

A Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held on Monday 11 January 2016 at Great Alne Primary School at 7pm in the evening.

PRESENT	<p>Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr P Clark, Mr I Millard, Mrs L Bennett and D & C Cllr Mr M Gittus</p> <p>Members of the public: 12</p>
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	<p>Cllr Mrs M Holding</p>
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	<p>Chair- Planning application 15/04426/TREE Greystone Cottage Henley Road (neighbour)</p>
MINUTES	<p>November meeting Minutes agreed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
ALCESTER SOUTH SNT	<p>OPEN FORUM:</p> <p>The Police were unable to attend the meeting and did not send a written report. The Clerk had been able to obtain information from the weekly emails circulated by the Police covering the period between November and January Parish Council meetings. This included the following incidents in Great Alne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempted burglary- other. Park Lane. Door to detached garage damaged where intruders tried to gain access sometime between Christmas and early New Year. • Burglary- other. School premises. Purse stolen from classroom. Credit cards used by offenders. Probably school visitor between 11am-1pm on Wednesday 11 November 2015 <p>The Chair added that he was aware of a car that had been broken into in Park Lane.</p>
UPDATE ON SPERNAL LANE DEVELOPMENT	<p>Mr Ken Linfoot, Linfoot Country Homes Ltd addressed and updated the meeting. The Public consultation will be held on Thursday 14 January at the Memorial Hall between 3-7pm. There are a few minor alterations to the revised layout. Amended plans were circulated and the revisions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing pond has been included should it be required • Severn Trent have major water mains plus a 20m easement strip to the north western part of the land resulting in a change of shape to the parcel of land including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7m additional length to front of development ▪ Change in dwellings arrangement whilst maintaining 17 properties • Developers have accommodated resident's concerns and there will now be a more open vista from 12 Nightingale Close <p>Discussions will be held with the Environment Agency about the options available for attenuation systems, none of which must be detrimental to the existing drainage situation. Strict conditions are imposed on developers so the problems in Spernal Lane must not be made any worse as a result of the proposed development. A flood risk assessment will also be carried out.</p> <p>There were questions from the floor relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding issues along Spernal Lane and extension of the 30mph limit- Developers will be engaging with Warwickshire County Highways during the planning process • Flooding and drainage in Spernal Lane <p>The Rectory is currently untenanted and Rev Adrian Guthrie will be attending the Public Consultation event. The Rectory land does not form part of the development land and is under different ownership.</p>
MAUDSLAY UPDATE	<p>Mr I Jones, URV, did not attend the meeting or send a report. Development is continuing. There is a new fence between East Lodge and the Cricket Club together with a hedge and five trees. The Parish Council are meeting with Mr Jones again on 22 January. The resident of East Lodge also requested to attend the meeting. Clerk to advise Mr Jones.</p>
MEMORIAL HALL REP REPORT	<p>A Forties evening will be held in March. Waitrose have nominated the Memorial Hall as one of their charities to receive the Community Grant in February 2016.</p>
REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS	<p>Residents raised concerns at flooding across the road north of Whernalis Cottage and potential freezing hazards with surface water at both the Wood Lane bend on the main road and at</p>

