

**ALTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.15, May 9, 2013**

**Present:** Steve Hepworth, Peter Emery, Polly Carson, Kate Fielden, Ben Owen, Robert Carpenter Turner  
Apologies: Jayne Drew, Jenni Frost. In attendance: Councillor Paul Oatway

**043/13 Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Polly Carson) and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising not covered by the agenda:**

**044/13 Bulk storage tanks, Alton Priors:** In reply to a question, Steve Hepworth said there had so far been no further feedback from Wiltshire Council.

**045/13 Honeystreet sawmill:** Peter Emery reported that he had spoken to the owner of the sawmill, who felt it was too early to consult local residents over the future of the site.

**046/13 Roads:** SH said several residents had raised concerns over the state of the road through Alton Priors. Wilts Highways Dept, contacted, had promised to reassess the problem. Any road-related incidents such as punctures (for which it might be possible to claim compensation) should be reported to Highways. However there are no roadworks scheduled for the parish and patching-up repairs had been totally unsatisfactory. Cllr Oatway said he would survey the road and contact the Highways Dept.

**047/13 Honeystreet Wharf:** Charles Reiss (Clerk) reported that, at the request of the pc, he had raised concerns with Wilts Council over the decaying state of the historic wharf buildings. The council's planning officer dealing with the site had indicated that, since the buildings were not listed, there was little the council could do. However, she had suggested that the pc raise the issue directly with the owner of the site and had asked to be kept informed.  
In discussion, members pointed out that the site was becoming an eyesore, and a probable haven for rats infesting the area. They were also concerned to establish the position of the proposed but long-delayed housing development. Agreed that a letter should go to the owner, to be copied to Cllr Oatway and to Wilts planning.

**048/13 Parish Council website:** Robert Carpenter Turner reported on the re-designed website. He had sought the views of the pc and hoped soon to

include a full diary of village and parish dates. Members thanked him for a much-appreciated job.

**048/13 Parish council officers:** There being a new Parish Council, RCT proposed, Peter Emery seconded, to re-appoint the Clerk and the Responsible Financial Officer. Agreed nem. con.

**049/13 Planning application:** E/2013/0273/TCA 2 Priory Cottages, Alton Priors. Agreed by email no pc objections or comments. Noted for the record.

### **Any other business**

**050/13 Canal – noise-nuisance:** Members reported a serious problem over the bank holiday weekend, with very loud music from speakers mounted on the deck of a boat moored in the “Quiet Zone.” Requests to turn down the volume were met with abuse. Wilts Council environmental protection, contacted on Saturday, said they could take no action until the following Tuesday and advised contacting the police. The police, when phoned, said it was a matter for the council.

On the advice of Cllr Oatway, it was agreed the pc should write to the Canal and River Trust (CRT), the police and Wiltshire Council to seek a joint meeting in the parish to establish a partnership approach to this ongoing problem. The long-promised improvement to the towpath West of the Barge Inn is due to begin later this month, according to the CRT.

Members also voiced concern over the “Hobofest” music festival planned at the Barge Inn next Bank Holiday. Since it is unticketed, there were worries over the numbers who might turn up and over stewarding and other arrangements.

**051/13 028/13 Planning application:** E/201P3/0221/FUL The Bank, Alton Priors: Ben Owen pointed out that the application had been approved despite strong pc objections. In discussion, members felt that it had been a very bad decision which raised serious questions over the value of any contribution from the pc. Agreed that SH invite Wilts planning to send a representative to the pc to discuss concerns.

**052/13 Payments:** Subscription, Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, £88.49 SH proposed, PC seconded. Agreed. Community First, (insurance) £755.84 SH proposed, PC seconded. Agreed.

Councillor Oatway, on his first attendance since being newly elected for the Pewsey Vale Division, promised the pc his full support and involvement.

pc minutes 9.5.13

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.01pm.

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