

**A Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held on Monday 9 January 2017 at Great Alne Primary School at 7pm in the evening.**

PRESENT	Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr P Clark, Mr I Millard, Mrs L Bennett and Mrs M Holding Members of the public: 10
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	None
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	None
MINUTES	November meeting Minutes agreed and signed by the Chairman.
ALCESTER SOUTH SNT	<p><b>OPEN FORUM:</b></p> <p>The Police were unable to attend the meeting but sent a written report. During the period September- November 2016 the following incidents occurred in Great Alne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17/11/2016- Spernal Lane- Suspicious circumstances- Potential poachers (tyre tracks) which may be linked to green lane issues</li> <li>• 29/12/2016- Spernal Lane- Off road bikes reported</li> <li>• 08/01/2017- Spernal Lane-Between 9-11pm suspect seen in back garden of property with a torch</li> </ul> <p>The first item was alleged to be hare coursing by travellers. Disappointment was expressed by a resident at the non-attendance of the Police at Parish Council meetings. Whilst the Clerk does request the attendance of the Police at each Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that she would formally invite Police to attend an upcoming meeting together with the Parish Assembly once the date has been confirmed. It was mentioned that the Police always attend the Neighbourhood Watch meetings in Alcester, at which all incidents are covered, and to which all are welcome.</p>
UPDATE ON SPERNAL LANE DEVELOPMENT	The Chair welcomed Mr Ken Linfoot, Linfoot Country Homes Ltd who confirmed that the planning application has been submitted and that the target date for determination has been extended by two weeks from 3 February 2017.
MAUDSLAY UPDATE	<p>Mr W Parry, Helical Bar, did not attend the meeting but submitted a report (including some photos taken by a drone in December 2016 - hard copies were circulated at the meeting) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress on site continues well and similar timescales are anticipated to the last report</li> <li>• Section 3A (plots 17-19) mid-March 2017</li> <li>• Section 4 (plots 1-4) early April 2017</li> <li>• Section 5 Apartment block- early August 2017</li> <li>• Section 8- Clubhouse and plots 112-122 March 2018. They are working with the contractor to see if this can be brought forward to January 2018 and are optimistic</li> <li>• Section 14 Apartment block- early September 2017</li> <li>• Sales continue to be strong with a busy couple of weeks around Christmas and are now up to 12 reservations. A number of these sit within phase 2 demonstrating the demand for the product being delivered on the site</li> <li>• Planning- In committee on Wednesday 11 January 2017</li> <li>• Costs are back from Seddons for the construction of phase 2. Dependent on the planning issues it is intended to proceed at the earliest opportunity</li> </ul> <p>It has been noted that surveyors have been in evidence at the entrance and in the adjacent fields. The Chair confirmed that any changes to the original design would be required to go to Planning.</p> <p>Questions were raised about the Affordable Extra Care provision. The Chair outlined the position to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A care provider has not come forward that can comply with the Section 106 Agreement</li> <li>• Due to the time that has elapsed various policy changes have also taken place</li> <li>• Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Stratford on Avon District Council (SDC) have now agreed that it is not feasible to provide the Extra Care facility onsite</li> <li>• A commuted sum of over £5 million has been suggested to site the facility elsewhere in the district in accordance with the Section 106 cascade arrangements- Alcester is a potential location</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both planning applications (the Section 106 agreement and 44 Extra Care units) are to go before Planning Committee on Wednesday 11 January 2017- after which more information should be known (see Planning section)</li> <li>• The Parish Council has been assured that it will have the opportunity to influence the final wording of the proposed amendment to the Section 106 Agreement (see Planning section)</li> </ul> <p>Comments from the floor included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an affordable care provider cannot be found for Maudslay Park due to WCC funding issues- why should another site be any different?</li> <li>• A request for a paper to be presented on this topic by the Parish Council with attendance by representatives from Maudslay Park and/or SDC? The Chair agreed to produce bullet points outlining the situation to date. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite Mr Tim Willis, Warwickshire County Council to come and speak at the next meeting about this and affordable care provision generally</li> </ul>
MEMORIAL HALL REP REPORT	<p>Cllr Mrs M Holding reported that there was not a great deal to say but that she will mention the Parish Assembly and potential May date at the next Management Committee meeting on Monday. The Parish Council would like to make early invitations to local clubs and societies who may wish to participate.</p>
REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS	<p><b>Appleby Close</b>- Blocked drains reported to Highways December 2016.</p> <p><b>The Huff Cap</b> has reopened.</p> <p><b>White goods</b>- Increased quantities outside village properties for collection? A bit of an eyesore. Cllr Mr P Clark to investigate.</p> <p><b>Spernal Lane</b>- Open goods vehicle parked at the rear of a Nightingale Close property containing gas cylinders- causing an obstruction and is extremely dangerous. Cllr Mr P Clark to contact the Police.</p> <p><b>Henley Road</b>- Overhanging tree branches/bushes near the Cricket Club still a problem. Clerk to chase WCC Highways.</p> <p><b>Alne Hills:</b>  <u>New steps</u> up hill on footpath from Park Lane- There used to be a handrail at this location. Now it is so muddy- the area is dangerous and the handrail should be reinstated. It is also a quagmire between the two sets of steps. Clerk to contact WCC County Paths.  <u>Bulls in field</u>- Rights of footpath users and cattle in fields- Safety issues. The Chair to check the location. Clerk to forward HSE information on cattle and public access to the Chair and Cllr Mr I Millard.</p> <p><b>Buses</b>- Update required. Clerk to request attendance of D &amp; CC Cllr Mr M Gittus at next meeting to report. Cllr Mr I Millard mentioned that Maudslay Park will be implementing a minibus service for Park residents. At a recent meeting with the Parish Council, Mr W Parry seemed open to the idea of other village residents perhaps taking advantage of this facility.</p> <p><b>Cricket Club</b>- Mr C Moody reported that the new pavilion is progressing well with the foundations and walls now done. The exterior should be finished in the next 4-6 weeks. However, costs had been greater than anticipated. The Parish Council will be approached in the near future to assist with funding and offered the opportunity to make a donation towards the Disability Ramp. The official Open Day will be Sunday 30 April.</p> <p><b>Broadband</b>- Further problems encountered with broadband speeds outside of the village. Clerk to forward contact details for CSW Broadband and BT High Level Complaints.</p>
DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT	<p>D &amp; CC Mr M Gittus did not attend or forward a report.</p>
MATTERS ARISING	<p><b>Recreation Ground-</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both the kerb stones and the exposed concrete areas have been removed and made good. The concrete was more extensive than anticipated and therefore more expensive to remove</li> <li>• Cutting back at the northern boundary has been completed</li> <li>• The new 'No dogs .....</li> <li>• The new 'No dogs .....</li> <li>• The tree canopy lift is imminent</li> <li>• Lifting the matting beneath the Double Bay swing is under further investigation as it may need to be replaced. Limebridge Rural Services Ltd will confirm this after a site visit</li> <li>• The Way marker post will be removed for repairs to be carried out as the wood is rather decayed</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Speedwatch-</b> This action remains with Cllr Mr I Millard. The Chair did try and canvas support at the December Community Coffee morning held at the Memorial Hall. An Aston Cantlow resident said that their Parish Council was also considering this idea. Clerk to approach Aston Cantlow Parish Council.</p> <p><b>Winter newsletter-</b> Published and distributed with thanks to councillors for their help and especially to Cllr Mr I Millard for arranging the delivery of newsletters going to properties out of the village centre.</p> <p><b>Parish Assembly-</b> This will be raised by Cllr Mrs M Holding at the upcoming Memorial Hall Management Committee meeting. Subject to agreement and availability, a provisional date of Saturday 20 May 2017 was proposed. If we are to invite clubs and organisations in Great Alne to participate it would be good to get invitation letters out ASAP.</p>
APPLEBY CLOSE	<p><b>MAIN BUSINESS</b></p> <p>It was agreed at the November 2016 Parish Council meeting that a local inspection would be carried out for amenity work at this location. The Parish Council agreed this evening that it would consult with Limebridge Rural Services Ltd as to the work required and the urgency.</p>
SDC WEBSITE SERVICES	<p>The web team at Stratford-on-Avon District Council is currently developing a new corporate website which will incorporate a brand new design of the site and, during this process, will be migrating (moving) the website to its future home on one of their new servers. This process is already underway, with a parallel run of the new site and the old (current) site set to begin by Christmas and a full switchover (including de-commissioning of the old site and associated services) by 1 April 2017.</p> <p>SDC are aware that a number of parish councils/associated organisations, such as ours, are currently hosting websites on their old (current) server and, as such, will be affected by the move due to the Customer Management System (CMS) being redesigned and moved in line with the website.</p> <p>SDC will need to schedule in a training session for the Clerk so that she can become familiar with the new CMS. This will take no longer than 1.5 – 2 hours and will not cost anything or take time out of any support agreement we have with them. The process for editing and publishing content on the website will largely be the same but, since the new CMS will be visually different, SDC want to ensure that there are minimal teething problems and support issues for all their customers, especially in light of some new, and sometimes more strict, requirements for aspects such as passwords, images and more. Following the training session the Parish Council website will be migrated to their new server before 1 April 2017.</p>
BT KIOSK/ DEFIBRILLATOR	<p>Cllr Mrs L Bennett reported as follows by way of a project update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Big Lottery Awards for All funding application for £2,755 was completed and posted in December 2016. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs L Bennett be reimbursed the postage of £7.25.</li> <li>• The application will take approximately 10 weeks to assess. Clerk to address a couple of outstanding queries.</li> <li>• The BT programme of intended public payphone removal consultation has been completed by SDC. The Parish Council have expressed a wish for the kiosk to be adopted for community use. The kiosk will be maintained by the Parish Council once payment has taken place, meanwhile we have to accept it in its current condition.</li> </ul>

