

# ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, March 7, 2019

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

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising:

- 011/19 Canalside war memorial:** Richard Heacock reported that he had restored the memorial of the RAF bomber crash in World War II. However two stiles giving access were both in need of attention. Members also pointed out that the former RAF bunker alongside Honeystreet is currently fenced off and inaccessible. Agreed Ben Owen to pursue both matters. Members thanked RH for a superb job.
- 012/19 White Horse maintenance / grant:** Steve Hepworth reported that the cost of re-chalking the White Horse, although not due for the next three to four years, is likely to be about £25,000. Members felt strongly that it was not reasonable or practical for the parish to bear this recurring expense. Options for grant included New College, Oxford, as the landowners, Wiltshire Council, Historic England, and the National Lottery. Agreed BO investigate the Lottery, Historic England and New College (via David Carson). Paul Oatway to pursue with Wiltshire.
- 013/19 Playground repairs:** Alex Oliver produced a list of local contractors. Members agreed three from whom he should request quotes.
- 014/19 Planning Application 19/01247/FUL:** Summerdown House, Honeystreet. AO having declared an interest commented that in his view the application was harmless. He then left the meeting. Members felt given the building was relatively new there was no objection. Agreed to support.
- 015/19 Neighbourhood Plan, co-option etc:** Members while supporting the objectives voiced concern over the workload. Agreed that AO investigate recruiting extra personnel and report back, with appeals on the website and Newsletter for volunteers.

**016/19 Barge Inn litter:** BO Confirmed that the Canal and River Trust is no longer taking responsibility. With the pub now sold it was hoped the new owner will deal with the issue.

**017/19 World War I commemoration trees:** Having established the cost, members agreed that a brass plate be attached to each of the four oaks, each one bearing the name of one of the four servicemen from the parish who died, with dates of birth and death. It was agreed that no direction signs were needed. BO to arrange.

**018/19 Newsletter:** Topics for the Spring Newsletter were discussed and agreed.

Any other business:

**019/19 Coronation Hall wi-fi:** Robert Carpenter Turner reported that the Hall committee had applied to install wi-fi but would welcome assistance to establish the most economic costing. SH and RCT to investigate.

**020/19 Boat-refitting on the canal:** There were complaints that a few barges were continuing to use the canal as "a boatyard" for long-term refitting. Members agreed that this was unacceptable under the CRT's own rules but the difficulty was over enforcement.

**021/19 Chandlers House, Browns Lane:** BO, for information, reported continued complaints from a resident concerning the site. He had spoken again to the architects who had reaffirmed that the access was temporary and that they and the owner were keen to complete the works as soon as possible. Members, while appreciating the disturbance caused, felt that these were not planning matters (which the Parish Council had already dealt with); that the PC had little or no power on this issue and generally should take care not to become involved in a neighbour dispute.

**022/19 PC Chair:** Ben Owen informed members that as he was moving away he would be standing down as Chair at the Annual Meeting in May, and as a member of the PC. He was leaving with regret after his ten years of membership, a really good experience. Members thanked him warmly for all he had done.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

