

Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 19th November 2024 in The Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, B49 6HX

PRESENT	<p>Councillors Mr I Millard (Vice Chairman, chairing this meeting in Cllr Bowring's absence), Mrs L Bennettt and Mr I Taylor.</p> <p>Also in attendance, Cllr Justin Kerridge from Warwickshire County Council.</p> <p>15 members of the public in attendance.</p>
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Apologies received from Cllr Bowring. The Executive Officer did not receive a response from Cllr Holmes about whether or not he could attend the meeting.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	None.
3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES	Minutes from the September 2024 Parish Council Meeting minutes were approved by the Councillors.
	<i>ACTION: Minutes to be signed by the Chairman and filed by the Executive Officer.</i>
6.	<u>OPEN FORUM</u>
a. Representations from residents	<p><u><i>Dogs being exercised off the lead in Great Alne Park Retirement Village (GAP)</i></u></p> <p>A resident raised a representation regarding the increasing incidents of dogs being allowed to exercise off the lead within GAP. There was also an increase in the amount of dog fouling on the development.</p> <p>Cllr Millard acknowledged dog fouling was an issue GAPC has been grappling with for many years. There is a similar problem in the Recreation Ground on School Road.</p> <p>After extensive discussion, it was agreed that GAPC would work with IVG to agree a joint approach to tackle the problem, and would in the first instance publish a notice on the noticeboards, in the next newsletter and in all the usual channels - including the Brief which is the GAP newsletter. The Executive Officer would agree a position with the General Manager of GAP, with whom she had already started the conversation.</p> <p>GAPC would be adding new signage to the Recreation Ground in the new year to clarify the position in the park – which is that dogs are allowed on a short lead provided they stick to the footpath that goes through the park from School Road to Nightingale Close.</p> <p>The Executive Officer also noted that GAPC will be undertaking all the new signposting for the public footpaths in the parish from the New Year and this would therefore encourage residents to use alternative routes for dog walking.</p> <p><u><i>Dangerous mud on the road outside Great Alne Park along Henley Road</i></u></p> <p>A resident raised concerns about the large amount of mud on the highway outside GAP and the removal of a mature 10-foot hedgerow along the boundary of the adjacent field. The resident queried why the proper gated access had not been used and whether the new access that had been created should have had planning permission.</p>

	<p>The Executive Officer responded that GAPC was aware of the mud on the road and had been liaising with Warwickshire County Council (Highways) about it. Highways had been out to Henley Road to clean up the mud, but it needed more than brushing. Highways had put up hazard signs for Mud on the Road. The Highways officer considered full road closure might be required to scrape the road unless there is significant rainfall soon. The Officer had spoken to the farmer and was aware that it had been reported several times to the police.</p> <p>The Executive Officer is in contact with WCC Highways and will keep the parish councillors updated on any developments.</p>
b. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update	<p>The Executive Officer provided a summary of the last weekly report provided by the Alcester SNT, with particular focus on the importance of home security following the recent burglaries across our local area, particularly keyless car theft and theft from out buildings. The Executive Officer also noted that the dates had been released for police surgeries in Great Alne next year:</p> <p>The surgeries will take place in the car park of the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall, Henley Road.</p> <p>Time 9 to 9:30am</p> <p>Wednesday 8th January</p> <p>Wednesday 12th February</p> <p>Wednesday 19th March</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd April</p> <p>Wednesday 28th May</p> <p>Wednesday 2nd July</p> <p>Wednesday 6th August</p> <p>Wednesday 15th October</p> <p>Wednesday 19th November</p> <p>Due to the nature of policing a surgery could be cancelled at very short notice.</p>
c. County Councillor's Report	<p>Cllr Kerridge provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has been working with GAPC on proposed traffic calming measures to address speeding. Cllr Kerridge is keen to allocate his delegated highways budget for Great Alne (which is £10,000) by March as his term ends in May 2025. Cllr Kerridge confirmed that once this money has been allocated Graham Stanley and the Safety Audit Team will be the next stage. • Cllr Taylor will be emailing Cllr Kerridge in relation to flooding actions, including a report linking the blocked drains with their CCTV footage so that WCC can see what work needs to be planned for the coming financial year(s). GAPC will be looking to escalate this work within WCC.
d. District Councillor's Report	<p>The Executive Officer confirmed she had not received any update from Cllr Holmes.</p>
e. GAKMH parish councillor	<p>Cllr Millard provided the following update:</p>

