

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, November 14, 2019

Present: Steve Hepworth (Chair), Polly Carson, Robert Carpenter Turner, Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Carol Whittle, Hayley Kington, Debby Lester (Treasurer), Charles Reiss (Clerk). In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway. Apologies: none.

The minutes of the Sept 12 and Oct 17 meetings were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Ms Hayley Kington, having signed the Declaration of acceptance, was welcomed as a co-opted member of the PC.

Matters arising:

079/19 Chimney Lane, damage: Agreed that Robert Carpenter Turner continue to approach the contractors to make good. On the agenda for next PC meeting.

The Chair proposed the agenda order be varied to allow for the delayed arrival of Cllr Oatway.

080/19 Finance & PCAP grant: Debby Lester requested approval for two donations to Pewsey Community Area Partnership: the annual £100; and contribution to the cost of a Speed Indicator Device £300. Proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Mike Golden. Agreed.

081/19 Highways: Members voiced concern at flood-prevention work at Baker's Corner, budgeted for but then abandoned; and the failure to resurface the steep downhill road from Lockeridge, where there had been another accident. A tougher speed limit was required but that would be a very long process.

082/19 VE Day commemoration: Nothing to report. On the agenda for January.

083/19 Notice-boards: Members agreed the three parish boards were in need of replacement or repair. The price of a new board could be about £300 each total £900 for three and money was available. RCT, who recently arranged a new board for the Coronation Hall, to investigate options.

084/19 Playground repairs: the selected contractor S J Aplin Ltd requires a work order number and will then slot the work into his programme.

085/19 AOB – First aid: Carol Whittle reported that her offer of first-aid training had so far produced only one volunteer. Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Polly Carson and Hayley Kington then volunteered.

- 086/19 AOB - PCAP meetings:** Steve Hepworth, who usually attends on behalf of the PC, asked that another member take over for the time being. He would give all members a link to the PCAP website which includes meeting dates.
- 087/19 AOB - Honeystreet barn - embankment:** In answer to questions raised by members Polly Carson said that the owner had removed the old hedge with planning permission but still intended to reinstate the hedge with a fence behind it.
- 088/19 New Clerk:** Charles Reiss reported that despite publicity no one had come forward to take over as Clerk when he retires next May. However he had come to the strong conclusion that in a much more complex and regulated environment this was no longer a job for an unpaid volunteer. He suggested the PC should be prepared to pay, possibly on a shared basis between several parishes. Members and DL supported the idea and said it should be pursued.
- 089/19 19/08645/TCA, Glebe Hse, Alton Barnes:** Non-controversial. Settled by email. Noted for the record.
- 090/19 19/06465/FUL Fernbank, Honeystreet:** SH reported that he and PO had met the architect on site. The remaining, shorter section of 2m high fencing would be pulled back from the lane into line with the building. Even if a picket fence was installed all along the boundary as requested, as the architect pointed out there would be nothing to stop the applicant removing it later. Posts 1.5 m apart, as now promised, would be close enough together to prevent parking on the green space provided they were not hinged. There was need for a condition to specify that this land was for garden use. Some still felt even the reduced length of tall fence should be removed since it was not in the original application. However the latest proposal represented a compromise. PO said that if the objections had been taken to Wilts Planning Committee the PC would have lost.
- 091/19 19/10296/FUL Crop Circle exhibition centre, Honeystreet:** Alex Oliver declared a non-pecuniary interest. By consent of the Chair he voiced a number of objections the foremost of which, he said, concerned parking. He urged the PC to ask Wiltshire Council for an integrated traffic report including parking issues to include those arising from the application to build six new houses on the Clock House site next door. He also challenged the change of use application 19/10355/CLE from retail to exhibition space saying that it was actually a shift from warehouse space, which requires no parking. AO then left the meeting. In discussion, parking was also at the top of PC members' concerns with several saying they had no major objection to the exhibition but could not support it until the parking problems were resolved. An application for an extra parking site was said to be imminent. In view of that, members agreed Wiltshire Planning should be asked to extend the comment deadline until January. SH to pursue. Proposed Steve Hepworth, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner: that the parish council needs to be presented with an overall plan before reaching any conclusion. Agreed unanimously.

092/19 19/10051/FUL Chandlers House, Alton Priors: At the beginning of this item the Chair invited residents to speak but appealed for contributions to be short. He pointed out that under the rules the public's contribution must be limited to a specific slot and there must be no interventions at any other time. Residents pointed out, amongst other matters, discrepancies in the plans presented, questions over issues of archaeology and continued fears that the "temporary" driveway would be made permanent. Members voiced serious and increasing concern over what now amounted to seven planning applications with signs of more to come. The PC was losing full oversight because that had never been given. Specific concerns included the size of the garage and the "hideous" new gate pillars which had already been constructed. A more detailed set of plans was required to show the full impact and for that the deadline for comment must be extended. Cllr Oatway proposed a site meeting with the architect and a representative from the PC, and that was accepted. Wiltshire should also be asked to request the architect to provide accurate plans showing the full extent of the work. The Conservation Officer should also be called in to provide a management plan for what was an important listed building. Proposed Polly Carson seconded Mike Golden: that the Chair make those requests to Wiltshire Planning. Agreed unanimously.

093/19 Clock House site: Alex Oliver declared a non-pecuniary interest. By consent of the Chair he voiced a number of objections, pointing out that while a scheme for five houses had been accepted a sixth "breaks the camel's back." Other objections included height, parking, traffic, lighting, particularly through the roof-glazing, overlooking-issues, the proposed border fence, the dark colour, and the impact on his own house adjacent, an important listed building significant in part because of its setting. It had "the bones of a good scheme" but the developers should come back with a revised proposal. AO then left the meeting. Residents, speaking at the invitation of the Chair, were overwhelmingly against the proposal, agreeing strongly with the points made by AO. But several stressed that the site had been derelict for many years and should not be left in that state.

PC members in discussion echoed the objections and the concern that the site should not be left an eyesore. Cllr Oatway and PC members said it was very regrettable the developer had not approached the Parish for an integrated study at an early stage. The developer said that he had listened and was ready to discuss changes but that reducing the number of houses from six to five was not economically viable. Members said they would like to leave room for negotiation and agreed that both the Chair and Cllr Oatway should contact Wiltshire planning dept to urge an extension of the deadline for comment, currently set for the following day.

The Chair asked for indication by show of hands with 5:1 objecting. MG suggested an alternative could be supporting with conditions; a further show of

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hands indicated 5:1 for this option. Residents, without consent of the chair intervened and no formal resolution was proposed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.59pm