<p>DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>Pelham Lane.</p> <p>D & CC Cllr M Gittus reported as follows:</p> <p>Flooding in Great Alne- Water on the highways. Warwickshire County Council Highways department sent the jet washers in early January but these were not found to be particularly effective in the longer term. It was suggested that CCTV may be required in the drains to check for tree roots. However, there was an improvement in the situation at the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>Budgets- Stratford on Avon District Council (SDC) has been prudent with its finances and is not a borrowing authority. It is one of the 51 lowest precept authorities and as such has been allowed an increase of 2% or £5 per household for this coming financial year. SDC has opted for the £5 increase per household and will reconsider its position next year. It has been instructed to make further savings over the next three years but there is a shortfall of £1 million which represents a real challenge and will affect the provision of services.</p> <p>Warwickshire County Council (WCC)- County Councillors were recently extremely shocked to discover that in spite of adhering to a four year 'One organisational plan' which they are half way through and on target, they are now required to save an additional £10 million at very short notice. It has been agreed to lend themselves the money from WCC reserves this year and it is likely to be a similar situation next year. Savings can only be made from non ring-fenced budgets. Health and wellbeing, education and adult health and social care are all protected and future proofed (53% of the total revenue). This means that the county will be severely challenged in providing services to the same standard. It is likely that Highways/footways, Recycling and School Transport will be areas that are affected.</p> <p>Greig Hall & Centre, Alcester- Money ring fenced for the continuation of the project.</p>
<p>MATTERS ARISING</p>	<p>Nominating an Asset of Community Value- former Great Alne Social Club (March)- Cllr I Millard received an email from SDC acknowledging receipt of the nomination form for the former Social Club. D & C Cllr Mr M Gittus had recently received a copy of a letter sent to the land owner by SDC indicating that a decision on the nomination would be taken by delegated powers on 16 February 2016. D & C Cllr Mr M Gittus has added his support to the nomination.</p> <p>Street light review (May)- The Chair will forward a report to the Clerk shortly. Concerns were raised again about the poor street lighting between the park and School Close- affecting both pedestrians and road users. Clerk to check whether there is an obligation on the Parish Council to provide footway lighting.</p> <p>It was pointed out that there was a poster near the old school advertising a telephone number where comments could be made about the street lighting.</p> <p>Bus Service (September)- In spite of the fact that the Clerk had chased D & C Cllr Mr M Gittus several times for the outstanding statistical travel information from Stagecoach, none had been forthcoming. The Parish Council do not have any influence with Stagecoach and have to work through Warwickshire County Council. It has been established that the service through Great Alne was not a designated subsidised service. As a commercial self-supporting service it was deemed by Stagecoach to not be viable in off peak periods.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs L Bennett had kindly obtained information about UBUS and Flexibus- information which was included in the recent Parish Council Winter newsletter.</p> <p>Footpaths- It was confirmed by D & C Cllr Mr M Gittus that the footpath between the Memorial Hall and the church is on the list to be repaired by Warwickshire County Council Highways. The wobbly hand rail on public footpath AL103 (off Park Lane) reported by the Clerk has now been assessed and the officer recommends its removal and subsequent improvement to the wooden steps at this location.</p> <p>Recreation ground- First Registration- The Deed of Gift has now been scanned and a copy sent to Brethertons Solicitors by Cllr Mr I Millard for an opinion on voluntary First Registration and to obtain some idea of costs.</p> <p>Review of Parish Plan- The Clerk had not received any response to the article in the Winter newsletter. A further article will be included in the next newsletter and followed up at a</p>

