

## ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30, January 29, 2015

**Present:** Steve Hepworth, Peter Emery, Ben Owen, Kate Fielden, Robert Carpenter Turner, Alex Oliver. Apologies: Polly Carson, Debby Lester. In attendance: John Dunford, Jonathan Young (Wooley & Wallis), Isabel Allen (Design Director, HAB), Tom Griffiths (Housing Development Manager), Catherine Haigh (Landscape Architect), Charles Holland (Architect, Ordinary Architecture Ltd),

**013/15 Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (proposed Peter Emery, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner) and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

**014/15 Workway Drove car park:** Steve Hepworth reported that David Carson is happy with the warning signs as drafted (previous minutes 002/15) but requested that the old signposts be removed. Agreed that SH contact Wiltshire Council to have the signs made and installed as agreed. Members pointed out that white signs are visible in the landscape from a very great distance and requested that the new signs be on a dark, matt background.

**015/15 Honeystreet sawmill:** SH welcomed Jonathan Young of Woolley & Wallis and representatives from HAB (Happiness Architecture Beauty) Housing Ltd and invited them to speak. Mr Young and Ms Allen outlined their approach to the sawmill site and to development in general. They stressed that they had paid close attention to the Honeystreet Village Design Statement and that they were committed, in the words of Ms Allen, to projects that were "social, ecological, sustainable, beautiful, delightful and profitable." They also stressed that John Dunford, as owner of the site and a long-standing Honeystreet resident, is keenly committed to maintaining the character and historic heritage of the village. Ms Allen said that the project would probably need "11 to 12 decent, market-value houses to be commercially viable." The required 40% of affordable housing might be better-provided off-site. In answer to questions, Ms Allen said that the aim was to proceed to a planning application in six months with the target date for completion pencilled in for 2017-18.

In discussion, the following points were raised by one or more pc members:

A wish to see more employment opportunities in the parish, while noting that on this site these would be through studio/office accommodation rather than light industrial

A need for market-value but reasonably priced housing for the elderly  
Concern that any new development should be respectful of the existing buildings “not to try to outshine the gem that is already there” also noting that Honeystreet is currently seeking conservation area status

Concern that schemes which looked good on the drawing board could be compromised by the use of cheap, shoddy materials in the buildings as delivered

A welcome in principle for the idea mooted by HAB to make the canal frontage a public open space

A welcome for the proposal, favoured by Mr Dunford, to reinstate the clock tower which originally stood on the north bank of the canal

A belief that the options for this development would be improved if the affordable housing element were off-site

There was full agreement over the need to consult the parish, and Honeystreet residents in particular, at an early stage. After discussion it was agreed that the best opportunity would be the regular monthly coffee morning on March 7. The format proposed would see HAB representatives available for information from 10am to 11.30, immediately followed by a village meeting. All parish residents to be informed by flyers through each door and via the website and notice boards.

SH thanked Mr Young and HAB representatives for their attendance.

**016/15**      **Planning Application 15/00191/FUL &15/00244/LBC** Chandlers House, Browns Lane, Alton Barnes, erection of orangery. Several pc members said that while they had no objection to the concept the design as proposed was too large for the building. After discussion, it was agreed that the parish council should support the application, with that reservation.

**017/15**      **Springs, Alton Priors – clean-up:** Members agreed that a clean-up would improve the area but stressed that the work could only be done after the nesting season. They also pointed out that it would be a very substantial task and would require the consent of the landowner. Agreed that Peter Emery pass on that message.

Any other business:

**018/15**      **Parish flood plan:** SH reported that gel packs, fluorescent tabards and road signs had been delivered, with sand due to arrive tomorrow. PE to organise storage.

**019/15**      **Playing field fence:** Charles Reiss (Clerk) reported that he had consulted Wansbroughs solicitors, as agreed at the previous meeting,

about possible liability if the fence was removed. The advice was that this could affect the insurance policy, which needed to be checked. It was also suggested that grant might be available to renew the fence. Agreed that Debby Lester check the policy and contact the insurance company.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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