

# ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm, November 8, 2018

**Present:** Polly Carson (Chair), Steve Hepworth, Robert Carpenter Turner, Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Richard Heacock, Debby Lester (Treasurer) Charles Reiss (Clerk). Apologies: Ben Owen. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meetings (Aug. 30 and Oct. 4) were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising:

**093/18: Chandlers House:** Paul Oatway reported he and Ben Owen had met on site to review surfacing laid under planning application 18/07202/FUL. There were doubts as to whether the condition imposed, to remove the surfacing and reinstate the original land in two years time, would be enforced. There was also concern at the possibility of a new application to make the work permanent. But Wiltshire planning department was "adamant" that the existing arrangement could not be reopened. Members pointed out that if works would be completed in six months time the stated need for the hardstanding would no longer apply. Agreed the matter should be placed on the PC agenda for review at that point.

**094/18 Boundary review:** PO reported the latest recommendation from Wiltshire Council to the Boundary Commission is to enlarge the Pewsey Community Area to include All Cannings and Allington. While this would make the PCA viable it would give him the largest division in the county, covering 14 parish councils. The extra workload would mean that in future he would only attend every other Alton PC meeting but would be present in addition if anything on the agenda required it.

**095/18 Finance:** a cheque to Play Safety for £92.40 was approved and signed.

**096/18 Speed Indicator Device:** Steve Hepworth reported the existing SID needs to be sent back to Germany for repair. There was a proposal for the seven parishes involved to purchase a new one and keep the old device running as well. The new unit would cost about £2500 shared between the parishes, six of which have already agreed. If all parishes took part the cost to Alton would be a one-off payment of £560 plus an annual cost of £260 thereafter. However the parishes will request a 50% grant from the PCA Transport Group. After discussion it was proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Alex Oliver that the scheme be accepted. Agreed unanimously.

- 097/18 Everleigh recycling centre:** Members voiced strong regret at the shutdown, now officially decided. PO pointed out that the county is well supplied with facilities and there was scope for savings. All three Pewsey area councillors had pressed for Everleigh to be kept open; and when asked, 97% of the public said they wanted it retained.
- 098/18 Accidents C38 Lockeridge-Alton road:** Members voiced alarm at yet another serious accident on the steep downhill stretch towards Alton, in which one of the victims had to be rescued by air ambulance. The road surface had been marked for improvement so long ago that the marks had now faded with nothing done, despite repeated appeals. Agreed a letter be sent to Wiltshire Highways warning of the real risk of a fatality unless swift action is taken. Paul Oatway also to pursue.
- 099/18 Playground safety report:** Debby Lester reported aspects of the equipment which require attention but confirmed none were deemed unsafe or requiring immediate shutdown. Members agreed professional repairs are required. DL to ask the inspectors, RoSPA, if they can recommend anyone. .
- 100/18 World War I commemoration:** Oak saplings had been delivered in preparation for planting in memory of the four parishioners who gave their lives in the War. David Carson had kindly agreed to arrange fencing and he and Ben Owen would look at possible sites.
- 101/18 Community Open Spaces:** Further advice awaited. On agenda for next meeting.
- 102/18 Barge Inn:** Ben Owen had established that the Canal and River Trust claimed it was no longer responsible for litter clearance from the site. Agreed that he get back to the CRT to ask why and press for the decision to be reversed.
- 103/18 Newsletter:** Topics and print arrangements were discussed and agreed.
- 104/18 Planning applications:** 18/09949/TCA, Pear Tree Cottage, Alton Priors, no objection or comment. 18/08431/FUL, Well Cottage, Honeystreet and 18/09123/FUL, Ridgeway Cottage, Alton Barnes dealt with by email, no objection or comment, noted for the record.

Any other business:

- 105/18 Honeystreet wharf site:** Charles Reiss reported that the estate agents, Strakers, had informed him the site had been sold at auction for some £550,000, well above the guide price. The purchaser was unknown. He had asked Strakers to invite the new owner to contact the parish council

but so far there had been no response. Members voiced concern at any possible proposal to extend development beyond the five houses for which consent had been granted.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.33pm.