

# ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, September 24th , 2015

**Present:** Steve Hepworth (Chair), Peter Emery, Robert Carpenter Turner, Polly Carson, Ben Owen, Alex Oliver, Apologies for absence: Debby Lester, Charles Reiss, Cllr Paul Oatway. In attendance: PC1717 David McCalmont, Community Beat Manager

**084/15** **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda: None

**085/15** **Police report:** PC McCalmont reported recent thefts from Knapp Hill and Milk Hill area with car windows smashed. These are opportunist crimes with electronic items such as phones, ipads etc being targeted and happen mainly during daylight. The police conduct surveillance and every effort has been made to educate and inform but these crimes are hard to prevent (there was police surveillance at West Kennet Long Barrow recently for five hours and five minutes after the police left, a break-in occurred).

There has been a spate of hare coursing and poaching in Alton Barnes and Stanton recently and villagers are encouraged to report any suspicious behaviour. Most crime figures for the area, including burglaries and vehicle crimes, have seen a drop in the past year though the figures for violence and antisocial behaviour have risen.

PC McCalmont offered to join the Neighbourhood Speed Team as he has the authority to issue speeding tickets. Steve Hepworth thanked DM for his attendance.

**086/15** **Lorry restrictions:** SH reported complaints from Lockeridge and Fyfield residents regarding the size, weight and numbers of lorries through the villages. Other villages are being asked if they are in favour of a weight restriction on the Alton to Lockeridge road. Members were in favour of this in principle but SH to find out more details.

**087/15** **Honestreet sawmill:** The composition of the PC members for the Neighbourhood Development Order Steering Group was discussed and finalised. It was decided that it should consist of two PC members from Honestreet, one each from Alton Barnes and Alton Priors, and the Clerk.

The Steering Group voting members will therefore be Alex Oliver, Robert Carpenter Turner, Steve Hepworth, Ben Owen and Charles Reiss.

AO informed members of a recent meeting of Honeystreet residents. The main concern is that the future of Honeystreet sawmill could be decided by villagers in Alton Barnes and Alton Priors, rather than Honeystreet residents, if a referendum is conducted in all three villages (29 houses in Honeystreet as opposed to over 80 in Barnes and Priors together). A letter has been received by the PC, signed by almost all Honeystreet residents, requesting that the referendum be held only in Honeystreet. AO also informed members that he had been informed by a senior planning officer from Wiltshire Council that the PC has the authority to define the boundaries of the neighbourhood affected by the Neighbourhood Development Order. BO expressed concern that as there are few young people in Honeystreet, it is possible that affordable housing would not be considered a priority. SH considered that as the steering group is representative of all the villages, that would be a safeguard. After discussion, there was unanimous agreement that Honeystreet residents would have the vote in any referendum that occurs. It was asked that the PC's thanks to the residents of Honeystreet for clearly expressing their concerns was minuted. SH to contact Wilts Council formally to inform them that the PC will go ahead with the NDO and supply a map/plan of the site.

- 088/15**      **Housing Needs Survey:** These have now been delivered to all three villages and include a pre-paid envelope to return them to Wiltshire Council.
- 089/15**      **Horse Warning Signs:** Councillor Oatway still has this on his to-do list and will chase Wiltshire Council regarding these.
- 090/15**      **Newsletter:** Items to be included in the newsletter were agreed to be: List of local first aiders and siting of defibrillator; All Saints Church roof update; Crime advice - outbuildings/parked cars; Sawmill NDO update. Housing Needs Survey; Honeystreet 30mph speed limit petition; How to report local road etc maintenance problems.

Any other business:

- 091/15**      **Village gates:** Debby Lester advised that her husband and herself offer to pay for gates at the entrance to Alton Barnes from the Lockeridge

direction. It was unanimously agreed to accept this kind offer and SH will seek permission from Wiltshire Highways.

- 092/15**      **Everleigh recycling centre:** The Parish Council will write to Wiltshire Council opposing the proposed closure of Everleigh recycling centre and the closure of Devizes recycling centre on Thursdays and Fridays.
- 093/15**      **Planning application 15/09020/FUL:** Electric horse walker at White Horse Livery. A site visit to fully consider this application was felt to be necessary. MG to arrange.
- 094/15**      **Local highways maintenance/landscaping:** SH reported that local stewards from Wiltshire Council are to return after Balfour Beatty lost the contract. Problems can be reported via the mywiltshire app or on Wilts Council website - details to go on newsletter.
- 095/15**      **Banquet chairs:** A request has been received from Maggie Faultless for storage for a large number of banquet chairs recently acquired for use in village events. However, the PC could not offer any storage room.
- 096/15**      **Robert Pile Trust:** Following the resignation of Jenni Bickerdyke, BO has been elected as the PC representative trustee on the Robert Pile Trust committee.
- 097/15**      **Post collection:** RCT reported that post from the post box in Honeystreet is now only to be collected at 9am in the morning as opposed to 4pm previously. This was considered inconvenient and RCT to write to the Post Office.
- 098/15**      **Claudia Calam:** The PC would like to acknowledge the sad passing of Claudia, a previous PC member, and memories were shared of all her many contributions to village life and local events over the years. A memorial service is to be held in Pewsey at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:50 PM.

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