

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.00, March 7, 2013

Present: Steve Hepworth (Chair) Peter Emery, Charles Fletcher, Kate Fielden, Jayne Drew, Ben Owen, Polly Carson, Robert Carpenter Turner, Jenni Frost
In attendance: Councillor Robert Hall, Sharyn Jarvis (boaters) Derren Heath (Barge Inn)
Apologies: PC Richard Barratt

016/13 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (proposed Peter Emery, seconded Polly Carson) and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not covered by the agenda:

017/13 Canal towpath: Sharyn Jarvis asked whether there was any progress on the resurfacing of the towpath west of the Barge Inn, as promised by the Canal and River Trust (CRT). She stressed that resurfacing would encourage boaters to moor there, which would ease noise problems at Honeystreet. Charles Reiss (Clerk) said that CRT had promised work would begin in March and he would send a reminder. SJ suggested a letter to the CRT jointly from boaters, the Barge and the pc. Agreed.

SJ also raised the issue of a Honeystreet resident who had approached her when she needed to run her boat engine, briefly, in the Quiet Zone. She said he had claimed to speak for other residents in the village and had been needlessly rude. As one of those who had helped create the Quiet Zone she felt there should be some give and take. Robert Carpenter Turner said he would speak to the individual concerned.

018/13 Policing: Police report postponed, as agreed with police. Policing / crime consultation – no action.

019/13 Precept: Jenni Frost, Responsible Finance Officer, presented the pc income and expenditure account (attached). Expenditure last year was greater than income. However this was accounted for by the £500 donated to the Coronation Hall, and maintenance work on the Alton White Horse. For the coming year, she had left the precept unchanged at £2,250. However a small new grant of £229 from Wiltshire Council meant that the precept would, in theory, reduce.

020/13 Parish Council elections: Councillor Hall and CR outlined procedure.
Charles Fletcher confirmed that, since he is leaving the parish, he will not be seeking re-election.

- 021/13** **Licence fee, Rectory Close:** With ownership of the playing field, this access licence becomes a matter for the pc. After brief discussion it was proposed, Kate Fielden, and seconded, Robert Carpenter Turner, that the licence fee be increased each year in line with the Retail Prices Index. Agreed.
- 022/13** **Pewsey Neighbourhood Plan & Alton Village Design Statement:** (moved up the agenda at request of Cllr Hall to allow him then to depart for another meeting) Steve Hepworth said that he and Kate Fielden had been asked by Pewsey pc whether Alton wished to join the Pewsey Neighbourhood Plan or remain consultees. They had opted for the latter. Wiltshire Council had revised the Alton VDS to bring it in line with current policies and plans. It was now back with Wilts for approval and adoption.
- 023/13** **Great Stones Way:** Cllr Hall, updating, said that all at Wilts Council accepted that there is no enthusiasm for this project in the Vale. The organisers were expected to press ahead with a way-marked route further south, and to suggest various route options through the Vale in GSW guide-books or leaflets. Assuming the recommended routes were along rights of way, this could not be prevented. However, if any “Great Stones Way” signs appeared those could and should be removed.
- 024/13** **Vote of thanks:** Members voiced strong regret that Robert Hall is to retire as a Wiltshire Councillor, stressing all the helpful work he had put in for the parish and his wise advice. “We will miss you.” A vote of thanks was proposed by Kate Fielden, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner. Agreed unanimously.
- 025/13** **Bulk storage tanks, Alton Priors:** (Polly Carson declared an interest and left the meeting.) Steve Hepworth said a number of residents had contacted the parish council about the siting of two liquid nitrate storage tanks on the crest of the hill immediately above the village. Concerns had been relayed to Wiltshire Council and the issue now lay with them.
- 026/13** **Honeystreet sawmill:** SH confirmed that copies of the Honeystreet VDS had been sent to John Dunford, as owner of the sawmill, and to his agent. CR, on a point of procedure, advised that the pc should consult local residents, by means of a questionnaire, over the future of this important site. Several pc members spoke in favour of early consultation, with suggestions that the questionnaire be extended to include the Altons. Kate Fielden advised that it would be best first to ask Mr Dunford to find out what Wiltshire Council would be minded to consider in terms of the future of the site, so that any views sought

from villagers might be better informed. After discussion, Robert Carpenter Turner proposed, Ben Owen seconded, that Mr Dunford be approached before proceeding with a questionnaire to gain the views of local residents. Agreed seven in favour, one against.

- 027/13** **Barge Inn car park:** Ben Owen reported that there had been complaints of overnight stays in the pub car park, with anti-social behavior, including a fight, noise and litter. Derren Heath, the pub's tenant, said that someone would occasionally stay over if they felt they had drunk too much to drive. Boaters were permitted to leave their cars in the car park as "a goodwill gesture" since they used the pub. They were trying to address the litter problem. But they did not have direct control of the car park; that rested with the landlord, Ian McIvor. SH said that overnight parking had been a long-running problem. He urged Mr Heath to keep working on the issue, and on controlling litter.
- 028/13** **Planning application:** E/201P3/0221/FUL The Bank, Alton Priors: (Jayne Drew declared an interest and left the meeting) Members examined the plans and voiced various concerns. It was decided to object rather than support with conditions by four votes to three. Objection, with reasons, to be conveyed to Wiltshire Council.
- 029/13** **Civil emergency exercise:** SH said that he will be unable to attend the exercise on March 27. Agreed Peter Emery will coordinate attendance for the pc.
- 030/13** **Spring Newsletter:** Items for inclusion were discussed and agreed.
- Any other business -
- 031/13** **Playing field safety report:** SH said the latest inspection of the play area had established the overall risk as "medium." Some minor repair needs had been identified including a loose post and defective fencing. Agreed Peter Emery should take a closer look at the report.
- 032/13** **Honestreet Mill site:** RCT reported that maintenance work needed on the historic buildings was not being carried out. There was particular concern over the north wall of the site, amid fears that it was being allowed to deteriorate to such a state that it would have to be demolished. Agreed that CR should alert Wilts Council.
- 033/13** **Printing costs:** cheque for £14 to Steve Hepworth for printing costs proposed Peter Emery, seconded Polly Carson. Agreed.

pc minutes 7.3.13

034/13 **Charles Fletcher:** Kate Fielden led pc members in warm thanks to Charles Fletcher, who leaves the parish after 14 years as a council member and past chairman. He thanked pc members for all their support and friendship.

035/13 **Parish website:** Jenni Frost said she was short of time to maintain the site and suggested someone else might take over the task. Agreed to go on the agenda for the next pc meeting.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.36pm.
