

**ALTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30, October 14, 2013**

**Present:** Steve Hepworth, Peter Emery, Kate Fielden, Ben Owen, Jayne Drew, Robert Carpenter Turner, Polly Carson  
Apologies: Jenni Bickerdyke. In attendance: Councillor Paul Oatway

**089/13 Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (proposed Peter Emery, seconded Robert Carpenter Turner) and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising not on the agenda:

**090/13 Woodborough Garden Centre ad:** Following concerns raised at the previous meeting (075/13) Steve Hepworth reported that the advertisement, at the Devizes / Pewsey crossroad, had been removed. Wiltshire Council had written to the Garden Centre to say the ad did not have planning permission and must be taken down.

**091/13 Chimney Lane:** SH said that letters to the owners regarding the poor state of the road had been superseded to some extent by the two planning applications on the lane. Wiltshire planning suggested maintenance would fall to the owners of the road with users paying a contribution. Mrs Jean Niel, as owner of a very short stretch at the eastern end, was prepared to arrange for resurfacing. The middle section is owned by the India Shop. Charles Reiss (Clerk) said he had written to the Canal and River Trust as owners of the western end but had so far received no reply. Kate Fielden warned that heavy construction traffic for either or both of the proposed new developments would damage the road still further.

**092/13 Fertiliser tanks, Alton Priors:** SH said he understood the planning application (13/00551/FUL) had been refused by Wilts. with a request that the tanks be removed. To go on the agenda for the next pc.

**093/13 Parish Council roles:** CR suggested pc members might wish to take on specific areas of responsibility, for example one or two named members to investigate what grants might be available. Members stressed that care was needed to avoid taking on work which should properly be carried out by Wiltshire Council. However there were projects, such as a new fence for the playground or help with insurance, where grant would be welcome. Agreed that Jayne Drew will see whether the North Wessex AONB would have grant available for the playground; Ben Owen to investigate grants in general. Wider roles to be considered at the next pc.

**Any other business:** [the Chairman suggested this item be taken now, before considering planning applications]

**094/13 North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:**  
Kate Fielden will examine the AONB Management Plan and report back.

**095/13 Fernbank, planning application 13/03736/FUL:** Chimney Lane, Honeystreet, demolition of two dwellings and the erection of three dwellings and associated work.

Steve Hepworth invited members of the public present to voice their views. Three spoke, all raising objections. SH said that the pc had received a large number of representations both by phone and email. None was in favour. Robert Carpenter Turner reported on an informal meeting of residents on the canal north bank, where the proposed development is sited. All except one were content to see the existing bungalow removed, and all were in favour of demolition of the other existing building, the annexe. Residents felt redevelopment should be limited to two houses, in accord with the Village Design Statement. They disliked the design proposed. The other main objection concerned parking and severe access difficulties in Chimney Lane.

Members reviewed the plans. Several said the two current applications, within 200 yards of each other on Chimney Lane, ought to be considered together, since together they would constitute a major development for the village. Cllr Oatway said that while the whole area must be taken into consideration Wilts. Council could only deal with one application at a time. In discussion, members highlighted the serious concerns of the India Shop next door to the site; and major problems of access along Chimney Lane, a single track, unadopted road with no designated passing-places. The proposal was an over-development. The design and materials proposed, with a substantial area of wrap-around glass, were “hideous” and “totally contrary to the character of the village.” Above all, it was felt that the proposal breached the first recommendation of the VDS, that any new development must be in keeping “with the scale and character of the village.”

Resolution, proposed Polly Carson, seconded Ben Owen:

The Parish Council, having considered the proposed development in detail, strongly opposes this application. The reasons, as discussed, to be communicated to Wiltshire council.

Carried unanimously.

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**096/13**      **Honestreet Mills E/10/0772/FUL:** demolition of two dwellings and vacant former commercial buildings and replacement with five dwellings. This application was originally submitted in 2010, when the pc agreed to support in principle, subject to conditions. Members pointed out that most of those conditions, including parking, a requirement that there should be no street lighting, and the use of appropriate materials including original pantiles, had still not been met. The plans, as amended, were still lacking in detail and in some respects inaccurate.

Resolution, proposed Robert Carpenter Turner, seconded Polly Carson:

The Parish Council, having reconsidered the application as amended, supports with conditions but hopes consent will not be granted until and unless those conditions have been addressed.

Carried unanimously.

**097/13**      **Grants:** Paul Oatway again stressed the importance – and the availability – of grants for worthwhile projects. These could include improvement of footpaths and stiles; and aid for the village hall.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.02pm. Date of next meeting, December 5.

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