

# ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, January 11, 2018

- Present:** Ben Owen (Chair), Peter Emery, Steve Hepworth, Mike Golden, Alex Oliver, Robert Carpenter Turner, Debby Lester (Treasurer), Apologies: Polly Carson, Charles Reiss (Clerk) In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway.
- 001/18** **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Matters arising: none.
- 002/18** **Precept:** Debby Lester presented a paper outlining options for 2018/19. The current precept is set at £5000. Keeping it at this level means a slight increase for each property due to the drop in the tax base. Proposed by Steve Hepworth that the Parish Council keep the precept at £5000, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner. Carried unanimously.
- 003/18** **Finance:** £861.63 Springs Fund cash transferred to the PC accounts for safe keeping as previously agreed.
- 004/18** **West Stowell Farm, Freedom of Information request:** Ben Owen reported the request, to Wiltshire Council, was processed in December and that the 20 working days for reply had not yet expired. Alton PC will work with Huish and Oare PC once the FOI request has been met. If nothing is heard from Wilts planning department Paul Oatway will take this forward on our behalf. Additionally BO will contact the AONB as to why they did not respond to the planning application after they had been notified by SH and being requested to look at it. Alex Oliver suggested the PC should consider designating areas as open spaces to gain an extra layer of planning consideration which could be done as part of Village Design Statement reviews.
- 005/18** **WW1 Memorial Trees:** SH proposed to order six oak trees and use money from the precept to pay for creosoted wooden posts and rails to protect the trees from grazing cattle. Anticipated costs as researched by Peter Emery and BO currently £671.90 including labour. Seconded BO, agreed unanimously. SH to confirm with Wilts Council.
- 006/18** **Highways:** SH noted we still have backlog of work not completed by Highways maintenance, including blocked culverts and eroded surface south of Honeystreet, culverts near Oxford Cottages, overgrown trees and vegetation on the junction of the C8/C38. PO will be taking these forward. PO stated that Highways have done a surface test on the C38 Alton Barnes to Newtown and found it defective or inappropriate. This was being referred back to the Community Area Transport Group. SH

queried why this was happening when it was a maintenance issue and not a community based project initiative and questioned if Highways were after CATG money to pay for resurfacing? PO to take forward.

- 007/18**      **Honeystreet Village Design Statement update:** AO has retyped the original 2006 VDS, the previous Word document being no longer available. He was now updating the various planning legislation. RCT to look for the original photographs for inclusion.
- 008/18**      **Barge Inn works:** BO has been in contact with Wiltshire Council. PO was called to attend a meeting at WC with Peter Horton and Steven Jenkins (planning department) to discuss developments at the Barge Inn. A letter will be sent to BO detailing the enforcement action Wiltshire Council will be taking due to planning breaches that have occurred. It is anticipated that planning applications for a change in use from a campsite to equestrian use for the field will be needed, together with applications for the car ports and stable.
- 009/18**      **17/11688/FUL, Honeystreet Mill, Honeystreet:** Permission sought to use space in the Mill to have a cafe. AO declared an interest in this item and the following item 17/11265/FUL on the agenda and left the meeting. Discussion ensued. Members present unanimously in favour, with no comment. SH to notify Wiltshire Council.
- 010/18**      **17/11265/FUL, Barn north of Honeystreet:** Members discussed this application to regularise the current roof, light coloured instead of the green in the original design. SH stated Wiltshire Council were very remiss in not requesting prior approval for the siting, design and external appearance of the building before granting permitted agricultural development in what was one of the principal views within the parish and the AONB. SH also reported that barn owls are now roosting in the barn. Members, with reluctance, voted not to object to the light coloured roof, but requested SH write to Wiltshire planning with complaints over the handling of this proposal, as stated above.
- 011/18**      **17/12305/TCA, Field Cottage, Alton Priors:** No objections, no comments.
- 012/18**      **17/11206/FUL, Newtown Dairy equestrian arena:** Previously settled via email with no objections or comments, noted for the record.
- 013/18**      **Pewsey GP surgery:** RCT expressed concerns over the level of service now this surgery has merged with Marlborough. This was backed by PO and SH. Concerns included no appointments for flu vaccinations despite letters offering proposed times; all other appointments fully booked; patients not phoned back; test results not

given; doctors refusing or unable to make home visits. In one case it took the intervention of Claire Perry MP before a qualified doctor from Swindon Great Western Hospital visited one patient who has subsequently had all toes on one foot amputated. Agreed BO to take to Pewsey Community Area Partnership as a priority issue. BO also to write to the MP expressing the PC's concerns.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.