Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 21st January 2025 in The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, B49 6HX

PRESENT Councillors Mr I Millard (Vice Chairman, chairing this meeting), Mr Lynn Bowring, Mrs L Bennettt and Mr I Taylor. Also in attendance, 15 members of the public in attendance. 1. APOLOGIES FOR CIIr Justin Kerridge, County Councillor from WCC. The Executive Officer has not received **ABSENCE** a response from Cllr Holmes, District Councillor from SDC about whether or not he could attend the meeting. 2. DECLARATION None. OF INTERESTS 3. TO CONFIRM THE Minutes from the November 2024 Parish Council Meeting minutes were approved by the **MINUTES** Councillors. ACTION: Minutes to be signed by the Chairman and filed by the Executive Officer. 6. OPEN FORUM a. Representations Dangerous mud on the road outside Great Alne Park along Henley Road from residents A resident raised concerns about the large amount of mud on the highway outside GAP. The Executive Officer confirmed 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. The resident considered it might need brushing. The Executive Officer confirmed WCC were keeping a close eye on the situation and would consider a full road closure if it was necessary to scrape the road – this was unlikely if there is significant rainfall soon. The Executive Officer is in contact with WCC Highways and will keep the parish councillors updated on any developments. Potential for footpath along the north side of Henley Road A resident enquired whether it would be possible to extend the footpath on the north side of Henley Road to create a route to GAP. Cllr Millard noted this had been raised in the past but the cost would be prohibitive. There would also be speeding and safety concerns along the route as part of it is in a 50mph zone. However, it is something GAPC can continue to raise. It could be an issue we could ask for Cllr Kerridge's assistance with – whether he would speak with WCC Highways and GAP about potential funding. Junction for GAP on Henley Road East Entrance

A resident noted that there are cones at the junction entrance due to roadworks – these have highlighted the fact there is an entrance off Henley Road. The resident asked whether a more permanent measure was possible to notify drivers of the junction.

Cllr Millard explained that this junction was actively being considered for traffic calming measures by GAPC, in conjunction with Warwickshire Police and the WCC Road Safety Unit. Feedback from the other parties so far has not been positive as the road is in a 50mph zone which is considered to be appropriate for the road's rural location. Cllr Millard said we are still working on a number of potential solutions for the main village, this area being one of them – and we would keep residents informed.

Unitary authority proposal

A resident enquired whether GAPC had been involved or engaged in the WCC decision to express an early interest with central Government on becoming a Unitary Authority. The Executive Officer said GAPC had not been part of any discussion – which was not surprising at this stage, especially when SDC had not even been consulted. We will keep residents informed of developments.

Pelham Lane

A resident asked about the state of Pelham Lane and if there are any plans to carry out resurfacing. The Executive Officer confirmed that work is due in the next couple of months on Pelham Lane. It is a significant undertaking so WCC had to go out to tender. We believe the works will include shoring up the ditch and resurfacing.

b. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update

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 recent burglaries locally, particularly keyless car theft and theft from out buildings.

c. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Kerridge was unable to attend the meeting but had provided the following update:

- Work continues with GAPC and WCC on flooding and highways improvements and meetings have been set up to address these issues.
- Cllr Kerridge was very impressed by the great Ofsted monitoring visit to Great Alne Primary School and the school improvements being made by Head, Mr Matt Penn.
- Cllr Kerridge also passed on some personal comments about local government reform.

d. District Councillor's Report

The Executive Officer confirmed she had not received any update from Cllr Holmes. GAPC has not received an update (written or oral for some time). Cllr Bowring said he would raise this with Cllr Holmes.

e. GAKMH parish councillor representative's report

Cllr Millard stated there was nothing of significant relevance for reporting other than the company that was dealing with the proposal for EV chargers will be contacted to see if the scheme is viable. It may be worth contacting alternative suppliers if this is provider is unable to help.

f. Update on Great Alne Park

General Manager, Adam Hall provided the following update to the Executive Officer prior to the meeting:

- Inspired Villages Group (IVG) has been liaising with GAPC on traffic calming
 measures around the village, and specifically outside the East Entrance to
 GAP on Henley Road. IVG has agreed to finance a camera for the crossing
 patrol warden at the school to try and help collect more data on traffic. GAPC
 will take this forward with WCC.
- With regard to Phase 3, the West Entrance to GAP is planned to be closed from either 7/8pm to 7/8am.
- At the west entrance, the access road to GAP is due to be resurfaced around April (ish) time and IVG is looking at the logistics of this. IVG would like to enquire whether GAPC would be prepared to allow us to open the west entrance for circa two weeks?