representative's report	<p>Key points from last meeting were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no communication with Adil Khan regarding the future of the former Social Club since the last meeting. No planning application has been made for change of use or alterations. • There has been no feedback regarding the possible installation of EV charging points at the Hall since the meeting with the companies involved in June. • Agreement has been reached with BT Openreach regarding the underground routing of a broadband fibre connection to the Hall • A free wifi hotspot has been created at the Hall for public use. <p>Key Christmas dates have been circulated as follows:</p> <p>30 Nov Christmas Coffee Morning 01 Dec Christmas is coming - Light switch on / Carols 13 Dec Abba Themed Christmas party</p>
f. Update on Great Alne Park	<p>The Executive Officer had received the following update from Adam Hall, General Manager at GAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 3 progresses well, with sectional handover of the phase already beginning. He anticipates this to be completed by the end of January 2025. • The multifunction room is currently Out of Order for the next few weeks – while the ceiling is being pulled down and walls pulled out to ensure the escape of sound is minimal.
g. Climate Action Group update	<p>The Executive Officer confirmed that the Community Orchard (funding provided by WCC and DEFRA) was planted in the Recreation Ground on 9 November. Cllr Bennett will provide more detail in her report, but GAPC would like to extend its thanks to all the volunteers involved with this project – both those who worked extremely hard to bring it all together beforehand - and those who came along on the day to get it planted.</p> <p>Other workstreams include the rainwater harvesting structure for the Recreation Ground for watering the newly planted trees – which is about to be started. All materials have been ordered and delivered.</p> <p>A comprehensive update on Flooding has been provided by Cllr Taylor but GAPC would also like to extend its thanks to the FLAG volunteers who have been to the HoEF recently to assist the WWT with the felling of trees for the installation of leaky dams.</p> <p>The other main update is the Executive Officer has been working with Alcester Town Council in the preparation and submission of an Expression of Interest to a funding opportunity from The National Lottery Heritage Fund – which is to capacity build for the creation of a series of Greenways across the Stratford District – which would therefore include the proposed Greenway from Great Alne to Alcester.</p>
h. Affordable Housing Update	<p>The Executive Officer explained that there had been a few enquiries from residents regarding the affordable housing proposal and these had been responded to by GAPC. The councillors were now working on a list of criteria against which to assess the remaining sites. We hope to be in a position to discuss these in more detail at the January meeting. Sarah Brooke-Taylor from the WRCC will be able to attend the PC meeting scheduled in March.</p>

<p>5.</p> <p>a. Flooding</p> <p>b. Streetlighting</p> <p>c. Footpaths survey</p> <p>d. Community Speed Watch / Road Safety Update</p> <p>7b.</p> <p>a. Park maintenance and repairs</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p><u>General Maintenance Update</u></p> <p>Please refer to the report provided by Cllr Taylor at Annex 1.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor provided a summary for the benefit of residents. He also added the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscan has now completed its investigation, clearance and jetting of all the drains in the main village. Cllr Taylor and Roger Bennett are in the process of creating a report for maintenance of the drains going forward that links problem drains to their CCTV imagery. This report will include a list of identified issues for WCC Highways to repair. • The Sernal Lane ditch has been finished. There is however a blocked culvert outside Linfoot Oaks. This is one of the urgent items on the repair list as it is on WCC land. • WCC has completed the long overdue drainage repairs at the sharp bend heading towards Little Alne. • The farmers have carried out some of the work that GAPC has encouraged them to do. There is still some significant work to do eg the Parish Ditch that runs from Alne Cote Corner to the river. The farmer is waiting for dryer weather before he can do this. • The fields behind Alne Cote Corner – the farmer has committed to digging ditches on those fields to prevent the water coming onto the road at the double s-bend. • GAPC continues to work with the relevant landowner responsible for Manor Court ditch. <p>The Executive Officer confirmed that the issue re ownership of the streetlights on Linfoot Oaks has been resolved – GAPC is responsible for them and they are now back on our streetlight inventory. National Grid has confirmed that we will be charged for backdated electricity for these three lamps but only back to the last updated inventory which is August 2024 (the cost will be @ £10).</p> <p>Please refer to Annex 2 for the update on the Footpaths project.</p> <p>Lead volunteer Bob Larbey added that we are seeking a quote for installation of the footpath signage in the new year – which will hopefully fall within the remaining budget for the s106 money.</p> <p>Please refer to Annex 3 for Cllr Millard's update on CSWG / Road Safety. Cllr Millard confirmed GAPC is putting ideas for priority traffic calming measures together after the recent meeting with the Police. We are working within the parameters available although the measures proposed at school are potentially prohibitively expensive. The idea is to do what we can as quickly as possible. Hopefully this list will be approved in the next couple of weeks and forwarded to WCC Road Safety / Graham Stanley.</p> <p><u>Recreation Ground and defibrillator</u></p> <p>Cllr Bennett has provided an update Report at Annex 4, attached.</p> <p>Cllr Bennett also provided the following information:</p>
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<p>b. Community Planting Plans update</p>	<p>Cllr Bennett and the Executive Office met with the contractor who carried out the wetpour repairs to the entrance to the toddler play area. The contractor has agreed to return when the better weather arrives in spring to finish off certain aspects that we are not happy with – although the contractor had carried out the repairs that they thought were required. The other repairs required in the park have all been completed. GAPC has asked the contractor to provide a quote for the other repairs to the playground that arose in the annual inspection report – although all of these are considered low risk issues.</p> <p>Cllr Bennett confirmed that the Community Orchard was planted on 9th November. We have planted 32 fruit and nut trees and were ably assisted from volunteers in the community of all ages – ranging from 5 – 90 years. We have also planted a copper beech tree in recognition of the 47 years of service by Paul Clarke, who retired from GAPC earlier this year. Cllr Bennett made special mention of Lin, Leo, Maureen and Graham – without whose help, input and continuing support we would not have been able to create the orchard or all the wonderful trees in it. There will be more on this great achievement in the next newsletter.</p>
<p>c. Defibrillator update</p>	<p>The defibrillator is working fine and is rescue ready. However, there is still a beeping on the emergency phone which has been reported. Cllr Bennett continues to chase for an update from Community Heartbeat Trust but they have not been very forthcoming.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>MAIN BUSINESS</p> <p><u>FOR INFORMATION</u></p>
<p>a. Applications for the parish councillor vacancy</p>	<p>The Executive Officer confirmed that there is a vacancy for a parish councillor following the resignation of Diane Francis in September. The vacancy has not yet been filled and unless anyone comes forward before the end of November, we will be advertising again in the new year. Please speak to the Executive Officer if you have any queries about the role.</p>
<p>b. Lengthsman role</p>	<p>The Executive Officer confirmed that this role is about to be advertised. A lengthsman is a general handyman around the parish who helps the parish council with repairs, drainage issues, vegetation, maintenance etc. The role will be advertised on the facebook page and noticeboards. Anyone interested in applying should contact the Executive Officer for further details.</p>
<p>c. WALC AGM attendance on 6 November 2024.</p>	<p>Cllr Millard attended the WALC AGM on 6 November and was the voting representative on behalf of GAPC. Cllr Millard has circulated brief notes to the councillors about the event, but broadly the workshop sessions he attended included Climate sessions on the Development of Open Spaces, Carbon Literacy for Parish Councils, and a session by Parish Online about hosting council websites, cyber security and the shift to .gov.uk emails. Cllr Millard was very impressed with Parish Online which is one of the hosts we have been considering for updating the GAPC website.</p>
<p>d. Bank signatories updated</p>	<p>Cllrs Millard and Bennett are now bank signatories on the GAPC bank accounts with Unity Trust.</p>