<p>PUBLIC CONSULTATION- REFRESHMENTS</p>	<p>Community Coffee Morning.</p> <p>MAIN BUSINESS</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase refreshments for the Public Consultation event on Thursday 14 January at the Memorial Hall to be served between 3-7pm. Notices to publicise the event were placed on village noticeboards, an article published in the winter newsletter and uploaded to the Parish Council website. Councillors will assist in the setting up and clearing way of the event which is being organised by Sarah Brooke-Taylor, Housing Enabler WRCC. Clerk to contact Sarah to confirm she is aware of the procedure for gaining access to the Memorial Hall on the day.</p>
<p>RECREATION GROUND- VARIOUS</p>	<p>Goalposts- The Clerk had obtained quotes that varied between £557.40 for two 5-a-side posts without nets and £9,000 for something much more elaborate. Currently waiting on a date for a site visit from E Brain and Sons Ltd for installation quotes. Clerk to collate information for next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Tree at School Road entrance- Following a site visit, it was agreed in November that the Clerk should instruct the Parish Council contractors, Limebridge Rural Services Ltd, to identify and remove the dead wood from the Ash tree at the park entrance as soon as possible. Quotes were also obtained for a canopy lift to two Ash trees overhanging the road from the park boundary hedge. The charge for these works was quoted at £165.00 plus VAT.</p>
<p>TODDLER AREA REDESIGN PROJECT</p>	<p>The lead councillor for this project, Cllr Mrs L Bennett, reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effective working party has been established which met again on 17 November 2015 • The play equipment company HAGS SMP was recommended to the Parish Council on the basis of design, adherence to the brief, service delivery and cost. The current design and quote of approximately £35,000 (excluding VAT and any drainage remedy) was made publicly accessible on the website prior to the meeting. Once the drainage has been addressed the rubberised play mulch will allow year round access to the play area. • Drainage- Various remedies have been suggested and opinions sought. Airtay Ltd has been very helpful in providing help and guidance. A French drain is deemed to be the best solution and HAGS SMP has included this in their schedule. It would be helpful to locate the existing drainage system on the playing field so the new drains can join with this. Farm Services Ltd, thought to be the original drainage contractor, had visited the site but they could not access the drainage plans without tracking down the original invoice. It was agreed that the Clerk visit Warwick County Records and consult the Receipts and Payments records for 1986 and obtain the payment information to facilitate this. • Funding- There is some uncertainty whether URV will be able to make a contribution to funding within an appropriate time frame. It is dependent on the renegotiation of the Section 106. Mr Jones, URV expressed surprise at the cost of the project when the Parish Council mentioned it recently at a Maudslay update meeting. Meanwhile, the Parish Council have applied for a Local Community Grant from Tesco's (administered by the charity Groundworks) for between £8,000-12,000 but have yet to hear whether they have been successful. • Next steps- Seek a meeting with Mr Jones, URV and arrange a meeting with Mr David Morgan, VASA for further ideas on funding. • The working party will meet again following the meeting with VASA <p>There were concerns as to whether the new equipment would be vandal proof- this had already been considered by the working party who have been reassured by the equipment supplier. Clerk to check whether the rubberised play surface conforms to BS standards (it has an EN reference). The Chair thanked Cllr Mrs L Bennett for her work with this project.</p>
<p>PUBLIC ACCESS TO PARISH COUNCIL RECORDS AT WARWICK COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE</p>	<p>Upon request by the Clerk, Warwick County Records Office has now made the three volumes of Minutes accessible to the public in their Searchroom. Previously the Minutes had been marked as not available for general access as they contained personal data and the Records Office have a responsibility to apply the Data Protection Act to documents in their care. The Minutes have now been checked by the Records Office and not found to have any entries that would warrant restriction.</p>
<p>WINTER NEWSLETTER</p>	<p>The Parish Council Winter newsletter was published and distributed over the Christmas period.</p>

FLOODING IN SPERNAL LANE	<p>This location continues to be of great concern following rainfall. Water pours off the land into overflowing ditches which cannot cope with the volume, in turn overflowing onto the road. Poor agricultural practices have often been blamed. Cllr Louise Bennett had found some interesting research entitled 'Farming and the Public Highway' which D & CC Cllr M Gittus has referred for an opinion. Cleaning out drains and changing drain covers provides an immediate fix but does not address the underlying problem. Meanwhile drains and ditches will continue to silt up. Additional concern was expressed should the surface water freeze. It was agreed to check grit bins in the locality and request WCC Highways to refill where required.</p>
E-ROAD STOAT LANE- COUGHTON FIELDS LANE	<p>The Parish Council were notified by a concerned resident that many of the substantial wooden posts that had been installed to deter access to the woodland adjacent to the E-road E5998 between Spernal Lane and Coughton Fields Lane had been removed by 4x4 users. This constitutes criminal damage. The Police and Heart of England Forests Ltd have been informed. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact them again.</p> <p>It has also been observed that off road vehicles are accessing this area from Warwick Lane and are therefore driving across farmland.</p> <p>The use of CCTV was discussed as a remedy- although the monitoring and Data Protection issues could be onerous. The efficacy of this deterrent was questioned as it is well known known that 4x4 users often either remove or change their vehicle registration plates.</p> <p>The E5998 is a highway, albeit unclassified, and in spite of pressure from the local community would require an Act of Parliament to downgrade the classification; this would be very expensive with no guarantee of success. However, it is acknowledged that there is much public interest in preserving this public amenity.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Clerk to contact WCC Highways for an opinion as they own the land in question. It was suggested that a meeting of all stakeholders would be advisable. Clerk to action.</p>
EMERGENCY PLAN	<p>The Chair had received comments on the draft from Cllr Mrs L Bennett and confirmed that he was working with the current [Emergency] Parish Plan template. Clerk to forward the draft to the County Resilience team for approval once finalised.</p>
APPROVAL OF DRAFT BUDGET/PRECEPT 2016-17	<p>A Budget Summary spanning 2014-2017 and a document entitled 'Options available to the Parish Council for Precept Setting' were made publicly available on the Parish Council website prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Parish Council had requested a precept of £17,010 from Stratford on Avon District Council for 2015/16 (precept and Council Tax Support grant) and has spent approximately 58% to date.</p> <p>At October 2015 the rate of inflation was -0.1% but is projected to rise to 1.6-1.8% for 2016.</p> <p>The final projected budget for 2016/17 was calculated on anticipated spend for the remainder of this financial year, based on last year's costs, plus an allowance for 1.7% inflation (£17,582). Slightly higher than inflation allowances had to be made for insurance costs which may increase next year as the Parish Council will need to renegotiate a long term agreement, an increase of 18% for electricity supplies for street lighting and a 2.5% annual increase relating to our long term agreement with Limebridge Rural Services Ltd for amenity maintenance.</p> <p>SDC have now advised the Parish Council that the Council Tax Support Grant for 2016/17 will be £930 and the tax base (number of Band D properties in the parish) for Great Alne will be 264.64.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Council apply a 2% increase to the current precept- particularly as the Council Tax Support Grant may not always be passed on to Parish Councils in the future. The Parish Council also has the playground project to consider. In addition, it is always good practice to retain the value of one year's precept in Parish Council reserves and to have adequate contingency funds. A Parish Precept of £16,666 will be levied and together with the £930 Council Tax Support Grant will give the Parish Council £17, 596 which is in line with the Parish Council budget requirement (please see above). The Band D Parish amount will therefore be £62.98.</p>
REQUEST FOR DONATION BY CAB	<p>The Clerk had received the annual update and request for financial support from CAB Stratford Upon Avon Branch in December 2015. Following comments to CAB last year, the Branch Manager, upon request, was able to provide the Clerk with the total number of enquiries made by residents in Great Alne based on post codes. Thirty eight enquiries had been made over the past two years, with the majority relating to benefits and tax credits. The Parish Council had previously made donations of £75 in 2005, 2006 and 2007. It was agreed to make a further donation of £75.</p>
CLERK'S HOME WORKING ALLOWANCE	<p>The Clerk's annual home working allowance was approved and held at last year's rate of £40.</p>