In response to this request, the Councillors considered the options. Councillors agree that if IVG could guarantee the closure would be for a period of just two weeks then it was not an unreasonable request. However, Councillors also felt that any decision would need to be made in consultation with Park Lane residents who would be most affected. Any negotiation would have to include how residents feel about it, whether there should be specific hours of use, no resurfacing works to be undertaken at weekends etc.

Councillors agreed that further information is required from IVG about the plans and logistics before the practicalities can be explored. Perhaps there is scope for GAPC (with agreement from the Park Lane residents) to give informal agreement to the proposal with the proviso that if there are any issues, IVG will have to go through the formal planning route at SDC.

Action: The Executive Officer said she would make further enquiries of IVG.

g. Climate Action Group update

The Executive Officer referred to the Reports prepared by Councillors in relation to many of these projects. In summary, the Climate Action Group and projects led by Councillors have been working on delivering the SDC CCCF projects, which are required to be completed by 31 March 2025.

These are:

- Community led flood measures
- Greenway proposal between Alcester and Great Alne
- Rainwater harvesting structure

Other related projects include:

Community orchard planting

The CAG Group will meet in February to ensure we have a delivery path for the funded projects, as well a plan for next steps once these projects have been completed.

h. Affordable Housing Update

Councillor Millard provided a summary of the Affordable Housing for Local Needs Initiative.

Cllr Millard further explained that number of questions have been raised by residents about the voting process last spring and how the original list of sites put forward had been assessed. There have been challenges around the original selection criteria and queries about what these were and how they had been applied resulting in certain sites being discounted and giving us a shortlist of 5 sites.

On the basis of these queries, GAPC is working with WRCC to clarify the process up to this point and agree next steps.

GAPC has decided therefore to take a sideways step in the process. This is not a restart, but councillors consider it necessary to move back before moving forwards. The intention is to look at all the original sites, including a new site that the WRCC has just told us has been put forward, and to assess whether they are individually suitable for the short list. This will be done by asking the WRCC to explain what established planning criteria were used for the initial assessment, that resulted in the shortlisted 5 sites.

The next stage will involve applying an agreed set of selective site criteria to the shortlisted 5 sites, which will then determine how many of these sites go forward to the final stage.

Councillor Ian Taylor explained that the first draft of the selective site criteria is being worked on by GAPC. It includes factors such as:

- Topography, lay of the land and associated facilities
- Highways issues
- Perspective from the police
- Holistic view including
 - Flooding current and potential
 - Pedestrians and vehicle safety
 - Footpaths
 - Traffic calming
 - Environmental factors the impact on the surround land
 - Success criteria for the project
 - o Impact on local residents

Each of these criteria will be scored – but the details on this are still being considered. We will also be seeking input from the WRCC and Warwickshire Rural Housing Association (WRHA) on the criteria, so that when they are ready to be consulted on with residents, they are an 'agreed form' between GAPC, WRCC and the WRHA.

Councillor Millard added that there have been developments on other planning and housing policies over the last few weeks, included an updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). Resetting the Affordable Housing for Local Needs Initiative enables us to assess and consider the impact of these policies on Great Alne.

A resident asked whether the original criteria used to assess the original list of sites is the same as the criteria that will be used to get to the final site. Cllr Millard said that the criteria can be different – for example, one criterion is whether the landowner actually wants to sell the land. This would not be a factor at the second stage of applying site selection criteria.

Cllr Millard also confirmed that there would be no decisions on anything between now and the PC meeting in March. At the next meeting, the process to date and the selective site criteria would be available and shared with residents in further detail. We also hope in March to be able to consult with residents on the site selection criteria. Sarah Brooke-Taylor from WRCC will be attending the March meeting, who is critical to the whole initiative.

Cllr Millard reiterated that the scenario in Great Alne is very different to most other places considering Affordable Housing for Local Needs – as most sites have just one specific site for assessment, not several.

MATTERS ARISING 5.

General Maintenance Update

a. Flooding

Please refer to the report provided by Cllr Taylor at Annex 1.

Cllr Taylor provided a summary review of the work carried out by the Flood Action Group (FLAG) over 2024 and explained this would be available in the News section of the GAPC website. https://www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk/news.cfm?source=left

Following the investigations and drain clearance undertaken by Subscan, a comprehensive report has been submitted to WCC Highways containing CCTV camera footage of all drains, culverts and highways areas that require repairs and maintenance work. GAPC will be meeting with WCC in early Feb to go through the report with WCC in the hope some of the priority works can be scheduled in.

b. Streetlighting

The Executive Officer confirmed that the final invoice for the outstanding streetlighting works has been received from WCC. She queried the figure as it was more than anticipated, but had received a suitably detailed explanation from the Streetlighting Team at WCC and was satisfied that the invoice was correct. It has subsequently been set up for payment (awaiting secondary authorisation).

c. Footpaths survey Please refer to Annex 2 for the update on the Footpaths project.