<p>E-ROAD STOAT LANE- COUGHTON FIELDS LANE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BT has been in contact with a view to the Parish Council adopting the kiosk for £1. The Clerk has reviewed the contract and would like to seek the Chair's views on a number of clauses. The address of the kiosk in the contract is incorrect. Clerk to forward the contract to the Chair</li> <li>• If the clauses in the BT contract prove too onerous, then it was agreed to continue to explore an alternative site- perhaps outside the Memorial Hall. Cllr Mrs M Holding to raise this at the upcoming Memorial Hall Management Committee meeting plus the requirement for an electricity supply at a cost of £10 per annum</li> <li>• SDC were also contacted to check planning requirements with respect to change of use/advertising. As the changes to the phone box are '<i>de minimis</i>' then it does not constitute development and a planning application is not required</li> <li>• Cllr Mrs L Bennett to contact Community Heartbeat Trust and keep them in the loop</li> </ul> <p>The Chair recapped on the status of the track- it is a designated Eroad and whilst WCC are the land owners they do not have the finances available to assist the Parish Council in deterring the offroaders. The Parish Council do not feel ready to abandon this space at the moment.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the following actions had taken place since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lewis E Clark had provided a quote of £270 inc VAT to replace the 10 posts. This had been approved and the work completed late November 2016</li> <li>• The Clerk had contacted the developer of the potential new development in Sernal Lane and received a favourable response to the idea of the disposal of sub-soil from the construction site to create bunds at this location</li> <li>• The location of the bunds would be subject to WCC Highways approval</li> <li>• Futher 'No greenlaning' signs were acquired via Mr R Church, SDC Rural Crime Co-ordinator</li> </ul> <p>From late November 2016, various concerned residents have been in touch about further damage at this location. It would appear to be 'open season'. Historically November is always a bad month. Almost as soon as the new posts were erected they were removed/knocked over, additional damage caused and the new signs removed. It was noted that the offroad activity is now extending into adjacent land.</p> <p>WCC and landowners have been contacted. WCC responded very quickly to an incident in early December where posts that had been knocked over were left projecting dangerously into the track.</p> <p>Mr Church is to continue to look into signage for this area and arrange a meeting with Alcester South SNT. Meanwhile PC Richard Lambert, Alcester South SNT, has requested a full breakdown of dates, damage and costs associated with incidents at this location. Clerk to action and copy in Mr Church and WCC Highways into the correspondence.</p> <p>Mr P Bebbington suggested that an aspirational action plan be drafted. The Chair confirmed that the current action plan was to explore the use of bunds. Other suggestions were offered such as steel pins through the posts, sink the posts deeper, make the posts shorter.</p> <p>Residents from Coughton Fields Lane wished to point out that they valued the track as a useful escape route in the event of flooding.</p> <p>If anyone observes any criminal or antisocial activity at this location please contact Alcester South SNT in the first instance on the non-emergency number 101. Please note there is a charge to call this number from a mobile.</p>
<p>REQUEST FOR DONATION BY STRATFORD CAB</p>	<p>The Parish Council had received an email from Stratford CAB containing an update, their Annual Review 2015/16 and requesting our continued financial support. This update outlined the ongoing valuable work CAB do in the community with particular reference to Great Alne (see Parish Council website). There has been an increase in enquiries by 19 this year- a 50% increase over the last two years. It was agreed to make a donation of £100.</p>
<p>INTERNAL FINANCIAL CHECK DECEMBER 2016</p>	<p>Cllr Mr I Millard reported that he had carried out the check at the Clerk's home in December 2016. He had prepared a checklist and the result for the December check was found to be 'exemplary'. It was agreed that where possible he would continue to carry out the checks for continuity purposes but that Cllr Mrs L Bennett and Mrs M Holding would be copied in to all correspondence/reports. The next check will not be until August 2017 as there will be the annual internal and external audits following year end on 31 March 2017.</p>
<p>VAT RECLAIM</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Clerk would make the annual reclaim for VAT so that funds will be in place before year end. The reclaim period will be 1 January- 31 December 2016.</p>