APPROVAL OF TRAINING COURSE FEES	Fees for the Chair and the Clerk to attend a Warwickshire Training Partnership course on End of Year Financial Procedures at Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall on Saturday 6 February from 10am-1pm were approved. Two delegates may attend for the price of one at £30. New procedures are being introduced for audit arrangements for councils with an income below £25,000. Great Alne Parish Council falls within that category.			
PLANS	Reference	Received	Status	Address
	<u>15/04426/TREE</u>	15/12/2015	Pending Consideration	Greystone Cottage Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
	<u>DISCN/00049/15</u>	9/12/2015	Pending Consideration	Lodge Hill Shelfield Green Shelfield Green Warwickshire B49 6JR
	<u>15/04254/TEL28</u>	30/11/2015	Comments sent	PCP001 - Guild Road, OPP 23 Bearley Road Aston Cantlow, Henley-in-Arden B95 6HY, 413879, 259938 PCP002 - Spernal Lane PP 5 Appleby Close, Great Alne, Alcester, B49 6HJ, 411432, 259308
	<u>15/03956/TREE</u>	3/11/2015	Tree Works Approved	Griggs Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HX
	<u>15/03856/COUQ</u>	23/10/2015	Prior Approval Refused Class J, K, M	Alne Hills Farm Alne Hills Great Alne Alcester B49 6JS
	<u>15/03655/FUL</u>	8/10/2015	Permission with conditions	Gunn Court 2 Park Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HS
	<u>15/03480/TREE</u>	24/9/2015	Tree Works Approved	Barnfield Park Lane Great Alne B49 6HS
	<u>15/03304/FUL</u>	9/9/2015	Permission with conditions	Shawford Village Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HL
	<u>5/02899/FUL</u>	6/8/2015	Planning Permission Refused	Land Situated Between Cherry Tree Cottage And The Long House Park Lane Great Alne
	<u>15/02325/FUL</u>	29/6/2015	Permission with conditions	Lodge Hill Shelfield Green Alcester B49 6JR
	<u>15/02058/FUL</u>	10/6/2015	Permission with conditions	Lodge Hill Shelfield Green Shelfield Green Warwickshire B49 6JR
	<p>Between November 2015 and January 2016 Parish Council meetings, following careful consideration, the Parish Council recorded no objection to the following planning application consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/03956/TREE Griggs- tree work <p>A comment of 'No representation' was submitted with respect to planning application consultation 15/03856/COUQ Alne Hills Farm for prior approval of change of use.</p> <p>At the November Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council took the decision to object to planning application 15/03655/FUL Gunn Court – a single and 2 storey extensions planned at 2 Gunn Court, Park Lane. However, following consultation with Stratford on Avon District Planning Department, the Parish Council reviewed the decision and changed the submission to 'No representation' as it was deemed that this extension would not be harmful to the Conservation Area or to the neighbour's amenity.</p> <p>At the Parish Council meeting this evening, and after due consideration, the Parish Council (without the Chair) decided to submit a response of 'No representation' to planning application</p>			

