility. The following resolution was proposed BO, seconded RCT:

The Parish Council agrees to a request to take custody of the money donated for the upkeep of the springs at Alton Priors, on the understanding that it is acting as fund-holder only with no further liability or responsibility. Agreed unanimously.

094/17 Honeystreet barn: BO reported that Wiltshire planning had been in contact with the landowner to raise concern that the roof of the new building does not comply with the original application.

095/17 Honeystreet footpath: Residents had voiced concern over the footpath by the Barge Inn, with two stiles in very poor repair and covered with barbed wire. Members stressed the right of way should be kept clear. Agreed Robert Carpenter Turner raise the issue with the landowner.

096/17 Highway issues, Alton Priors: There had been renewed complaints over car maintenance work on a layby on the road. There were also doubts as to whether the vehicles were legally MOT'd and insured. This was a recurring problem which had been tackled, including visits

by the landlords, Wilts Council and the DVLA, but with only temporary success. Agreed Ben Owen discuss further action with Cllr Oatway, and clarify the status of the vehicles with the DVLA.

097/17 **C38 (Lockeridge-Altons) accidents:** To be raised at the next meeting of the Pewsey Area Board transport group.

098/17 **Trees, Rectory Close:** The ownership of, and responsibility for, a group of sycamores bordering the road has been disputed. Ben Owen offered to make a Land Registry check online. Agreed that if Aster Group were shown to be owners then BO to pursue with them, and also reclaim from them the £14 Land Registry cost.

099/17 **Meetings – Wiltshire Challenges / Ridgeway Forum:** BO offered to attend both meetings and report back.

100/17 **Broadband update:** SH is in continued touch with BT over improved service, possibly in partnership with local residents. They had acknowledged that Alton Priors should have its own fibre box. An attempt was underway for parish councils to organise together to tackle anomalies in Openreach coverage. He would attend a meeting with Claire Perry MP later in the month.

101/17 **Archives update:** Charles Reiss holds PC minutes back to 2003. Earlier material is with the Wilts County Archive in Chippenham: Minutes 1894-1922 and 1946-47, ref 2968/1; Minutes 1967-84, ref 2968/2; Minutes 1984-91, ref 2968/3; General correspondence 1949-67, ref 2968/6. Asked about the two apparently missing files 2968/4 and /5, the archivist said she believed those were "held in reserve" for minutes 1992-2002, never delivered. Agreed Peter Emery to check if they are among the papers of the late Joyce Major, Clerk at that time.

102/17 **Honeystreet – bonfires:** There had been complaints about bonfires at a property on the south side of the canal. Agreed that the next PC newsletter should include an appeal to avoid unnecessary nuisance.

Any other business:

103/17 **Barge Inn / Honeystreet café:** No complaints about the pub had been received for the past two months. Members unanimously voiced regret that the cafe is to close, losing a great asset for the parish.

104/17 **Refuse/recycling collection:** PO assured members that though the system will come under new management next summer, black bin collections will remain unchanged.

- 105/17 All Saints:** CR reported that Maggie Faultless is now the named person responsible for the church on behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust. Polly Carson the link for alarm calls.
- 106/17 Biomass unit:** PO to check whether the unit under construction at Honeystreet woodyard raises planning, noise or pollution issues.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.37pm.