

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30, September 25, 2014

Present: Steve Hepworth, Peter Emery, Kate Fielden, Polly Carson, Robert Carpenter Turner, Alex Oliver. Apologies: Ben Owen. In attendance: Cllr Paul Oatway

062/14 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting (proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Peter Emery) were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

063/14 Planning application, The Bank: Steve Hepworth reported that the broken drain at the site had still not been repaired. The owner is in dispute with Wiltshire Highways over who owns the land and who is therefore responsible. The issue is ongoing.

064/14 Responsible Finance Officer: SH reported that Debby Lester, a resident of Alton Barnes, is prepared to fill the role, as a volunteer, on the assurance that it will not take up too much time. She expects to be available from the end of October.

065/14 Police report: In the absence of a police representative this item was not taken.

066/14 Newtown car park: Paul Oatway said that he expects to meet officers from Wiltshire Council on the site in the next two weeks. There were powers under the Highways Act 1980 to deal with the problem of overnight camping at the car park. The question was would enforce it and how. Parish Council members agreed with that concern and the possibility of a bylaw was again discussed. It was agreed that David Carson, as the landowner, should be invited to the site meeting.

067/14 Great Stones Way: It was reported that signs had been placed directing walkers along the Great Stones Way, illegally since the proposed footpath has been neither agreed nor approved. North Newnton parish had protested to the Friends of the Ridgeway, the backers of the scheme, who had denied knowledge. Landowners had the right to remove the signs and have done so. Paul Oatway said that there was strong opposition to the planned footpath route and Wiltshire Council had proposed a more suitable alternative. However he was not prepared to enter into dialogue with the Friends of the Ridgeway unless the parishes involved wanted him to do so. At present they did not.

- 068/14** **Horse warning signs, Browns Lane:** White Horse Livery Stables have agreed to pay £150 towards warning signs on the road at the crossing point to the fields. Pewsey Community Area Transport Group will also contribute.
- 069/14** **Planning application 14/06990/FUL The Hermitage, Honeystreet:** Application earlier discussed by email and accepted with no change or comment, noted for the record.
- 070/14** **Fernbank development:** Alex Oliver, as an architect, had volunteered to do some sketches for a single new dwelling as now proposed by the developers after their earlier more ambitious scheme had been rejected. He had shown his drawings to the residents living in the properties nearest the site and they had approved. He now invited views from the Parish Council. Pc members, having considered the plans, voiced strong approval, believing they were in keeping with both the scale and character of the village. AO said that, given approval, he would pass on his proposal to the developers. Should they make use of it he believed they should pay his professional fee, but any such money should go to a local charity. He would therefore not need to declare any financial interest, although he would declare an interest as a Honeystreet resident living near the site.
The following resolution was proposed by Steve Hepworth, seconded Peter Emery (AO, having declared an interest, did not vote):
The Parish Council, noting that nearby residents approve, commends the outline plan for Fernbank presented by Mr Oliver and hopes the developer will give it serious consideration. In any event, we believe that any application should observe those elements of design, scale and location. Carried unanimously
Cllr Oatway said that, as the local member present, he supported the aims of the parish council in this application.
- 071/14** **Pewsey Vale bus services:** Kate Fielden reported that the consultation has been delayed and will now begin in mid-October for six weeks, and she will monitor progress. There are to be two public meetings in November and KF will attend one or both.
- 072/14** **Honeystreet canal bank / CRT:** Charles Reiss (Clerk) reported that he had met a Canal and River Trust manager to discuss the disposal by local residents of a small amount of garden waste a little way back from the canal bank and invisible from the waterway. They had agreed that it was not a significant issue and since that meeting, several weeks ago, he had heard nothing further. It was hoped this would be the end of the matter.

- 073/14 Defibrillator:** SH reported that the Barge Inn is attempting to raise funds for a defibrillator, costing in the region of £2,500. Should the Parish Council ask the Area Board to donate? After discussion it was agreed that, since the installation would benefit the village, the PC should ask the Area Board to contribute after an initial £1,500 had been raised.

Any other business

- 074/14 Flood warden:** SH said he is reviewing a parish emergency flood plan to supplement the emergency planning document already in place. This should include a list of choked or inadequate drains, ditches and gullies. He hoped to circulate this list shortly for PC members to monitor. There was also a need for a new flood warden following the departure of Jayne Drew. Peter Emery said that he would consider taking on this role.

- 075/14 Playing field:** PE said that the playing field fence is in serious disrepair. After discussion it was agreed he will investigate the cost of concrete or plastic fence posts.

- 076/14 Invoices:** To Ben Owen, for grass cutting at the RAF memorial £120. Proposed Polly Carson, seconded RCT. Agreed. To Ben Owen, playground grass cutting and strimming for one year £570. Proposed SH, seconded AO. Agreed.
KF questioned whether the parish council should be paying for maintenance of the RAF memorial. Other members felt that since the memorial was within the village it was right that the parish should be responsible. It might be possible to seek help from the Area Board towards the playground maintenance, which accounted for the bulk of parish council costs. It was agreed that the next parish newsletter should include an account of how the pc money is spent.*

- 077/14 Theft from cars:** PC warned that she and a friend had handbags stolen from two parked cars which they had left for only a matter of minutes. She stressed the need for vigilance.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.30pm.

pc minutes 25.9.14

* The pc decided at its meeting on 22.5.14 that the parish should take responsibility to maintain “the immediate area around the RAF memorial” (minutes item 034/14).