

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2021**

at 7.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Market Square Alton

Present: **Councillor** **Graham Titterington - Chair**
 Matthew Bayliss
 Christopher Lawrence

In attendance:

 Pat Harris – Finance & Administration Manager
 Wendy Simson – Finance Officer
 1 member of the public

206 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no formal announcements to record but

- (i) reminded all attendees to switch their mobile phones off or place on mute
- (ii) sent best wishes to Councillors Crossley & Durley who could not attend.

207 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Paul Crossley, Amanda Durley & Richard Platt. Councillor Sharon Cullen did not attend.

208 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

209 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations Requested

The Chairman reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda. No Dispensations were requested.

210 Questions/Representations/Correspondence to the Committee

Correspondence received in writing – as published in the meeting Agenda:

210.1 David Proud – resident in respect of a cross town 20 mph to be considered.

Dear Cllr Titterington

Was it possible to raise this matter at the Planning and Transport Committee Meeting as recommended by Cllr Jones and if so, what was the outcome please?

Councillor Titterington responded to advise the matter was on the Agenda for this evening's meeting.

Correspondence received after publication of the Agenda:

210.2 E-mail from Councillor Pam Jones to Chair, Councillor Graham Titterington:

Hi Graham,

Can I ask that the subject of our new town signage is raised at Planning on Wed, please?

ACT agreed to it at a planning meeting in January but Cllr Joy was not willing to endorse it...I wrote, as Mayor, to him on 17th September asking that he reconsider and he did say he would reply but I still have not received any formal written response...

We are a Walkers are Welcome town and the only designated walking gateway to the SDNP....it seems Whitchurch have had no problem with new signage.

Alton is to host the WAW national get together next year and I believe the I installation of this new signage is long over-due.

The following response has been provided by County Councillor Andrew Joy in response:

Dear Pam

Although I have verbally repeated my view, decision and confirmation regarding the Alton Town Council P&T Committee's proposals for Alton 'Welcome' signage on numerous occasions including Alton TC Full Council, I receive repeat verbal enquiries from time to time following your emailed (16 Sep 2021) letter, post-dated 17 Sep 2021, asking me to reconsider my decision. I thought it would be helpful to explain the position and conclusion.

I have been and remain supportive of the established Highway 'Welcome' signage concept. Given Alton's unquestionable claim and economic determination to be an attractive destination in its own right, my concern has always been over signage reference to Alton as a 'Gateway' to anywhere of which it is not a part. Nevertheless I consulted further with HCC Highways and Economic Development and, particularly, with those Members of HCC and EHDC (both East Hants based) with specific responsibility for engagement with and matters related to the South Downs National Park (SDNP). All were fully aware of Alton's geographical location in relation to the SDNP.

The unanimous view was that Alton's interests would be best served by its identity and promotion as a destination in itself. It was considered not just economically disadvantageous but also somewhat misleading to advertise Alton on Highway signage as an entry point to the SDNP, of which it is not a part, and in so doing to draw/divert motorist visitors away from the normal approach routes to the SDNP. Walking visitors, however, are generally well aware of Footpath routes and would plan accordingly. Inclusion of the Walkers Welcome logo is logical.

Whilst proximity to the SDNP is not an Alton USP, there are other alternative example USP aspects such as: Historic Battleground (1001AD, 13 Dec 1643AD), Source of the River Wey and even Gateway to Hampshire History. The lighter blue background certainly stands out well.

Whilst remaining supportive of the proposed design concept, having taken account of all points previously raised and those set out above, I have concluded that inclusion of reference to Alton on Highway signage as a Gateway to the SDNP would be inappropriate. I therefore re-confirm my decision not to support the detailed design as proposed.

210.3 Correspondence sent to Councillor Richard Platt from a local business enquiring as to why Alibaba Eats in Alton is allowed to have a backlit fascia on their shop premises. Councillor Platt has referred the matter to EHDC Planning Enforcement for their response direct to the enquirer of the complaint.

NOTED

211 To consider any matters or reports pertaining to Highways/ Parking/Public Transport, Housing, Street Naming and any current Public Exhibitions/Consultations

With the agreement of all members present, The Committee invited Chris Chappell of Cycle Alton to address councillors on Agenda item 8 Default Speed Limit throughout Hampshire of 20 mph. The Committee had received a report for decision seeking that Alton Town Council gave its support to the campaign calling on Hampshire County Council to implement in Alton.

