

**ALTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of meeting at the Coronation Hall, 7.30, July 4, 2013**

**Present:** Steve Hepworth, Peter Emery, Kate Fielden, Ben Owen, Jayne Drew, Jenni Bickerdyke  
Apologies: Robert Carpenter Turner, PC Richard Barratt. In attendance: Councillor Paul Oatway, Mike Wilmott (Wiltshire Council Head of Planning East.)

**053/13 Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (proposed Peter Emery, seconded Ben Owen) and signed by the Chairman.

**054/13 Planning issues:** Steve Hepworth explained parish council concern over pc input into the planning process, particularly in the light of application E/2013/0221/FUL (The Bank) to which the pc had strongly objected but which was nevertheless approved. Mike Wilmott explained the merits of the proposal, in the view of the Council, pointing out that it had been amended and improved in response to some of the comments made. The parish had two layers of protection, as a conservation area within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. But he did not believe the objections raised by the pc would have been accepted by an Inspector on appeal. He stressed that Council planning officers did look at views expressed by the pc and take them into account.

**055/13 Roadside advertisements:** Asked about large roadside signs recently erected to advertise the Woodborough Garden Centre, MW said they required consent and the council was ready to take action; he suggested the pc email details to the council. In later discussion, SH was asked to contact the garden centre and ask how long the signs would be in place, whether they might be smaller and whether planning permission had been applied for, and report back.

**056/13 Honeystreet Wharf:** SH reported that, as agreed at the previous pc, he had contacted the owner to raise concerns about the state and safety of the buildings on the site. She had replied that the buildings had been inspected and deemed safe; rat treatment had been carried out; and loose guttering removed. MW noted the extraordinary length of time the proposed development of the site had been delayed. Members thanked him for his attendance and his advice.

**Matters arising not covered by the agenda:**

**057/13 Roads:** SH reported that some sections of the roads in the parish had been marked for repair, but not including the road coming down the hill and left to Alton Priors. PO said that he had found the

road at that point an absolute shambles. He had told the Highways Dept that the surface was unacceptable. However he did not know if there would be a complete resurfacing or merely the defects filled.

**058/13 Pewsey Community Area Partnership / Police report:** In the absence of Emma Barron (PCAP) and a police representative, these items were not taken.

**059/13 Treasurer's report - audit:** Jenni Bickerdyke reported that the annual audit had been carried out by Arthur Johnson. As required, JB put a series of questions regarding the audit to pc members. Each was answered satisfactorily. Having been approved by the Parish Council as a body, the audit was signed by the Chairman and by the Clerk. Steve Hepworth, on behalf of the pc, thanked JB for her work as Responsible Financial Officer.

**060/13 Quiet Zone update:** SH reported on a meeting earlier in the day, called in response to the pc decision to invite all the agencies involved in the problem of noise from a small minority of boats on the canal at Honeystreet. Those present were: Mark Stephens, Canal & River Trust (CRT) Manager for the canal, Geoff Walters, CRT enforcement team, Inspector Matthew Armstrong, Wilts Police, Gary Tomsett, Wilts Council Environmental Protection (EP) Team Manager, Vicky Brown, Wilts Public Protection Officer, Cllr Oatway and, for the pc, SH and Charles Reiss (Clerk). SH said that the meeting had explored the roles of those involved. Wilts EP would not attend an incident out of hours except in the case of repeated noise from the same source, leading to an abatement order. The police would attend only on public order grounds. However Wilts Council and the CRT advised that, where there was a problem, full details should be logged. The CRT was already resurfacing the towpath west of the Barge Inn to encourage boats to moor away from houses, and would look at extending that work further. They would also replace the sign marking the western end of the Quiet Zone. CR, asked to comment, questioned the figures produced by Wilts EP claiming there had been no more than one or two complaints a year. Other pc members strongly disputed the figures. Paul Oatway said the pc should write to the council and to the CRT each time there was an incident.

#### **Planning applications:**

**061/13 13/00551/FUL:** Land off Pewsey Road: replacement of two liquid fertilizer tanks. All pc members who spoke objected to this retrospective application, submitted after an enforcement officer's letter. Among the points made: the vertical tanks, 7m high and light green, are visible for miles all around; totally against the principle of

the AONB; “a complete eyesore”. Members pointed out that the previous tanks were dark green and horizontal, therefore much less visible. The new tanks had already been vandalized causing a big fertilizer leak. Proposed Ben Owen, seconded SH, that the Parish Council strongly object. Agreed unanimously. Kate Fielden and CR to draft comment to Wilts Council.

PO said the tanks were a monstrosity, just below the highest point in the county. He would contact the Planning Officer and, if need be, call in the application.

**062/13** 13/00920/FUL: White Horse Livery, Brown’s Lane, Alton Barnes: retention of three buildings already erected containing six stables & one tack room. Members said the buildings were not offensive and that local employment should be encouraged. No objections, no comment.

**063/13** 13/01031/FUL: 3 Priory Cottages, Alton Priors: 1<sup>st</sup> floor side extension. One member voiced objections; the others had no objections and no comments to make; so agreed.

#### **Any other business**

**064/13**        **Payments:** £40 cheque to Peter Emery for spraying of White Horse approved, SH signed; Polly Carson to sign.

**065/13**        **Open gardens:** SH in reply to a question said that the event had been very successful, raising more than £2,000, a large part of which would go to St Mary’s Church.

**066/13**        **Future planning application:** Kate Fielden, declaring an interest, wished to inform the pc of her intention to seek permission to build a small property in the garden of her home in Alton Priors, and ask whether the pc would have any objection in principle. In brief, informal discussion, pc members said they would have no objection in principle but looked forward to seeing the application.

**067/13**        **Speedwatch:** PO said it was encouraging that the Police and Crime Commissioner was arranging a meeting on this issue in the autumn, with a member from each scheme invited to attend.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.11pm.

pc minutes 4.7.13

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