

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, November 5, 2015

- Present:** Steve Hepworth (Chair), Peter Emery, Robert Carpenter Turner, Polly Carson, Ben Owen, Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Debby Lester. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway, PC1717 David McCalmont
- 099/15** **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising not on the agenda:
- 100/15** **Lorry restrictions:** Steve Hepworth reported that, as agreed at the previous meeting, he had registered with Wiltshire Council support in principle for a weight restriction on vehicles using the Lockeridge-Alton Road. But there had been no reply as yet to his request for more detail concerning for example farm vehicles.
- 101/15** **Post collections:** Robert Carpenter Turner reported that he had been unable as yet to establish contact with the Post Office to raise the issue of the change to 9AM collections at Honeystreet. To be pursued.
- 102/15** **Police report:** PC McCalmont updated details of recent crime in the area, including a “distraction burglary” at Honeystreet. Two individuals claiming to be from the Water Board came to the door of an elderly resident and managed to gain admission. Others in the area had received phone calls claiming to be from the police and seeking to extract details of credit cards and bank accounts. All residents were urged to be wary and to ring the police 111 number if in any doubt.
- 103/15** **Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO):** SH reported a very useful first meeting of the Steering Group set up to oversee the NDO process for the Honeystreet sawmill site. The official submission seeking consent from Wiltshire Council was approved and had now been sent. The group had also agreed on sharing out the workload, which will be considerable. In the light of that it had been suggested that the group co-opt an additional member from the PC, and Mike Golden had kindly agreed to serve.
- 104/15** **Honeystreet Wharf – demolition and new ownership:** Alex Oliver reported that the Wharf site, which has consent for a housing development, has recently been sold to a local builder-developer who intends a more intensive scheme. The existing consent provides for three buildings to be demolished subject to a large number of conditions. However the developer came in without warning early on a Saturday with a large workforce and demolished one of the buildings, without meeting the conditions, claiming that it was unsafe. Although

the action was within the letter of the law it did appear to show a “cynical intention” possibly to pre-empt any move to list the building. Members voiced serious concern at the way the operation had been carried out, noting that the Saturday timing meant there was no one available at Wilts Council, and that the road had been closed without consultation. SH noted that the Parish Council had been in favour in principle of the plan to replace the existing three buildings with five new homes, but only recognising the sensitive and historic nature of the site, for example by re-using the existing pantiles. Members agreed that the pc must be very vigilant.

- 104/15** **Alton village gates:** SH reported that he had consulted Wilts Council Highways about the kind offer by Debby Lester to fund village gates with manufacture and spraying sponsored by Wiltshire Joinery Ltd, and had been told that a Highways License would be required. Agreed that DL check whether a license is essential, with the aim of going ahead as soon as possible.
- 105/15** **Planning application 15/09800/FUL:** Members considered the plans for a garage and wood store at Well Cottage, Honeystreet, and agreed they had no objection. Wilts to be so informed.
- 106/15** **Horse warning signs:** The new owner of the Alton livery stables had decided not to proceed because the cost had risen to £300. Paul Oatway offered to seek clarification over the cost, which seems excessive.
- 107/15** **Workway Drove car park:** SH reported the “No overnight parking” sign had been removed, probably because not fitted with anti-theft bolts as requested. People were still staying overnight and dumping rubbish. A replacement sign had been requested. PO to pursue.
- 108/15** **Grant availability:** PO outlined grant available from Pewsey Area Board. After discussion it was proposed Steve Hepworth, seconded Polly Carson that £500 be applied for towards the cost of a defibrillator, for which part-funding has already been raised. Agreed. It was proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Ben Owen that £1,000 be applied for to fund stage lighting at the Coronation Hall. Agreed.

Any Other Business

- 109/15** **Fernbank:** Ms Brenda and Ms Jean Trowbridge presented outline plans for the development they are contemplating for this site in Honeystreet. SH suggested that a site visit be arranged. He thanked them for bringing the proposal to the Parish Council at an early stage.

- 110/15 Road signs:** Charles Reiss (Clerk) reported that Honeystreet residents had generously offered to cover the cost of correcting and replacing the village road signs. He was pursuing with Wiltshire Highways.
- 111/15 Parish domain name:** RCT presented a cheque for £8.39 for renewal.
- 112/15 Change of meeting date:** Members agreed to bring forward the next pc meeting from Jan 14 to Jan 7, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.49pm.