Lead volunteer Bob Larbey provided an overview of where we are with the footpaths project. He is keen to establish whether the Great Alne Parochial Charity is prepared to contribute a third of the money required to install a handrail at the bottom of Church Walk. Bob also suggested that the Lengthsman could do some regular work on the maintenance of the footpaths.

In relation to the Greenway Project, the draft Feasibility Study has been received from Sustrans within the last 24hrs which detailed some possible route options between Great Alne and Alcester. Bob expressed his disappointment at the draft and feels Sustrans have missed some opportunities in the Study. He also considers there are some aspects included in the Study that just won't work.

The draft Report has been shared with the Climate Action Group who are meeting in a week's time to discuss the Study – and there will then be a meeting set up with Sustrans to consider the draft and next steps.

d. Community Speed Watch / Road **Safety Update**

Please refer to Annex 3 for Cllr Millard's update on CSWG / Road Safety. In summary:

i) **CSWG** update and Central Reporting System webinar

The winter period is always a challenge for the CSWG due to the weather and darker hours. However a new programme is being put together for 2025. New volunteers are welcome to join the group at anytime.

Cllr Millard recently attend a meeting regarding the Police's Central reporting System. This can be put on the GAPC website as the public can report issues via the System. Anything that is reported is investigated, and the more something is reported, the more action will be taken. Evidence can be provided in the form of dashcam footage / video etc and will be reviewed by the police.

ii) Feedback following recent RTAs and traffic calming measures with WCC

Work is ongoing for a proposal to reduce speed in the village with a series of traffic calming measures. This involves working with WCC and within the delegated Highways budget allocated by County Cllr Kerridge. A meeting has been set up next week with WCC, Highways, Warwickshire Police and GAPC to assess the feasibility of GAPC's proposals and to see whether they are affordable – ie fall within the delegated budget.

The focus of the program is on 3 main areas:

- Spernal Lane, both in and out;
- School Road, particularly around the school area and the significant issues that are regularly encountered outside the school/
- The GAP entrance on Henley Road although this area is more difficult due to the entrance being in an area outside the 30mph zone.

Any proposals are subject to approval by all the parties involved and subject to being within the allocated budget. The measures have been instigated following a speeding survey undertaken across the village in Oct 2023. The question is how constant an issue is – if 85% of the drivers are ok then a location is not considered as a threatening area. So we are up against the 85% rule. However, we have recently had 3 incidents in 12 weeks in the main village involving the BT cabinet twice and the telegraph pole on the junction of Henley Road and Pelham Lane. WCC"s perspective is they will wait until an accident has happened before anything is done about it – this is budget driven perspective. The only reason GAPC can consider calming measures is because of Cllr Kerridge's delegated budget – it is not being supported directly from WCC.

5b.

Recreation Ground and defibrillator

a. Recreation Ground

Cllr Bennett has provided an update Report at Annex 4, attached.

Cllr Bennett also provided the following information:

- There is a repair to be done in the toddler play area we are awaiting the spare part before this can be done.
- There are new signs installed in the park stating that dogs must be kept on a lead in the park they are located at the three entrances. There has been a Facebook post notifying residents.

b. Defibrillator

The defibrillator is working fine and is rescue ready. It is checked regularly. We have been reimbursed £72 due to the emergency phone not working and are still awaiting further information on how it will be fixed. However, this does not affect the defibrillator itself.

c. Community Orchard

The Community Orchard was planted on 9 November and we have now received the maintenance tools from WCC's Community Orchard funding programme. We have metal tags on all the trees identifying the species. There will be a sign to follow for the orchard which is being supplied by WCC. We hope to install benches over the next year or so for the benefit of residents.

d. Rainwater harvesting structure

The rainwater harvesting structure needs to be completed by the end of March as this is the when the funding expires. We are hopeful that a local contractor will assist with the construction work.

