

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 Wednesday 15th November 2023
commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Ewan MacKinnon [EMK], Kate Thompson [KT], Michael Golden [MG], Mike Spencer [MS], Polly Carson [PC]

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

CHAIR: Michael Golden [MG]

APOLOGIES: Hayley Kington [HK]

Meeting Opened: 19:13

FC23/24/063 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Hayley Kington [HK]

FC23/24/064 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION**
None Declared

FC23/24/065 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
Proposed PC. Seconded MS. Passed

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 29th June 2023, and 28th September 2023 Be Deferred To The Next Meeting.

FC23/24/066 **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Information on the speed camera information has been sent to the Chairman on how to review the SID (Speed Indicator Device) information. MG to look at how to circulate this information to the Council.
No additional announcements, all items for discussion are within the agenda.

FC23/24/067

TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION, THE CLERK'S REPORT

Wiltshire Council is out for consultation regarding the precept calculator used by all Parish Councils to aid Parish and Town Councils to set the annual precept. The information will not be available until December for the Council to agree the precept this year where in previous years the budget and precept are usually set by November. EM to ask Wiltshire for an extension to respond with the precept for 2024/2025 information and the Council will formally agree the budget and suggested precept for 2024/2025 in the January 2024 meeting. Any suggested projects the Council may have between November and the beginning of January are welcomed to be put forward.

Other items on the Clerks list were discussed throughout the agenda.

FC23/24/068

PLANNING

FC23/24/069

To Consider Planning Applications

Application: [PL/2023/08657](#)

Location: Neates Farm, Browns Lane, Alton Barnes, Marlborough, SN8 4JZ

Proposal: Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area

Response: No Objection

FC23/24/070

TO DISCUSS THE HONEYSTREET BUILDINGS IN DIS-REPAIR

The sale of this building has been withdrawn. The building is leaning, and the Council holds concerns over the safety of the notice board. All the Parish Councils attempts to reach the owner for a discussion over the matter have not been responded to. EM contacted Wiltshire Council over health and safety concerns for the use of the notice board at the property location. Photos and information were sent to Wiltshire Council and EM is awaiting a call back from WC on what next steps will be taken. WC are aware of this property and have been monitoring the site for over 12 months. EM to write to Cllr Oatway with information and additional support.

FC23/24/071

FINANCE MATTERS

FC23/24/072

To Receive For Information, Disbursements Made Since The Last Meeting

Received

FC23/24/073

To Consider And Approve The Schedule Of Forthcoming Payments

Proposed EM. Seconded KT. Passed

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

FC23/24/074

To Consider And Agree To Pay For The Administration Of The Current Village Website At A Cost Of £250

Proposed EM. Seconded MS. Passed

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Parish Council Would Pay For The Administration Of The Current Village Website At A Cost Of £250.

FC23/24/075

TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION, CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS RECEIVED

Email circulated for discussion of agenda item FC23/24/076.

FC23/24/076

TO COINSIDER ITEMS OF MAINTENANCE

The Council has been made aware of some matting at the playpark that requires attention. EM to write to the contractor for a quote to repair.

The drains and ditches are areas that remain under consultation. Cllr Oatway has been asked to help in matters applicable until the new Parish Steward is appointed.

FC23/24/077

To Discuss A Letter From War Memorials Trust Regarding the RAF Memorial

Letter received and the Parish Council regarding the overgrowth of the memorial and the plaque requires some clean up. Ben Owen to be asked to quote for additional work at the memorial area along with a quote for the playground grass cutting.

Action: MG to contact the owner of the field to formally ask if permissions may be given to access the site for maintenance.

FC23/24/078

To Consider And Agree To Amend The Grass Cutting Contract To Include The War Memorial In The Quote For 2024

The Council agrees in principle to ask Ben Owen to quote for two areas. EM to write to BO for a quote.

EM to write to the War Memorial Charity to clarify what the Council is doing to support the War Memorial in Alton.

FC23/24/079

To Receive An Update On Bakers Corner

This was discussed with Cllr Oatway in the Wiltshire Council report to the Council.

Cllr Spencer has met with Wiltshire Council regarding this corner and had been assured that works would be done. To date, no work has been carried out by Wiltshire Council or any other further contact received to the Parish Council regarding the unresolved issues.

- FC23/24/080 **To Receive An Update On The Parish Steward And Discuss Priorities And Next Steps**
The Parish Steward has resigned, and appointments are being sought for the position. The Parish Council will keep a standing item to identify works required for the Parish Steward on the agenda and update for the community and newsletter.
- FC23/24/081 **TO REVIEW AND APPROVE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE'S, WORKING GROUPS, AND 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.
- FC23/24/082 **Pewsey Area Board**
Cllr Thompson to attend the next meeting on the 27th of November 2023 and report back at the next meeting in January to Full Council.
- FC23/24/083 **Local Highways And Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG, Formally, CATG)**
The next meeting will be the 27th November 2023, 19:00, Bouverie Hall, Goddard Road, Pewsey, SN9 5EQ.
- FC23/24/084 **KEY MESSAGES**
Any 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.
- FC23/24/085 **NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting date will be on the Wednesday 18th January 2024 at 7:00pm at the Coronation Hall.
Meeting Closed 20:50
These minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record: -

Signed _____ Date _____

Summary Of Public Participation Section

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

Paul Oatway will be meeting Samantha Howells, Corporate Director for Highways in Wiltshire regarding the issues within the division that are not being resolved. One area to be discussed is Bakers Corner. Cllr Spencer to send Cllr Oatway footage of the corner when the water levels are high. Cllr Oatway to discuss what resolutions will be put in place for longstanding problem areas that are not receiving appropriate attention. The ditches are still a problem in the area. The Parish Steward for the area has resigned and a replacement is being sought. Cllr Oatway to visit Alton with the new Steward once appointed to highlight key areas that require attention.

Cllr Oatway reported that Wiltshire Councils budget is healthy in relation to other parts of the Country. The Council is likely to have an underspend that would roll back into the following financial year. The precept is anticipated to hover around 2.99% and 3.99% for the local authority. The Wiltshire local plan is still out for consultation and will be closing by the end of November. It was highly recommended that the Parish Council is represented at the next Area Board meeting where the agenda is focused on highway issues.

The Council was encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Local Plan as small villages have not been mentioned in the plan.

The "Connect2" bus service is going well with positive feedback. 5000 people used this service in the first two months. Money remains secured to continue to support the scheme. The Scheme is electronic with a phone app, at a cost of £2 or free if a bus pass is held.

Cllr Oatway asked to help to get the drains cleared as they are blocked until the Parish Steward is appointed.

II. Report from Community Police Officer, PCSO

Not in attendance and no report circulated.

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.

No queries received, no members of the public in attendance.