

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, July 12, 2018

Present: Ben Owen (Chair), Polly Carson, Steve Hepworth, Robert Carpenter Turner, Mike Golden, Alex Oliver, Richard Heacock, Debby Lester (Treasurer), Charles Reiss (Clerk). Apologies: none. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway

Richard Heacock, having signed a Declaration of Acceptance, was welcomed as a member of the Parish Council.

053/18 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

054/18 Speed indicator device, subscription: Debby Lester explained that this had not been paid because no invoice had been received. Ben Owen to pursue.

055/18 Barge Inn: Polly Carson attended a meeting called by the Barge Inn Co-operative. They had raised some £27,000 towards a £500,000 target to bid for the pub. No details were known of any other offer. Members voiced concern that the building, currently closed, is vulnerable.

056/18 Data protection: A statement of the Parish Council's Privacy Policy had been placed on the parish website to comply with new regulations. The situation would be monitored as new information about compliance became available. Proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Mike Golden: that the policy as published be approved. Agreed unanimously.

057/18 Finance: A cheque for a further £40.28 to the cost of playground insurance was signed. After discussion of whether depreciation in the value of playground equipment should be taken into account it was agreed that Debby Lester obtain a breakdown of insurance costs for the next PC. Ben Owen, Polly Carson, Steve Hepworth and Mike Golden were confirmed as cheque signatories.

058/18 Everleigh recycling centre: Members voiced strong opposition to the threat of closure. They noted that the "consultation" being carried out by Wiltshire Council is being challenged as unlawful. Agreed that a letter be sent to the leader of Wiltshire Council and the relevant Cabinet member to say the PC is totally opposed.

- 059/18 Public open spaces:** Members discussed options to protect key open spaces, particularly between Alton Barnes and Honeystreet and around Tawsmead. There had been suggestions this could be achieved via a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. Agreed that AO check further and BO seek advice from a senior member of Wiltshire Planning.
- 060/18 Car park and signage, Honeystreet:** Members voiced concern at "enormous" signs to the Crop Circle exhibition, and the related car park. While no planning permission was required for up to 28 days the exhibition is scheduled to last almost twice that long. The landowner had been asked by Wiltshire Council to submit a planning application but so far none had been made. Paul Oatway, voicing full support, said he had flagged the matter with Wiltshire planning. Agreed BO to pursue.
- 061/18 Planning application 18/05402/FUL, Chandlers House:** This application is for a temporary access drive for construction vehicles, to relieve pressure on Browns Lane. Members pointed out that most of the construction work appears to have been done and were concerned that the temporary would become permanent. They noted that the CPRE also oppose. Proposed PC, seconded RCT: That the Parish Council oppose this application. Agreed unanimously.
- 062/18 West Stowell barn, Freedom of Information request:** There was continued concern at the handling of this planning application, particularly the unusual attempt to keep one of the application documents confidential. The only way forward appeared to be a judicial review which members agreed would be prohibitively expensive. Agreed that BO write to the leader of Wiltshire Council to challenge how the application was handled and PO to seek an explanation from the Planning department.
- 063/18 Boundary review:** Paul Oatway, before leaving the meeting, raised the issue of the Boundary Commission review due in September. There was concern that this would sharply reduce the existing 98 County Council seats. If so, the Pewsey area would be merged between Devizes, Marlborough and Tidworth. His responsibilities currently covered 13 parish councils. Were that number to grow he would be unable to give each PC the time and attention it deserved.
- 064/18 Display boards:** Agreed that BO obtain quotes for erecting the Walkers Hill and Coronation Hall boards. The siting of the latter was a matter for the Coronation Hall Committee. Also agreed to organise a third board, to be sited near All Saints Church.
- 065/18 Obstructed bridleway, Alton Priors:** A complaint had been received from the Wiltshire Bridleways Association over reduced access to a bridleway at the top of The Hollow. In discussion members broadly

favoured the change, made to counter flytipping. Agreed no PC intervention required.

066/18 Honeystreet VDS: Charles Reiss reported that he had received detailed advice from Wiltshire Council. He would continue on that basis alongside AO on planning policy and report back. Members agreed the VDS should not be held back by doubts over the future of the Barge Inn.

067/18 Parish archives: CR reported the Wilts History Centre in Chippenham holds documents from 1894-1991, with some gaps. He had now delivered them minutes and some other documents from 1995-2016 although the minute books from 1992-94 and 2004-07 were missing. Documents from 2010 are held online as well as on paper.

068/18 Monks Hollow 18/04977/TCA: Circulated by email with no objections or comment, noted for the record.

Any other business

069/18 Springs contamination: Steve Hepworth reported weedkiller had been sprayed on watercress in the springs at Alton Priors. Members described that as shocking and completely contrary to good practice and pointed out that anyone spraying the banks required a licence and training. BO to raise concerns urgently with David Carson.

070/18 World War I memorial trees: SH reported six oaks will be delivered in November. An attempt to arrange silhouettes in memory of each casualty had failed because the application process, through the Armed Forces Covenant Trust, was a shambles.

071/18 Music for Awhile: BO reported that the summer festival had raised £1000 for Priors church, £300 for the Village hall and £250 to a brain tumour charity. Members congratulated Maggie Faultless and all concerned.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm.