e. New operators at the Mother Huff Cap	The Executive Officer stated there has been no contact with the new operators yet. There has been no opportunity to discuss the future of huff space and Chatty Café with them.
f. CPBT update	The Executive Officer said that engagement with the Community Pay Back Team has been challenging. The plan is still to replace the old wooden shed with a metal one in the new year, but we will need the CPBT's assistance. They have previously said they would be happy to help. We are also keen to engage them on the footpaths repairs and maintenance. The Executive officer has been chasing the CPBT supervisor for the Memorandum of Association and will continue to do so.
g. Ultrafast broadband in Great Alne	The Executive Officer confirmed that the majority of properties in the parish have now been connected and were able to arrange their own supply of ultra-fast broadband. There is one road, Gunn Court, that has not been connected as the road had been omitted off the original road closure application. The Executive Officer is liaising with WCC Highways to see whether the work can be carried out without another application for a road closure as that will take 3 months.
a. GAPS – request for funding for fruit trees	<p><u>FOR DECISION/ APPROVAL/ACTION</u></p> <p>GAPC has received a request from the Head of Great Alne Primary School for some funding to replace a large mature fruit tree that has recently been lost during some works, with two or three smaller samples. These will be located in the early years area. The Executive Officer and Cllr Bennett agreed that based on the cost of the trees recently planted in the recreation ground, it would be around £50 per tree for a reasonably sized sample. The councillors considered the request and agreed to fund the new trees up to a value of £150. If it was any more than £150, then perhaps school could make a request to the Great Alne Parochial Charity.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>ACTION: Executive Officer to liaise with the Head of Great Alne Primary School and the Eco club leads about the new trees.</p> </div>
b. Approval of revised Financial Regulations (based on the 2024 NALC Model Financial Regulations)	The Executive Officer sought approval for the revised draft of the new Financial Regulations. These had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. The main change was that as the main bank signatory, the Executive officer would be able to be authorise all payments from the GAPC bank accounts including her salary – as this would have to be authorised by a second bank signatory in any event. It would be too cumbersome and challenging for two alternative bank signatories to authorise this one payment each month. The councillors approved the revised draft of these Financial Regulations.
c. New NJC pay increase for council employees and back dated payment to April 2024	<p>The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2024 - 2025 to be implemented from 1st April 2024. For all grades up to SCP 43 the agreed amount is £1,290 per annum (pro rata for part time). The Executive Officer sought approval for i) her salary increase in line with the NJC pay award and ii) for the back payment to be made from April 2024.</p> <p>The councillors approved both aspects i) and ii).</p>

7.