DRAFT BUDGET 2017-18

A Budget Summary document spanning 2015-2018 was made publicly available on the Parish Council website prior to the meeting.

The Parish Council requested a precept of £17,596 from Stratford on Avon District Council for 2016/17 (precept and Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG)) and has spent approximately 71% to date with an anticipated further spend of £2,800.

At November 2016 the rate of inflation (CPI) was 1.2% but is predicted to rise to over 2% in 2017. Draft figures for the 2017/18 budget (£17,700) have been generally based on anticipated spend for this financial year plus an allowance of approximately 2% inflation in most cases, excluding long term agreements. It was agreed at the previous meeting that a slightly larger figure should be budgeted for the external audit in 2017/18 and an allowance made for the provision of a new laptop and printer.

SDC have now advised the Parish Council that the CTSG Grant for 2017/18 will be £690 (lower than last year) and the tax base (number of Band D properties in the parish) for Great Alne is 274.48 (higher than last year).

Following the Chair's suggestion, it was agreed that the Parish Council apply a 2.06% increase to the current Parish Precept- particularly as the Council Tax Support Grant may not always be passed on to Parish Councils in the future. Retaining the value of one year's precept in Parish Council reserves is always good practice as well as having adequate contingency funds.

Although the Parish Council budget for the coming year is not hugely different to this year, as we are going to be in receipt of a lower amount of CTSG, a Parish Precept of £17,010 will therefore be levied and together with the £690 Council Tax Support Grant will give the Parish Council £17,700 which is in line with the Parish Council budget requirement (please see above). The Band D Parish amount 2017/18 will be £61.97 (Parish precept divided by the tax base- a reduction of £1.01 on last year). Clerk to complete and submit Town/Parish Council Precept form and return to SDC by 31 January 2017.

HOME WORKING ALLOWANCE

It was agreed that the Clerk would be paid the agreed annual allowance of £40 for expenses incurred for working from home.

PLANS

Reference	Received	Status	Address
16/04002/FUL	13/12/2016	Pending Consideration	Cutlers Farm Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
16/03775/TREE	21/11/2016	Tree Works Approved	Coffee Pot Wood Henley Road Great Alne
DISCE/00074/16	11/11/2016	Discharge of Conditions - Approved	Land Situated Between Cherry Tree Cottage And The Long House Park Lane Great Alne
16/03610/FUL	4/11/2016	Pending Consideration	Land At Spernal Lane Great Alne
16/03277/FUL	10/10/2016	Pending Decision	Maudslay Park Great Alne Alcester B49 6HT
16/03259/FUL	6/10/2016	Permission with conditions	Land Situated Between Cherry Tree Cottage And The Long House Park Lane Great Alne
6/03154/TREE	26/9/2016	Tree Works Approved	The Spinney Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HX
6/02244/VARY	6/7/2016	Permission with conditions	Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground Spernal Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6JG
15/03856/COUQ Appeal	31/5/2016	Appeal Dismissed	Alne Hills Farm Alne Hills Great Alne Alcester B49 6JS

Between November 2016 and January 2017 Parish Council meetings, following careful consideration, the following responses were submitted to planning application consultations:  
**16/03775/TREE Coffee Pot Wood Henley Road Great Alne**- No representation  
**16/03610/FUL Land At Spernal Lane Great Alne**- Support this application for the following

reasons:

- It has arisen to meet local housing needs as evidenced by the existing Parish Plan, the Local Housing Needs Survey conducted in 2010 and the Local Market Housing Needs Survey of 2014
- The proposal is entirely community driven and the location has been assessed as the most suitable available site in the village
- The Flood Risk Assessment and proposed strategy for management of surface water appear reasonable
- Reaction from residents at consultation events has been generally favourable

It is understood that Highways will be making their own assessment as to the suitability of the planning application with respect to traffic management. The Parish Council already has issues with speeding in Spernal Lane.