consultation **15/04426/TREE Greystone Cottage**- tree works to include crown thinning, removal of dead and overlapping branches and restorative shape work.

Please note that responses were not required from the Parish Council for **DISCN/00049/15 Lodge Hill** (discharge of conditions) or **15/04254/TEL28** as this is permitted development.

The Chair wished to raise a couple of concerns over both Lodge Hill planning applications to which the Parish Council had objected. Should the Chair be unable to attend Planning Committee, then the Parish Council needs to nominate another councillor to attend and speak. The Chair considered that there had been lack of reasonable notification by Stratford on Avon Planning Department concerning the formal site visit by members of the Planning Committee. It was felt that the Parish Council, as formal consultees, should have been consulted and given adequate notice. Clerk to draft a letter to SDC Planning Dept to register concern- for approval by the Chair.

ACCOUNTS

The Bank Reconciliation page of the Accounts, Financial Statement and Parish Council Expenses over £100 for the year to date were uploaded to the Parish Council website ahead of the meeting- see Parish Council/ Associated Meeting Papers page- to comply with the Transparency Code.

Direct debits to EoN for Invoices dated:

H1247AD2A7- 1 December 2015	DD	£100.09
H1263F81D8- 1 January 2016	DD	£103.43
• HCB Solicitors- fee for document safekeeping	#1200	£60.00
• Limebridge Rural Services Ltd Inv No 14415- mowing	#1201	£342.00
• Stratford on Avon District Council- Inv No 2000198-web hosting	#1202	£425.77
• Limebridge Rural Services Ltd Inv No 14463- tree work	#1203	£48.00
• Parish Clerk's wages & expenses: including		
November 2015, £405.64 (wages); £56.55 (expenses)	#1199	£462.19
December 2015, £374.87 (wages); £17.53 (expenses)	#1204	£392.40
• Clerk's Holiday pay (1 May- 31 October 2015)	#1196	£271.73
• CPRE Annual Membership Subscription	# 1205	£36.00
• Clerk reimbursement of newsletter admin costs	# 1206	£32.00
• CAB Stratford Upon Avon- donation	# 1209	£75.00
• Clerk Home Working Allowance- annual payment	#1207	£40.00
• Warwickshire Training Partnership- Clerk course fees	#1208	£30.00
Void cheque 1198		

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr Tuplin, resident- Letter with various planning concerns (by email). *Chair drafting a response.*
- Stratford upon Avon and District Citizens Advice Bureau- Update, Annual Review 2014/15 and donation request (email). *Donation to be forwarded.*
- David Bliss, Heart of England Forest- Invitation to a drop-in session to discuss Heart of England Forest's place within the parish at The Long Barn, Middle Sernal, Sernal Lane on Tuesday 2 February from 4-5.30pm (by email). RSVP required. *Chair to attend.*
- Graham Raspin, SDC- Revised Register of Electors- published 1 December 2015
- Dave Webb, SDC- Town/Parish Council Precepts 2016/17- Great Alne- Letter indicating provisional Council Tax Base and Precept form for completion. *Form to be completed by Clerk.*
- Mayor of Alcester, Prof Cllr C Neal-Sturgess- Invitation to Celebrating Alcester on Friday 15 January 2016 at the Jubilee Centre at 7.30pm. RSVP required.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14 March 2016 at Great Alne Primary School at 7pm.
Meeting finished at 9.30pm.