On the proposal of Councillor Matthew Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Christopher Lawrence it was

RESOLVED to amend the recommendation and remove the references (i) “county-wide” and replace it with “Alton-wide” (ii) remove any reference allocating a ring-fenced amount from public health, sustainability and transport budgets to enable 20 mph to be implemented

All councillors voted in favour

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington, seconded by Councillor Matthew Bayliss it was

RESOLVED to send a letter to Hampshire County Council:

- (i) Calling on Hampshire County Council to implement 20 mph in Alton**
- (ii) Make 20 mph the default speed limit on streets throughout Alton in places where people live, work, shop, play or learn, leaving 30 mph as the exception on those roads where fully consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit. This will be part of the safe ‘cycle to school’ network being developed in Alton**

All councillors voted in favour

Chris Chapell also provided an update to councillors on the proposed improvement to the cycle routes in town as part of the proposed Cycle to School Network project which is looking at the joining up all of the major housing estates in the town and enabling safe passage between home and schools as part of the cycle to school campaign. A clarification from EHDC on the current position in relation to this project is awaited.

212 Applications

212.1 Planning Applications: On the proposal of Councillor Matthew Bayliss seconded by Councillor Christopher Lawrence it was

RESOLVED

That the views of the committee in respect of each application are as set out in the appendix to the minutes.

- 212.2 **Tree Applications:** On the proposal of Councillor Matthew Bayliss seconded by Councillor Christopher Lawrence it was

RESOLVED

That the views of the committee in respect of each application are as set out in the appendix to the minutes.

- 212.3 **Licencing Applications:** On the proposal of Councillor Matthew Bayliss seconded by Councillor Christopher Lawrence it was

RESOLVED

That the views of the committee in respect of each application are as set out in the appendix to the minutes.

- 212.4 Other correspondence/reports/information:

212.4.1 EHDC have confirmed that the Tree Preservation Order (EH1169)2021 re: Former Water Treatment Works, south of 3-7 The Ridgeway, Alton, was confirmed without modification by the council on 12th November 2021

212.4.2 EHDC have confirmed that planning permission has been granted in respect of Planning Application 22766/040 Alton House Hotel, Normandy Street, Alton for 6 flats and 3 detached dwellings (9 in total) with car parking and landscaping (amended plans received 24 September 2021). The objection of the Town Council was noted.

213 Emerging Local Plan

- 213.1 Confirmation received from East Hampshire District Council that following the decision taken at its Full Council meeting (held on Thursday, 11th November):

Following the decision of EHDC Council last night, the Alton Neighbourhood Development Plan (as modified April 2021) was ‘made’ part of EHDC’s statutory development plan. With immediate effect it will replace the previous version and should be used for assessing planning applications.

I have sent details to our web team, so the website should either get updated later this afternoon or first thing Monday morning.

- 213.2 Further to the previous meeting the Town Clerk had contacted local organisations in order to obtain a financial commitment in meeting the costs of requesting Historic England to undertake a screening for potential listing on the site (Minute 188.3 refers): The following pledges have been made:

- Graham Webb on behalf of Beech Parish Council have confirmed that they will make a contribution of up to £800 towards a “Screening for Potential Listing” of the park pale at Chawton Park Farm.

- Nick Carey-Thomas on behalf of Alton Buildings Preservation Trust have decided to offer up to £1,000 in meeting the cost of a screening exercise on the park pales in Chawton Park Wood.
- David Simpkins on behalf of The Alton Society has resolved to provide £1,500 towards the cost of the Deer Pales application.
- Carol Palmer & Chris Cowell £500 each making a total of £1000.
- Confirmation of a pledge from Chawton Parish Council – details as to the amount pledged is still awaited. Post meeting note: Chawton Parish Council confirmed £1,500 contribution on Thursday, 1st December.

The Committee agreed that this item would be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting to determine next steps given the level of pledges of financial contribution provided. In the meantime, the Town Clerk would be making further contact with Historic England to ascertain what action is required on the Town Council's part to progress the next stage of the process.

214 To consider any matters or reports pertaining to Highways/ Parking/Public Transport, Housing, Street Naming and any current Public Exhibitions/Consultations

- 214.1 Hampshire County Council have advised of the following works being undertaken as part of the annual programme of works being undertaken by Operation Resilience, carriageway surface repairs in localised areas along Vicarage Road, Alton, From Borovere Lane to Tower Street.

