

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, November 9, 2017

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

107/17 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

108/17 Finance: Debby Lester presented a cheque for Mike Golden, Newsletter printing, £22.50. Ben Owen said members should be aware the next meeting, in January, would need to consider the precept. DL to circulate a note.

109/17 17/09659/FUL and 17/10361/LBC, Barge Inn barn development: The Chair invited members of the public present to comment or ask questions. Some ten individuals spoke, all in opposition to the application. BO thanked them for their input. He then opened the PC discussion during which all members voiced objections to the proposal.

The main concern was the loss to the community of the existing exhibitions/gallery space. Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy says change of use should be permitted only as a last resort and only after a detailed marketing plan, which in this case had not been carried out. Other concerns raised included parking and vehicle access problems (including emergency services); loss of access to a defibrillator; breach of a historic right of way; and a threat to the viability of the pub. Cllr Oatway, intervening, said his role was to see the Parish Council acted proportionately. Having heard the debate, he would support the objections. The following resolution was proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Ben Owen:

Alton Parish Council strongly opposes this application on the grounds that it breaches policies 40 and 49 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and chapter 3 of the National Policy Planning Framework; and because it would sacrifice the existing gallery and exhibition space which is a significant asset to the community and to the wider area. Carried unanimously.

The question of ownership of the Barge and its premises was also raised. BO to investigate.

110/17 Tree work, Neates farm: 17/10546/TCA, 17/10542/TCA agreed, no objections no comment.

- 111/17 Sheep unit W. Stowell / Honeystreet barn:** Members voiced dismay at the approval granted for conversion of the farm unit to a dwelling, despite strong opposition from both Parish Councils involved and from the CPRE. There was particular concern over the highly unusual decision to keep one of the key documents in the application – concerning the viability of alternative uses for the building – confidential. Agreed that the PC should prepare a request for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. BO to pursue.
- 112/17 Honeystreet barn:** Members voiced continued concern and questioned whether a new planning application would need to be submitted, one factor being an alleged failure to submit a 28-day notice.
- 113/17 Everleigh recycling centre:** BO reported that recycling at the site is being reduced and it would be necessary to stay on the case to keep the centre open. PO noted that other sites were being refurbished. At Everleigh a drainage pollution issue was claimed. The question was whether the site would be refurbished once that issue was resolved.
- 114/17 Springs fund, Alton Priors:** Debby Lester reported that £500 will shortly be deposited with the Parish Council, for safekeeping only.
- 115/17 Wiltshire challenges meeting:** BO, who attended, said it was a warning that if the parish wanted continued services it would have to pay more. That must be borne in mind when setting the precept. PO said that future projects such as verge cutting on minor roads would require a 10% contribution.
- 116/17 St Mary's cemetery maintenance appeal:** While dismayed by the recent vandalism at the church, members unanimously agreed that it would not be appropriate to provide public money for this purpose. They urged the Parochial Church Council to pursue a public appeal, on the lines which had successfully raised funds for work at St Mary's and at All Saints. The PC would be very ready to publicise that.
- 117/17 Trees, Rectory Close:** BO reported that the issue of ownership was still unresolved. He was waiting for a response from the Land Registry.
- 118/17 Pewsey Community Area Partnership, update:** Bus service cuts were explained, with a claim that the train-bus link cost £36 per passenger. The World War I memorial tree planting was going ahead. Local sites were discussed, for decision at the next meeting.
- 119/17 Village Design Statements:** These should be updated every 10 years. Agreed Alex Oliver and Charles Reiss review the 2006 Honeystreet VDS.

120/17 **Newsletter:** CR reported, for the record, that the autumn Newsletter had been produced and distributed.

Any other business:

121/17 **Canal and Rivers Trust meeting:** RCT reported that he, AO and CR had held a constructive meeting with Mark Evans, the Manager of the K&A Canal. It had been useful to make contact.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.55pm.