Clerk to Council: Elizabeth Martin

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Meeting of Alton Parish Council
held at the Coronation Hall on Thursday 18th January 2024
commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Kate Thompson [KT], Michael Golden [MG], Mike Spencer [MS], Polly Carson [PC], Hayley Kington [HK]

OFFICERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Martin [EM], Clerk to Council

CHAIR: Michael Golden [MG]

APOLOGIES: Polly Carson [PC], Ewan MacKinnon [EMK]

Meeting Opened: 19:02

FC23/24/086 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Polly Carson [PC], Ewan MacKinnon [EMK]

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Council Approves The Apologies For Absence.

FC23/24/087 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION**
All declared an interest regarding the flooding as all are affected.

FC23/24/088 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Proposed MS. Seconded MG. Passed

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 29th June 2023, and 28th September 2023, and 15th November be accepted as a true record.

FC23/24/089 **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Council has reviewed the request from Wiltshire Council Planning Application PL/2023/08958. The Council has put forward No Objections on the planning application.

No additional announcements, all items for discussion are within the agenda.

FC23/24/090 **TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION, THE CLERK'S REPORT**

Wiltshire Council have a compensation scheme for flood residents that have had flooding issues and qualify for the scheme as presented. The information is available here https://mailchi.mp/263940a63214/latest-news-and-advice-on-covid-563338?e=a599cf5ccb

EM to send out the emails to the Council. Wiltshire has also suggested Parish/Town Councils to have an emergency plan and flood plan in place. Alton does not have either plan in place. It has been suggested that the Council considers undertaking this piece of work. Action point: EM to set up an initial informal meeting with MG to look at what work would be expected to form an Emergency Plan and Flood Plan and bring that back to a formal meeting for the Council to decide on next steps.

The next priority for the Council Clerk will be preparation for the annual audit. The Council was advised that communications for this time period may increase.

At the Chair's request the meeting was suspended to hear from Cllr. Oatway as part of the Public Participation section.

Meeting Suspended 19:22. See Public Participation (Part B)

Meeting Resumed 19:56

Based on the update from Cllr. Oatway the Chair proposed that agenda item 9a was brought forward.

Proposed MG. Passed

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Agenda Item 9a be brought forward for discussion.

FC23/24/091 **TO CONSIDER ITEMS OF MAINTENANCE**

FC23/24/092 **To Discuss And Agree Next Steps For Recent Flooding Issues In Alton**

The Council will be sent the email regarding Flood plans and additional information from Wiltshire.

The Parish Council is working with Wiltshire Council on information regarding available flood defences from Wiltshire Council which could include gel sacks supplied by Wiltshire Council.

The Parish Council discussed at length if the Parish Council should have a surplus of gel sacks available for the community. It was acknowledged that the responsibility of having anti-flood resources down to the homeowner in the first instance and acknowledged that

the latest flooding happened so quickly it would have been difficult for the Council to distribute the sacks affectively to help.

The Council believes that perhaps having a small resource of gel sacks on hand may be helpful. The Council will review this as part of the other flood project work being looked at and the Community will be notified as the plans are agreed.

Steve Husk at the Manor has stated that the drains by his property have not been cleared for over two years and will not allow the water to escape through the appropriate drainage provided. It has also added to the continued road condition in the area due to excess water. Historically the Council would annually come and blast the pipe with a tanker to clear.

Steve Hepworth also provided information regarding another area at the layby by the cottages across from "The Bank" which is a priority one clear out job that will also contribute to flooding at the Granary if the layby drain is not kept clear.

The Council is equally concerned about the willow tree that is in place at the ditch by the drain. The roots are a priority issue as it is believed that the tree roots are in the drains. (Cllr Oatway would be including this in the survey to ensure that appropriate clearing of this drain is provided without the tree growing back.)

A general outline of the local area and flood course from the most recent flooding was discussed and will be formalised as part of the "flood plans" working document to be taken forward. EM to circulate.

The Council will initiate the start of a plan to help members of the village going forward. Some items to be addressed:

- Name a new flood Warden.
- Create an agreed flood Plan.
- PC to review the implantation of an Emergency Plan.
- Parish Council to review and agree if a gel sack initiative would be appropriate.

