

ALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.00, March 15, 2012*

Present: Steve Hepworth (Chair), Peter Emery, Charles Fletcher, Ben Owen, Polly Carson, Kate Fielden, Robert Carpenter Turner. In attendance: Mark Stephens, Damian Kemp (British Waterways); David Carson. Apologies: Jayne Drew, Jenni Frost

011/12 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not covered by the agenda:

012/12 Wilts Council Core Strategy: Kate Fielden reported that the pc had written to Jane Scott, leader of the council, about timing of consultation etc but had received no substantive answer. She would circulate relevant sections of the document to pc members and seek their responses, which would be collated for a formal representation to be made shortly. Steve Hepworth thanked KF for her work.

013/12 Footpath repairs: SH said work had been completed and the farm would be requesting payment from the pc.

014/12 Canal issues: SH welcomed Mark Stephens, K&A Waterway Manager, his BW colleague Damian Kemp and some 20-30 residents and members of the public, including boat owners. He explained that the pc had received repeated complaints about noise from boats and related issues, and had a duty to investigate and try to resolve those. He stressed that the pc was not in any way “against” boat owners. It was not true, as had been claimed, that the pc sought to ban all mooring in the parish, nor to close the Moonboats enterprise at Honeystreet. There had been a positive meeting earlier in the day with a number of boaters who had made some very useful suggestions about alternatives to the resolution passed at the last pc meeting. SH, inviting contributions from the floor, said the pc would listen, and work with the local boating community in the hope they could come to a satisfactory solution all round. There was an air of goodwill which he hoped could be built upon. Mark Stephens said there were several steps which could be taken to ease the problems of noise etc. He had seen the bad state of the towpath west of the Barge Inn, which had perhaps concentrated activity on the other side of the pub, and resurfacing might help; He had also discussed creating a moorings “quiet zone” to limit generator and other noise. Geoffrey Rogerson of the National Association of Boat Owners said the problem ultimately was one of enforcement. SH said self-policing

could help. Panda Smith said owners and boat-dwellers were more and more restricted as to where they could stop. Most of the problems of nuisance were covered by BW bylaws. The best answer was peer pressure, backed up by enforcement if necessary.

Richard Burchell of the Residential Boat Owners Association said the boating community could take a little more responsibility and be aware that actions could annoy people. It would not be difficult to install signs to remind everyone that this was a quiet mooring. Mark Stephens agreed. Without changing any of the existing mooring rights, the problem could be resolved in a more constructive way.

John Brewin, for the Barge Inn Community Project, said noise from a small minority of boats had caused serious inconvenience at the pub's campsite. A self-regulated quiet zone would be a very good solution. SH thanked everyone for their contributions and said the pc would carefully consider what had been said.

- 015/12** **Playing field – Community Asset Transfer:** SH reported that Pewsey Area Board had approved the proposal to transfer ownership of the Alton Barnes playing field from Wiltshire Council to the pc. The proposal would be advertised by Wilts Council in the local press and the pc would need to consult solicitors. However the legal costs should not be great. The transfer includes a condition that the land will revert to Wilts Council if it ever ceases to be used as a community space. SH confirmed that the pc's solicitor will be asked to investigate if that condition can be removed, and also how binding such covenants are. It was **agreed** that Charles Reiss, clerk, should contact solicitors
- 016/12** **Playing field bench & table:** After brief discussion it was **agreed** that since the pc does not have funds for a new bench plus installation the existing bench will be repaired.
- 017/12** **AGM:** SH confirmed that the Coronation Hall, the usual venue, will be unavailable on the scheduled date of May 10 because of roof repairs. CR said options in the parish were limited since the AGM must not be held in licensed premises nor in a private dwelling. St Mary's church at Alton Barnes would be available from 7.30pm. Proposed Polly Carson, seconded Peter Emery, that the AGM be held in the church unless a better alternative arises. **Agreed** nem com.
- 018/12** **Code of Conduct and Register of Members' Interests:** CR reminded pc members of the need to complete Register of Interest forms and submit them to Wilts Council.
- 019/12** **Salisbury Arts Festival (SIAF):** SH reported that SIAF will be responsible for car parking and supervision at the White Horse event

on June 30. The pc would stay in touch but would not be actively involved, following the resolution at the previous pc meeting.

- 020/12** **Great Stones Way:** KF reported that Friends of the Ridgeway (FoR) had appointed consultants to carry out an environmental impact survey. In discussion, pc members agreed that there was no point in suggesting alternative routes for the proposed long distance path, which would simply shift the problems elsewhere. It was up to FoR to find a viable route. There should be an early meeting with the consultants to put our views.
- 021/12** **Coronation Hall roof repairs:** David Carson, for the Coronation Hall Committee, said he was asking for a contribution from pc funds. The work would include the roof cover, ceiling and complete internal and external redecoration. The total cost, including VAT, was £50,402.2p. The Landfill Trust had promised £15,000; there was £7,000 in reserves; £2,000 had been raised; and further grants were possible. To fulfill the Landfill criteria work must start in April. The aim was to have it completed by the midsummer show. Answering questions, DC said there were back-up plans in place to cover the cost should the full amount not be raised, It was hoped the pc would contribute £500. After further discussion, PE proposed that the pc contribute at least £500, subject to confirmation by the Responsible Financial Officer; seconded Robert Carpenter Turner, **agreed** nem. con.
- 022/12** **Jubilee beacon:** DC confirmed that the event had been registered as part of the Jubilee beacon chain. He had received information from Natural England and English Heritage. SH thanked him for his work.
- 023/12** **Speedwatch:** Charles Fletcher said there were now six trained volunteers but more were needed. Two exercises carried out last month had logged drivers speeding at up to 52mph through the 30mph zone. Details had been passed to the police who would send reminder letters to the car owners.
- 024/12** **Planning applications:** E/2012/0227/FUL - Old Builders Wharf, Honeystreet. The plans, to convert an existing building for use as a café, were examined. One pc member raised concerns over parking, as the site has space for only 20 cars. After discussion it was proposed SH, seconded RCT, that the pc support the application. **Agreed** with one abstention.
Application E/2012/0154/TCA tree removal - Neates Farm, which was circulated and discussed by pc members by email and accepted with no objections, amendments or observations, was noted for the record.
- 025/12** **Newsletter:** CR to circulate pc members with topics for inclusion.

026/12 **AOB:** CF raised the issue of dog fouling on the towpath and around the Barge and asked if the pub could provide poop bags. PC agreed. SH reported that he and his wife had collected 20kg of litter from the roadside between Alton Priors and the drove road car park. KF asked for thanks to them both to be recorded.
PE and PC signed a cheque for £80, annual playing field rent. Also £306 to Steve Aplin for playground repairs.
There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.33pm.

* Subject to approval by next pc meeting