

## ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, October 17, 2019

**Present:** Steve Hepworth (Chair), Polly Carson, Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Carol Whittle, Debby Lester (Treasurer), Charles Reiss (Clerk). In attendance: Councillor Paul Oatway. Apologies: Robert Carpenter Turner.

The minutes of the previous meeting were held over to the next scheduled meeting.

**076/19 Finance:** A cheque for £94.80 to Playsafety Ltd for the annual safety inspection of the playground equipment was approved and signed.

**077/19 Planning application 19/08796/LBC. Barge Inn, Honeystreet:** The owner, Mr Alistair Sinclair, at the invitation of the Chair outlined his plans to create holiday and staff accommodation on the upper floors of the pub and the barn next door, plus additional public space in the barn. Members broadly voiced support for the proposal with some specific concerns. The main worry was the threat of overflow parking particularly when large events are staged. Other issues were: the misuse of the pub car park for long-stay parking; the need to preserve the historic winding gear on the pub upper floor; and the hope that original artwork in the bar area would be preserved even if covered up. Mr Sinclair said that additional parking space would be provided on the campsite if required. There was no question of removing the winding gear, and the artwork would be secure. Proposed Steve Hepworth seconded Michael Golden that, with those provisos, the proposal be supported. Agreed unanimously.

**078/19 Application 19/06465/FUL Fernbank, Honeystreet:** Members yet again (see minute 064/19 etc etc) voiced very strong and unanimous opposition to the boundary proposals repeatedly brought forward by the applicant. The two metre high fence, a flagrant breach of the original consent, had been reduced in length but was still an unnecessary eyesore in direct conflict with the open character of the village. The boundary was set so close to the narrow lane that it constituted a serious traffic hazard. The applicants, having briefly proposed a hardstanding for vehicle parking at the most environmentally sensitive, western end of the site, now proposed instead a grass area bounded by posts three metres apart joined by a rope or chain. It was "blindingly obvious" that this was a device to allow parking on the same spot. The original approved proposal for a low picket fence all along the boundary would safeguard the only green space at the centre of the village. It should be adhered to. The applicant had treated the community, the Parish Council and the County Council with "utter contempt."

Cllr Oatway said the PC had his 100% support. He was fully ready to bring the application before the Planning Committee if necessary. He suggested it might be useful to arrange a mediation meeting between the Parish Council and the architect and it was agreed that the Chair should make an approach.

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Proposed Polly Carson, seconded Carol Whittle: That the Parish Council oppose the application with comment to reflect the views of members. Agreed unanimously. Members thanked Councillor Oatway for his support.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:14 PM