FC23/24/093 **PLANNING**

FC23/24/094 **To Consider Planning Applications**

No Applications for review

FC23/24/095 **FINANCE MATTERS**

FC23/24/096 **To Receive For Information, Disbursements Made Since The Last Meeting**
Disbursements Received

FC23/24/097 **To Consider And Approve The Schedule Of Forthcoming Payments**
Proposed MS. Seconded KT. Passed

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Schedule Of Forthcoming Payments Be Accepted As Presented

FC23/24/098 **To Receive The Bank Reconciliations As Presented**
Reconciliations received.

FC23/24/099 **To Consider And Agree The 2024/2025 Parish Council Budget**
Proposed KT. Seconded KG. Passed

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Parish Council Accept The 2024/2025 Budget As Presented.

FC23/24/100 **TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2024/2025**
Proposed KT. Seconded HK. Passed

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Request For The 2024/2025 Parish Precept For £6,373, (Precept Increase 17% or £8.48 per Band D Home) Be Accepted As Presented.

FC23/24/101 **TO CONSIDER ITEMS OF MAINTENANCE**

FC23/24/102 **To Receive An Update On Bakers Corner**
No update was received.

FC23/24/103 **To Receive An Update On The Parish Steward And Discuss Priorities And Next Steps**
The Parish do not have an appointed Parish Steward. Wiltshire Council are still attempting to appoint. Nothing to report at this meeting.

FC23/24/104 **TO REVIEW AND APPROVE MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES**
The Council will continue to work to attend the meetings. Formal membership is not desired currently due to working commitments of the Parish Councilors.

FC23/24/105 **Pewsey Area Board**

KT attended the last Area Board. The meeting itself was well attended and was "highways" focused. The attendees in the meeting were relatively hostile several questions were being fired at the Highways team in attendance. The overall response from the Highways team seemed disingenuous filled with many platitudes but little substance. The general structure of the Highways Department is not viable to produce quality, it is structured to save money and sub-contract.

The next meeting on the 4th of March 2024, Proposed Venue Bouverie Hall, Goddard Road, Pewsey, SN9 5EQ

Action – EM to attend if possible.

FC23/24/106 **Local Highways And Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG, Formally, CATG)**

The next meeting will be the 31st January 2024, 14:00, Bedwyn Village Hall, Frog Lane, Great Bedwyn, SN8 3PB

MS to attend meetings where required after 31st January 2024.

FC23/24/107 **TO REVIEW AND AGRFEE THE DATES FOR THE FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2024-2025**

Council meetings accepted as presented. EM to post information on the notice boards and Council website.

FC23/24/108 **KEY MESSAGES**

The budget and precept for 2024/2025 has been agreed as £6373.00 or £8.48 per band D household (FC23/24/098)

The Parish Council are working with Wiltshire Council regarding the latest issues surrounding flooding.

Any additional information of maintenance for the village is requested to be put forward to the Parish Clerk at clerk@altonsandhoneystreet.org.uk

or use the https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting

link to make a direct report to the County Council.

FC23/24/109 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date will be on the Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7:00pm at the Coronation Hall.

Meeting Closed 20:48

These minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record: -

Signed _____ Date 26/03/2024

Summary Of Public Participation Section (Part A)

I. To Receive a report from the Unitary Councilor Paul Oatway.

Cllr. Oatway not present but expected. See Part B below.

II. Report from Community Police Officer, PCSO

Not in attendance, report circulated and attached as part of these minutes.

III.To receive reports from Village Groups & Organisations

No reports received.

IV. Comments from members of the public to be considered by the Council regarding items on the agenda.

3 members of the public were in attendance.

Items to be addressed – Found in FC23/24/092

<u>Feedback from the community re flooding:</u>

There is an understanding from this storm who may be affected in times of flooding, additionally there was no proper warning of the recent flooding to allow residence to source an extra storage of sacks in the event of a flood.

There is a ditch that could be accessed by PC to the Anderson's that needs to be cleared out but the amount of water on this occasion contributed to the issues.

Members of the public expressed continued concerns with the way that Wiltshire is currently managing road repairs. The roads in Alton have been "modified" three times since Christmas and WC continue to add bags of tar to holes full of water. The surface is failing very quickly following the repairs.

A member of the public asked what the role of New College was as the landowner of much of the land in Alton. HK confirmed that discussions for ditches on New College owned land needs to begin with New College. This information was questioned as being contradictory as it has been said that anything to do with Farms and Ditches should go to the Farmer as it is not New College's responsibility. It was confirmed that you may come to the farm, but the farm will approach New College and await the funds to undertake the work. If the work needs immediate attention, it would be better to approach New College directly. The lease would outline what is expected of each party and it was expressed by the both the Council and the public members that collaborative working is likely to be more successful over time.