The Parish Council originally objected to planning application consultation **16/03277/FUL-Maudslay Park** (Proposed Extra Care Development [use class C2] including 44 Extra Care Units, laundrette, staff facilities, car parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure) but has withdrawn this as sufficient assurances have been given with respect to the proposal to amend the Section 106 Agreement (**Amendment Application 15/00669/S106A Maudslay Park**). The Parish Council recently reconfirmed to SDC that it had no objection to an appropriate cash contribution for off-site provision of affordable care so long as it had assurances that the cash contribution is ring-fenced for affordable care for elderly people, and the nomination criteria for this affordable care include the list of preferred locations in the same order as the original S106. Both planning applications are going before Planning Committee on 11 January 2017. SDC Planning Department have stated that the recommendation to Planning Committee will be for the final wording of the S106 to be prepared in consultation with the Ward member, the Parish Council and the Chair of the Planning Committee. Therefore planning officers confirm that they are able to provide assurance that special regard will be given to the Parish Council's comments for ring fencing and cascade arrangements.

A decision of 'No representation' was agreed at the Parish Council meeting this evening with respect to planning application **16/04002/FUL Cutlers Farm Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR** (Replacement of existing static caravan with permanent log cabin for rural worker). Whilst this is now living accommodation, it is not materially different from the existing situation. It was noted that the planning consultant's arguments were well made. Clerk to submit response on SDC Planning Portal.

## ACCOUNTS

The Bank Reconciliation page of the Accounts, Financial Statement, Progress against budget 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.

Direct debits to EoN for Invoices dated:

H13C9113AB- 1 December 2016	DD	£116.22
• CPRE Annual membership Subscription 2017	#200232	£36.00
• Limebridge Rural Services Ltd Inv no. 14810-Rec ground works	#200234	£324.00
• Lewis E Clark Inv No 84- post knocking	#200235	£270.00
• Clerks homeworking allowance- annual payment (Jan 2016-2017)	#200236	£40.00
• Clerk reimbursement of newsletter admin costs	#200237	£32.00
• Parish Clerk's wages & expenses: including		
November 2016, £402.27 (wages); £12.90(expenses)	#200233	£415.17
December 2016, £268.18 (wages); £11.55 (expenses)	#200239	£279.73
• Stratford Citizens Advice Bureau- donation	#200241	£100.00
• Cllr Mrs I Bennett- reimbursement postage funding application	#200242	£7.25

## CORRESPONDENCE

- **The Heart of England Forest- Invitation-** The Long Barn, Middle Spernal, Spernal Lane Monday 12 December 2016 from 5-7.30pm (email). (Chair & Clerk attended)
- **WALC- Annual Report 2015-16** (Chair given the info)
- **SDC- SDC Website services-** Development of new corporate website and impact on Parish Councils who currently use SDC to host their website (email). See Main Business

- **SDC Licensing-** Notification of Interest- Mother Huff Cap- Notification of application to Transfer the Licence Holder for these premises (email)
- **Graham Rospin, SDC- Revised Register of Electors-** published 1 December 2016
- **Warwickshire County Council- Consultation under Regulation 19 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012- Warwickshire Minerals Plan (2017-2032) Publication Consultation-** Publication consultation will run between 9 December 2016- 3 February 2017. County Council invites the Parish Council to comment on the Plan-encloses a Formal Notice and a CD containing various documents
- **The Pensions Regulator- Your staging date is approaching- what will you need to do next.** Info on key dates and option to bring staging date of 1 April 2017 forward
- **David Platts, SDC- Town/Parish Council Precepts 2017/18- Great Alne.** *See Main Business*
- **Stratford upon Avon and District Citizens Advice Bureau- Citizens Advice Service in Stratford District-** Update, Annual Review 2015/16 and donation request (email). *See Main Business*

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 13 March 2017 at Great Alne Primary School at 7pm.**  
Meeting finished at 9.15pm.