MAIN BUSINESS

FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

to the West Entrance of GAP, roadworks on the East Entrance and proposed traffic calming measures

a. Pedestrian access All of these items have been covered earlier on in the meeting in the context of other discussions.

b. Applications for the parish councillor vacancy

The Executive Officer confirmed that there is still a vacancy for a parish councillor. The vacancy has not yet been filled so the vacancy will be advertised again in the next month or so. Please speak to the Executive Officer if you have any queries about the role.

c. Lengthsman role

The Executive Officer confirmed that this role was advertised and filled. The Lengthsman will be working under a contract for services not a contract for employment. Details are yet to be confirmed such as start date, when the WCC training can be done etc. The Executive Officer will keep Councillors updated.

d. Feedback on Town & Parish Reference Group Meeting -14 January 2025 including SWLP

Cllr Millard attending this meeting, the primary focus being the SWLP Preferred Options Consultation which has been launched and which runs until 7th March 2025. This is a 25year plan for spatial growth for the Stratford and Warwick District areas, and includes aspects on planning, climate change, sustainability, infrastructure, health, education, employment, community etc.

For Stratford District, the required growth under the previous Government was 550 homes per annum. Under the new NPPF this has risen to 1126 new homes per annum. This is a non-negotiable figure.

The plan puts forward 24 Strategic Growth locations and 12 New Settlement Locations not all of these locations will be required or built on. Locally to Great Alne, the focus of major development will be the Alcester Group location (SG21) and a New Settlement in Wilmcote and Bearley.

There were 880 sites put forward by landowners – 178 have been sifted out which leaves 672 that were further assessed. There is an ongoing call for sites for specific reasons including sites for travellers.

There does not seem to be any specific development in Great Alne at this stage, mainly because we are located in Green Belt. The Consultation runs until 7 March. The final Plan will be approved roughly December 2027.

e. Proposed Public **Space Protection** Fouling Consultation

This is a 6-week consultation on dog fouling in the District, something that has already Order (PSPO) Dog been discussed this evening and in previous meetings. GAPC submitted its consultation response a few days ago.

Domain name email addresses

The Executive Officer is researching this transition. It involves transferring all councillors and staff to a .gov.uk email address. The Executive Officer has attended a seminar on the issue and has contacted the SDC webteam for guidance. It is not mandatory until the next version of the Practitioners Guide is published. SDC have provided a contact at Microsoft and an email has been sent by the Executive Officer to understand the process and the charge. Ideally, we would be able to transfer our existing emails over.

g. Mother Huff Cap operators

The Executive Officer has had a meeting with the new operators. The restaurant has been extremely busy since it opened so the team would be unable to support huff space on a Saturday. However, they would be happy to trial it o a Sunday evening 6-8pm. New volunteers would be required to assist with the sessions, or it will not be possible to run it. Please contact the Executive Officer if you are interested in volunteering. Chatty Café is also likely to be reinstated once a regular day once a month can be agreed.

h. Ultrafast broadband in Great Alne

Gunn Court has still not been set up with the infrastructure for Ultra-Fast Broadband. The Executive Officer is liaising with WCC Highways and the contractor to see whether the work can be carried out without another application for a road closure as that will take 3 months. Open Reach are now suggesting an indicative timing of the end of April.

i. Meeting dates for 2025/26

The Executive Officer confirmed that all meeting dates for 2025/26 have been agreed and will be added to the website and noticeboards.

FOR DECISION/ APPROVAL/ACTION

j. Agreement to revise GAPC's Reserves Policy

Councillors agreed to lower the GAPC Reserves Policy from 12 months to 6 months of reserve funding and instructed the Executive Officer to update the policy accordingly.

ACTION: Executive Officer to amend the Reserves Policy accordingly.

k. Approval of budget for 2025/26 Financial Year

The Executive Officer sought approval for the budget for the new financial year. Information and documentation had been circulated to councillors for consideration prior to the meeting. Councillors approved the proposed budget for the financial year 2025/26.

I. Approval of Precept for 2025/25 Financial Year

The Executive Officer sought approval for the precept for the new financial year. Information and documentation had been circulated to councillors for consideration prior to the meeting. Councillors approved the precept for the financial year 2025/26.

m. Signatures required on the Financial Regs approved at the November 2024 PC meeting

Councillors signed the Financial Regulations (based on the 2024 NALC Model) which had been approved at the November 2024 PC meeting.

n. Agree Parish Councillor Lead for Footpaths Project

Councillor Ian Millard agreed to act as interim Lead Councillor on the Footpaths project until a new Councillor has been coopted.

o. Agreement on style of kissing gates on footpaths at identified crossing points

Councillors had agreed in writing by email prior to the meeting that the kissing gates would be made from galvanised metal. A revised s147 Highways Act agreement has been sent to the relevant landowner.

7.

<u>PLANNING</u>

Planning applications

Between meetings, GAPC has submitted the following responses:

 a response of 'no representation' for Planning Application 24/02864/TREE Greystone Cottage, Henley Road, Great Alne.

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

There were no applications for consideration at the meeting, and none are outstanding.

