

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of virtual meeting, 7.30 pm, April 6, 2020

Participants: Robert Carpenter Turner (Chair), Polly Carson, Alex Oliver, Mike Golden, Carol Whittle, Hayley Kington, Charles Reiss (Clerk). Apologies: Robin Aspinall (Treasurer). In virtual attendance, Mr David Carson, Cllr Paul Oatway

025/20 Procedure: Charles Reiss drew members' attention to the Local Authorities Flexibility of Meetings Regulations, April 4, 2020, permitting remote meetings during the Coronavirus crisis.

026/20 Chair elected – confirmation for the record: CR reported that following the resignation of Steve Hepworth on March 27 it became necessary to elect a new Chair with no option to hold a legitimate meeting. All members were therefore invited by email to put themselves forward. Robert Carpenter Turner was proposed by Mike Golden, seconded Alex Oliver. Each member was invited to submit an individual vote by email. Responses were: Support 6; Object 0; Abstain 0. It was therefore unanimously agreed that Robert Carpenter Turner was duly elected Chair. Noted by this meeting for the record.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed. Matters arising: none.

027/20 Public comment and question time: The Chair invited members of the public to give their views on any items on the agenda. The owner of the Crop Circle Exhibition stressed that it was a not-for-profit enterprise. The owner of the café, by email, said that the parking issue was being addressed by the proposed new car park and appealed for support for local businesses currently with zero income. Another email stressed concern at the parking impact of the Exhibition and India Shop applications along with the café and opposed a car park in an AONB.

028/20 Covid-19 – measures: David Carson, overseeing parish and community action to respond to the pandemic, reported that 24 volunteers had so far signed up to address local needs. There was reasonably good awareness of which properties and individuals might require help. Main contact points for the three villages were Mike Golden, Alton Barnes, Rob Nagel, Priors, and Mike Spencer, Honeystreet. Medicine collections from Pewsey were working well, and overall support where needed was in quite good shape. The Barge Inn shop had made a promising start. Members thanked DC for his work.

029/20 Clock House update: Mike Golden reported that he had recently made contact with the developer but in the present situation no date had been set for a meeting.

030/20 20/01544/FUL, Sheep unit, Stowell farm: Members agreed with objections from the Council for the Protection of Rural England. The understanding had been that there should be no alteration or addition to the building. Proposed Polly Carson, seconded Hayley Kington, the PC objects to the application. Agreed unanimously.

031/20 20/01634/FUL, N. of Honeystreet, car park: Members voiced strong objections, saying the car park would be “an eyesore” and, more seriously, a safety risk. They supported the criticisms from the CPRE. Two members said they had mixed

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views, with one pointing out that more parking in Honeystreet was “desperately needed.” Members were keen to accommodate the needs of the café but felt this would best be met by re-arranging that site to offer extra parking. Proposed Carol Whittle, seconded Alex Oliver, the PC objects to the application. Agreed, five votes in favour, one abstention.

- 032/20 20/01633, India Shop, Honeystreet:** Members agreed that parking was again the crucial problem. Alex Oliver said Wiltshire parking standards required 115 spaces for this retail site. Just 23 were on offer. Space could be provided using the ground floor of the warehouse or on the other side of the canal. Mike Golden said there was just not enough space for all the projects squeezed onto the site. Other members agreed. Proposed Mike Golden, seconded Carol Whittle, the PC objects to the application. Agreed unanimously.
- 033/20 20/01631/FUL, Crop Circle Exhibition, Honeystreet:** Members agreed the problems and pressures regarding parking precisely matched – and amplified – those involved with the India Shop. Some voiced sadness that the Exhibition, on this site, was simply not practical. Proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Hayley Kington, the PC objects to this application. Agreed unanimously.
- 034/20 20/02723/TCA, Tree work, Priory Cottages:** PC to investigate and report back.
- 035/20 20/02064/FUL, Chandlers House, Alton Priors:** Concerns included the siting of the proposed LPG tank, which members felt would be better in the courtyard or garden; the essential need to restore the paddock; and the way proposals had been presented piecemeal. Proposed Polly Carson, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner, the PC objects to this application. Agreed unanimously.
- 036/20 PC vacancy – co-option:** Agreed to put on hold in view of the Corona crisis.
- 037/20 New Clerk:** CR reported that an advertisement for the post had produced four applications. Candidates would be interviewed, by agreement of the PC, by RCT as Chair, Robin Aspinall as RFO, and himself. The final decision must be approved by the Parish Council.
- 038/20 Finance:** The RFO’s report (attached) was approved.

Any other business

- 039/20 Outgoing Chair:** All members voiced appreciation and congratulations to Steve Hepworth for his long service to the PC and particularly his two terms as Chair. Members looked forward to thanking him in person once normal contact resumed. A formal vote of thanks was proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Alex Oliver. Agreed unanimously.
- 040/20 Barge Inn shop:** CW and others voiced approval and support for this venture, a non-profit project for the benefit of the whole community. Agreed the Chair send a letter of thanks on behalf of the PC.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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