This work is in preparation for a proposed surface treatment, which if undertaken, will be carried out during 2022.

The works are currently programmed to start on Thursday 25th November 2021 and are expected to last for up to 1 day, during which time the road will be closed to through traffic from approximately 09:00 to 16:30hrs. The road will be open outside of these hours.

- 214.2 Hampshire County Council Highways have confirmed that following a request from Alton Town Council on an update in respect of tree and hedge planting at Anstey Lane (following completion of the junction):

The hedge will be replanted during the course of this winter whilst the plants are dormant and additional watering resource requirements are their lowest. I have not got a confirmed date at present however I will continue to press my colleagues in landscaping for a date. As soon as I have this information, I will let you know.

- 214.3 Hampshire County Council, School Crossing Patrol (SCP) have confirmed that following a re-survey of the SCP site on London Rd, Holybourne last week, the site on London Road does meet the policy requirements for continuing funding and the vacancy will be advertised shortly.

NOTED

The meeting finished at 7.40 pm

**COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE
PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2021
PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Notification of Full Planning Application:

1. 29008/007 Site Address: 15 Lenten Street, Alton, GU34 1HG
Proposal: Construction of 3 houses, following the demolition of existing
redundant outbuildings
OBJECT for the following material reasons:

1. The proposal constitutes an unacceptable over-development of the site where the form and mass of development is at variance with that of the immediate area.
2. The proposed plan only shows bin storage for the new dwellings and does not demonstrate any area for existing residential dwellings to store their bins nor any designated bin collection area for both new and the existing dwellings. This is contrary to Policy CP29 part F and without a set designated collection and storage area for both new and existing dwellings severe disruption for all concerned including neighbouring commercial premises will occur and does not meet the criteria as set out under Policy HO2 of the Alton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011-2028 as modified April 2021.
3. There is no provision for visitor parking and therefore the application fails to meet the criteria of TR5 of the Alton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011-2028 as modified April 2021.

With the following additional comments:

1. The area itself currently forms open land which is currently used for informal parking for adjacent residential properties and Alton Town Council concurs with the comments made by the Highways Authority in raising concerns regarding the apparent loss of parking for the four properties fronting Lenten Street which were provided for in the previous approval, as this could lead to vehicles seeking alternative parking on-street.

Notification of Listed Building Consent application

1. 28579/006 Site Address: 6 Lenten Street, Alton, GU34 1HG
Proposal: Listed building consent for the Installation of a gate into existing garden wall along with the repointing and repairing of existing wall.
NO OBJECTION

Notification of Householder application

1. 24018/004 Site Address: 88 Queens Road, Alton, GU34 1HX

Proposal: The removal of the conservatory to be replaced with a rear extension and the removal of the front dormer to be replaced with a larger dormer.

NO OBJECTION

2. 33033/001 Site Address: 110 Whitedown Lane, Alton, GU34 1Q
Proposal: Single storey extension to rear
NO OBJECTION
3. 59461 Site Address: 7 Grange Gardens, Holybourne, Alton, GU34 4DZ
Proposal: Single storey side/rear extension
NO OBJECTION
4. 59546 Site Address: 25 Rack Close Road, Alton, GU34 1J
Proposal: Conversion of existing roof spaces
NO OBJECTION
5. 59558 Site Address: 3 Murray Grove, Alton, GU34 2FY
Proposal: Installation of a door to the rear, along with internal alterations
NO OBJECTION

TREE APPLICATIONS

1. 52991/002 Site Address: 4 Railway Terrace, Paper Mill Lane, Alton, GU34 2PY
Re: Application for consent for Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order
Proposal: T1 - Lime tree crown reduction - 2m crown reduction from approx 10m in height to 8m. SW - 2m selective tip reduction from 5m radius to 3m. SE - 1m selective tip reduction from 4.5m radius to 3.5m. NW - 2.5m selective tip reduction from 6m to 3.5m. NE - 1m selective tip reduction from 4m radius to 3m. Crown thin by 15%.
NO OBJECTION as per the recommendation of the Tree Warden

LICENCING

The Twisted Teacup Bistro & Emporium
Market Square, Alton, Hants. GU34 1HD
Bus & Planning Act Pavement Cafe Licence
4 tables: 4'x6' and includes attached bench chairs to each
Area in front of the premises marked by static fixed bollards
0900-2300 Monday to Saturday
0900-1600 Sunday
NO OBJECTION