Reference	Received	Status	Address	
25/00014/TEL28	6/1/2025	Pending Consideration	Outside 39 School Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HQ	
24/02931/TREE	12/11/202 4	Application is not Required	2 Gunn Court Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS	
24/02864/TREE	11/11/202 4	Tree Consent with Conditions	Greystone Cottage Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR	
24/02648/TEL28	18/10/202 4	Comments Sent	STREET RECORD Henley Road Great Alne	
24/02649/TEL28	18/10/202 4	Comments Sent	New End Great Alne	
24/02479/AGNOT	1/10/2024	Pending Consideration	Canada Farm Spernal 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	

8. ACCOUNTS

a. Progress against budget report

The Executive Office provided a summary of the progress against budget report. The budget is on target but the unexpectedly high streetlighting invoice from WCC will affect this. However, there are sufficient general reserves to cover it.

b. Accounts information

The following is a list of invoices and payments presented for authorisation and paid since the last PC meeting on 19th November 2024. Any blue cells represent payments currently set up to be authorised by a second bank signatory – although these were authorised by the second signatory shortly before the meeting.

12.3.24	Unity payment	КВ	Great Alne Park Management Ltd - Inv 008871 – room hire	35.00
8.05.24	Unity payment	KB,	Great Alne Park Management Ltd- Inv 009508 – room hire	35.00
30.11.24	Unity payment	KB, LCB	Unity Trust bank service charge for Oct	7.80
30.11.24	Unty payment	KB,	Unity Trust bank charges	7.65
2.12.24	Unity payment	KB, LCB	Scribe Gocardless - Inv 7795/ Starboard Systems Ltd	43.20
4.12.24	Unity payment	KB, LCB	Npower Business Solutions - Inv IN12071257	224.92
10.12.24	Unity payment	KB, LCB	Clerk's wages for Nov 2024 (including backdated pay increase)	N/A
10.12.24	Unity payment	KB, LCB	Clerks expenses for Nov 2024	214.21
10.12.24	Unity payment	KB, LCB	HMRC payment. Income tax =£122.60, E'ees NICS = £43.21, E'ers NICS = £114.56. Total for tax period 9 = £280.37	280.37
16.12.24	Unity payment	KB,	Unity Trust charges	0.30
18.12.24	Unity payment	KB,	ICO office - ref ZA303310 18.12.24	35.00
24.12.24	Unity payment	KB,	Great Alne Park Management Inv 011916	35.00
31.12.24	Unity payment	KB,	Unity Trust charges	6.75

	Unity		Scribe Gocardless - Inv 8012/	
1.01.25		KB,	Starboard Systems Ltd	43.20
1.01.25	Payment	KD,	Starboard Systems Ltd	43.20
	Unity		Npower Business Solutions - Inv	
4.01.25	Payment	KB,	IN12257293	233.81
	,	,		
	Unity		WCC Inv 10403236 - streetlight	
8.01.25	Payment	KB,	upgrade balance	3144.96
			17	
	Unity		Friends of School - donation for fruit	
9.1.25	payment	KB,	trees in school	149.41
	Unity		Clerk's wages for Dec 2024 (including	
19.01.25	Payment	KB,	holiday pay)	N/A
	I I midne			
	Unity			
19.01.25	Payment	KB,	Clerks expenses for Dec 2024	101.39
			HMRC payment. Income tax =£59.20,	
			E'ees NICS = £17.86, E'ers NICS=	
	Unity		£70.83. Total for tax period 10 =	
19.01.25	Payment	KB,	£147.89	147.89

Councillors approved the payments list.

Bank Account Balances @ 31.12.2024:

- Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348: £1858.02
- Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: £46395.94

Money in:

- 2.12.24- SDC CIL payment £350.34
- 31.12.24- Unity Trust Bank credit interest £337.61

Transfers: £6,000 from account ending 351 to account ending 348 on 19.1.25 from general reserves to cover operating invoices, including invoice for £3,144.96 from WCC for Streetlighting balance.

9. Correspondence since the last PC Meeting

- Liaising with WCC and other groups and organisations re flooding
- Correspondence re domain name change/.gov.uk email addresses
- Correspondence and documentation preparation re Lengthsman
- Onboarding information regarding Scribe accounting software
- Emails re Climate Action Group projects
- Correspondence re speeding and traffic calming measures
- Emails about footpaths project
- · Correspondence re affordable housing project
- Liaising with WCC re streetlights invoice
- Correspondence regarding the community orchard and follow up actions
- Emails re rainwater tower structure
- Various correspondence dealing with residents' queries

Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report.
The next meeting will take place on Tues 18 March 2025 at 7pm. The meeting will take place in the Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park.

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.
The Meeting ended at 10pm ***********************************