There is another meeting in the Village regarding flooding on the 2nd of February 2024. Michael Golden offered to attend the 2nd of February if doing so would be helpful.

Members of public who would like to write to Wiltshire or the local MP may do so by contacting:
Richard Clewer at richard.clewer@wiltshire.gov.uk (Mobile: 07980 756424 - https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=187)

Danny Krueger at
Danny.kruger.mp@parliment.uk (01380 729358)

Summary Of Public Participation Section (Part B)

V. To Receive a report from the Unitary Councilor Paul Oatway.

The Parish Council Chairman thanks Paul Oatway for all the inpute and help over the last several days provided to the community.

Cllr Oatway opened the update by taking an action point to ask if Wiltshire Council would be able to supply some gel-sacks at no cost to the Council as a surplus and will let EM know.

Cllr Oatway also provided his condolences to those that have been flooded.

Cllr Oatway along with Cllr MG, and Cllr MS walked the village and looked at the items of maintenance that need to be taken forward. The initial plan discussed is to allow the areas reviewed to dry out and bring forward a proper survey for appropriate work to be carried out in the area. Cllr Oatway has committed to aid in finding a resolution for the identified projects.

The Parish Council discussed the existing issues of mapping held with Wiltshire Council. With previous work in the village, it is known that the mapping for the area may include a lack of information on where the drains connect and how the water leaves the area. During works from outside contractors over time, it was discovered that culverts were left empty with no recorded diversion of where they went leaving cavernous holes that only allowed water to collect. (Cllr Oatway has agreed to investigate what maps are available with Wiltshire Council and how many might be undocumented and may need to be aligned)

Cllr Oatway confirmed that continuing to have the “grips” cut out of the verge is a priority. It was discussed that the lack of a Parish Steward has made this issue difficult.

Parishioners have confirmed that having the grips managed to aid water to the Spring requires immediate attention between Alton Priors and Alton Barnes.

Cllr Oatway confirmed that he has been advised that road work for the Alton area has been placed on 5-year plan. Cllr Oatway has asked for clarification on who sits on the 5-year planning strategy group and has asked to be present at the next meeting. Cllr Oatway will bring back information as it is available.

Cllr Oatway confirmed that there is an element of "management of decay" that defines remedial work vs full replacement in Wiltshire Councils strategy.

The Parish Council expressed to Cllr Oatway that the Highways Department seem to be completely unaccountable and expressed continued disappointment with that fact and the lack of engagement and communication.

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SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

REFERENCE NUMBER
14B3A564-33E7-469D-819D-93EBCCA45121

TRANSACTION DETAILS	DOCUMENT DETAILS
Reference Number 14B3A564-33E7-469D-819D-93EBCCA45121	**Document Name** Final Mins 18 Jan 2024
Transaction Type Signature Request	**Filename** Final_Mins_18_Jan_2024.pdf
Sent At 21/03/2024 23:35 +00	**Pages** 8 pages
Executed At 26/03/2024 12:10 +00	**Content Type** application/pdf
Identity Method email	**File Size** 186 KB
Distribution Method email	**Original Checksum** 7e224e8ede2d8afc5576eaa8780db768ae8e36b3e2d169d88b41bf20cebff80e
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Signer Sequencing Disabled	
Document Passcode Disabled	

SIGNERS

SIGNER	E-SIGNATURE	EVENTS
Name Michael Golden	**Status** signed	**Viewed At** 26/03/2024 12:07 +00
Email goldenmj@me.com	**Multi-factor Digital Fingerprint Checksum** b063faeac5be6c5a51b90f087b2663060df4c885ea37146c8877edb4e840d9cd	**Identity Authenticated At** 26/03/2024 12:09 +00
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	Device Microsoft Edge via Windows	
	Drawn Signature 	
	Signature Reference ID 860DB6FB	
	Signature Biometric Count 3	

AUDITS

TIMESTAMP	AUDIT
21/03/2024 23:35 +00	Elizabeth Martin (parishclerk@ogbournestgeorge.org.uk) created document 'Final_Mins_18_Jan_2024.pdf' on Chrome via Mac from 217.32.112.106.
21/03/2024 23:58 +00	Michael Golden (goldenmj@me.com) was emailed a link to sign.
25/03/2024 23:03 +00	Michael Golden (goldenmj@me.com) was emailed a reminder.
26/03/2024 12:07 +00	Michael Golden (goldenmj@me.com) viewed the document on Microsoft Edge via Windows from 86.164.102.172.
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