

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30, September 12, 2013

Present: Steve Hepworth, Peter Emery, Kate Fielden, Ben Owen, Jayne Drew, Robert Carpenter Turner, Polly Carson
Apologies: Jenni Bickerdyke, PC Richard Barratt. In attendance: Councillor Paul Oatway

068/13 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (proposed Polly Carson, seconded Jane Drew) and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

069/13 Roads: Following concerns raised at the previous meeting (057/13) Steve Hepworth reported that the largest potholes had been filled in. He looked forward to seeing the rest repaired but noted there is a backlog.

070/13 Speed limits: SH reported that a review is taking place of speed limits on the Lockeridge-Woodborough road (C38). It proposes no change for the section which runs through the parish. A recent check, using test strips on the road just north of the Honeystreet canal bridge, indicated a mean speed of 24.6mph. Pc members, noting the considerable cost that would be involved, agreed no change is needed. However it was agreed SH should inquire about the cost of installing rumble strips on the approach to Alton Barnes from Lockeridge.

071/13 Road signs: The pc had been invited to identify any cases of “clutter” from overuse of road signs. Members agreed that any problem locally is caused by roadside advertisements, not road signs. Robert Carpenter Turner said that it would be good if the Honeystreet sign could be replaced, with the name correctly spelled as one word not two.

072/13 Workway Drove car park: SH reaffirmed the need for a byelaw to stop the car park being misused as a long-stay campsite. Paul Oatway said he had inquired at County Hall with no response yet. There might be cost problems but otherwise he could see no reason why there should not be a byelaw of the kind already in force elsewhere, and he would pursue. SH warned that New College, as owners of the land, had threatened to shut down the site by removing the hard standing and replacing it with topsoil. The cost would be borne by Wilts Council, which has an agreement to maintain the site. The loss of the car park – the only one in the area – would be a serious inconvenience for walkers and other visitors and would mean lines of cars on the road verges, a serious safety hazard. At present to move overstayers on first required a “social impact assessment” and then a court order. But a byelaw could be enforced by the police.

- 073/13** **Proposed burial site – All Cannings:** After brief discussion, the pc agreed no action is required.
- 074/13** **Connect 2 Bus service:** Kate Fielden reported that the contract is due for re-tender next year and the company is looking for savings. However no change in routes is currently planned. There will be consultation and the pc will need to keep an eye on the situation.
- 075/13** **Woodborough Garden Centre ads:** SH reported that he had contacted the garden centre owner, who said that she had not sought planning permission but that the advertisement, at the Alton Priors/Barnes road junction, would be removed in the autumn. After discussion it was agreed that SH ask the garden centre to abandon roadside ads and seek to install standard brown tourist road signs instead. Members voiced concern over roadside ads in general and agreed to monitor the situation.
- 076/13** **Quiet Zone update:** SH reported that a missing sign had been replaced by the Canal and River Trust (CRT) but had since been removed. However members agreed that noise problems had definitely eased this summer and the Quiet Zone, though voluntary, had made a difference. Agreed that SH ask the CRT about making the signs more secure.
- 077/13** **Fertiliser tanks update** (see 061/13): Paul Oatway said that he had made his objections plain to Wilts planning. He hoped to ascertain the officers' view by September 18. If they were minded to approve he would call in the application to the planning committee.

Planning applications:

078/13 13/03451/FUL: Land to the rear of 1 and 2 Old Smithy Cottage Alton Priors, new two bedroom dwelling. Kate Fielden, having declared an interest as the applicant, circulated plans and explained the details of her proposal. She then left the meeting.

In discussion, members stressed the need to increase the housing stock within the Pewsey Vale and the particular need for properties specifically designed, as in this case, to accommodate the elderly. They judged that visual intrusion was being kept to a minimum. They considered whether the proposal, if approved, would set a precedent but firmly believed that each case would be, and should be, decided on its merits. Resolution proposed Steve Hepworth, seconded Jayne Drew: That the Parish Council supports the application for the reasons discussed, those reasons to be conveyed to Wiltshire Council. Agreed nem con.

079/13: 13/01344/FUL: 1 The Bank, Insertion of Velux window on rear roof slope, circulated and discussed by pc members by email and accepted with no objections or comment, was noted for the record.

080/13: 13/01201/LBC: The Mill House, Honeystreet, installation of satellite dish, circulated and discussed by pc members by email and accepted with no objections or comment, was noted for the record.

081/13 **Autumn newsletter:** Members discussed and agreed contents.

Any other business

082/13 **Street light, Browns Lane:** The light having been turned off at residents' request for the past year, a request had now been made for the lamp post to be removed. Members pointed out that the post would cost money to remove and much more if there was ever a need to reinstate it. It was also possible that at some point future residents might want the light back on.

083/13 **New planning application:** 13/04045/TCA, 1 The Granary Alton Priors, fell one Silver Birch tree. Charles Reiss (Clerk) said the application had been notified too late to place on tonight's agenda. He suggested it be dealt with initially by email in the usual way, with a special meeting called in the event of any objection. Steve Hepworth, as applicant, had declared an interest and would be excluded from the email process. Agreed

084/13 **Defibrillator:** Robert Carpenter Turner said a suggestion had been made to install a defibrillator in the parish. Paul Oatway said a machine would require a mains supply and cost £2,500, but Pewsey Area Board would contribute £500. However there was evidence that it was more cost effective to train people in first aid. Agreed to place the issue on the agenda for the next pc.

085/13 **Chimney Lane:** RCT pointed out that the lane is in a very bad state, and deteriorating. Agreed that he and CR draft an email from the Parish Council to the owners: the Neil family (east end) and the CRT (west end).

086/13 **AONB Management Plan Draft Consultation 2014-2019:** KF agreed to look at this and to highlight any concerns.

087/13 **Parish Council role / grant applications:** Cllr Oatway said that, amid budget reductions by Wilts, there will be a greater expectation that parishes manage their own business where they can. Pcs might wish to consider the size of their precept and the uses to which it might be put. For example, one parish employed a local resident at £50 a month to do a number of jobs; another bought grit supplies for the winter. He stressed there was very considerable scope for grant awards from the Pewsey Area Board and

from N. Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Role and grant issues on the agenda for next pc (December 5).

088/13 **Payments:** £565 cheque to Ben Owen for grass cutting. Peter Emery proposed, SH seconded. Agreed.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.01pm.