Planning applications

PLANNING

Any yellow highlighted applications are still to be determined, with submissions to SDC yet to be completed.

Between meetings, GAPC has submitted the following responses:

- a response of 'no objection' to planning application [24/02163/FUL](#) Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green
- a response of 'no objection' to planning application 24/02479/AGNOT Canada Farm, Sernal Lane.

The Parish Council also notes the decision of the Planning Inspectorate in case APP/J3720/W/24/3341571: Alne Park, Park Lane, B49 6HS, which dismisses the appeal made by Dan Skelton against refusal of planning permission for proposed development of the erection of a replacement agricultural building.

The following are the planning applications recently submitted in the parish of Great Alne and their current status.

Any yellow highlighted applications are still to be determined, with submissions to SDC yet to be completed.

Reference	Received	Status	Address
24/02648/TEL28	18/10/2024	Comments Sent	STREET RECORD Henley Road Great Alne
24/02649/TEL28	18/10/2024	Comments Sent	New End Great Alne
24/02479/AGNOT	1/10/2024	Pending Consideration	Canada Farm Sernal Lane Great Alne B49 6RG
24/02163/FUL	27/8/2024	Pending Consideration	Dan Skelton Racing Lodge Hill Shelfield Green Alcester B49 6JR
24/02100/VARY	20/8/2024	Variation Permitted with Conditions	Crocketts Farm Alne Hills Great Alne Alcester B49 6JS
24/01970/TREE	7/8/2024	Pending Consideration	Barnfield 1 Gunn Court Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
24/01972/TREE	7/8/2024	Pending Consideration	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
24/01664/VARY	5/7/2024	Permission with conditions	Juniper Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HX

The Executive Officer suggested that GAPC might want to consider a standard response of 'No Representation' going forward in relation to applications for treeworks. This is how tree works are responded to by the Alcester Town Council Planning Committee – on the

8.		basis the tree officers will be best placed to decide any such applications. The Councillors considered this to be a good idea going forward.																																																						
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	a. Progress against budget report	The Executive Officer noted that we are over budget primarily due to expenditure on the noticeboards, which had been unbudgeted. Expenditure until the new year should be quite low, however. The Executive Officer will be preparing the initial budget for 2025/26 for discussion with councillors before January.																																																						
	b. Accounts information	The following is a list of invoices and payments presented for authorisation and paid since the last PC meeting on 17 th September 2024. Any blue cells represent payments currently set up to be authorised by a second bank signatory – although these will be authorised by the second signatory before the meeting.																																																						
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	4.11.24	Scribe Gocardless - Inv 7365/ Starboard Systems Ltd	43.20
	4.11.24	Subscan (Inv 54407) - drain and gully clearance August 24	7080.00
	6.11.24	Npower Business Solutions - Inv IN11866726	213.80
	15.11.24	Clerk's wages for Oct 2024	N/A
	15.11.24	Clerks expenses for Oct 2024	328.25
	15.11.24	HMRC payment. Income tax =£3.60, E'ers NICS= £32.55. Total for tax period 8 = £36.15	36.15
9. Correspondence since the last PC Meeting	Councillors are requested to approve the payments list.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Account Balances @ 12 November: £52,456.32 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348: £6,748.33 ▪ Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: £45,707.99 • Transfers: £12,000 of reserves (including SDC CCCF funding for payment of Subscan invoice for clearance of drains and gullies) moved from A/c 0351 to A/c 0348 on 4.11.24 – approved by Chairman over email. 		
12. Date and venue of the next meeting	Correspondence since the last PC Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Liaising with WCC and other groups and organisations re flooding Emails re Climate Action Group projects Correspondence re National Lottery Heritage funding application Correspondence re speeding and traffic calming measures Emails about footpaths project Correspondence re affordable housing project Emails re Great Alne History project Liaising with National Grid re streetlights on Linfoot Oaks Correspondence regarding the community orchard and planting Emails re rainwater tower structure Various correspondence dealing with residents' queries Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report. 		
	<p>The next meeting will take place on Tues 21 January 2025 at 7pm. The meeting will take place in the Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park.</p> <p>*****</p> <p><i>Councillors are reminded of their duty to consider all aspects of equal opportunities, crime prevention, unlawful discrimination, biodiversity of the natural habitat, and other best practice when making decisions at the meeting.</i></p>		
	<p align="center">The Meeting ended at 8.30pm</p> <p align="center">*****</p>		

