

Great Alne Parish Council Update – March 2020

Following the cancellation of the Parish Council meeting on 18th March 2020, please find below an update on the majority of agenda items. Some items will be carried forward until the next meeting – date to be confirmed. Both the Parish Assembly on 16th May and the Annual Meeting on 20th May are cancelled.

Should you have any queries, please contact the clerk, Joanne Bullingham on 07833 790 375 or via email at: greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com.

CORONA VIRUS

You should have received a flyer in the post detailing how to get help should you require it during these difficult times. In case you have not received it, the details are below.

[Alcester Community Resilience:](#)

Helpline: 07707 598379

Email: alcester.response@outlook.com

Alcester Community Resilience is also on Facebook

A team of 25+ volunteers from Great Alne are ready and waiting to help with shopping, picking up prescriptions, dog walking or simply being a friendly voice at the end of the phone. PLEASE do not struggle. If you need any help, just call 07707 598 379 where someone will be happy to assist.

If you are currently assisting neighbours/friends outside of this support network, we urge you to share this number with them anyway. Should you suddenly be unavailable to help, they will still have support.

Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update

The following reports have been made to the police between 15th January -18th March 2020

- Suspicious Circumstances / Vehicle Crime. Sernal Lane, near to the pub, Great Alne. Member of the public has come across a 4X4 in the road with the passenger door open. They have then seen two men wearing balaclavas run from the area and into a White Volvo which they drove off in. The 4x4 was found to have been stolen from a nearby property. 2.35am Tuesday 18th February.
- Vehicle Crime. School Close, Great Alne. Catalytic Converter stolen from Honda Jazz. Between 7th & 8th February.
- Vehicle Crime. Appleby Close, Great Alne. Catalytic Converter stolen from Toyota Auris Hybrid. Between 5th & 6th February.
- Vehicle Crime. Henley Road, Great Alne. White Land Rover Defender stolen without keys. Offender(s) have ripped off a gate in order to get to the vehicle. Evening of Wednesday 5th February. Possibly at around 9pm.
- Suspicious Circumstances. Area opposite Maudslay Cottages, Great Alne. Person seen walking around property. When they realised they were being watched they jumped over a fence and ran off. 8pm Saturday 25th January.

The situation regarding Corona Virus is changing on a daily basis and the Government is regularly releasing information and guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

It will almost certainly have an impact on our local area and Warwickshire Police will respond as required. Please continue to use the 101 and 999 telephone systems as usual - many interactions can

now be made via their website, thus freeing up the telephone systems during peak times - <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/> They will release any further instructions when needed.

Update on Great Alne Park development – welcome to new Village Manager, Ben Ling

“Great Alne Park are having daily reviews of the government and Public Health England advice but the village is currently closed to all non-residents.

The allotments are also closed to local residents until further notice.

Great Alne Park have sent the following update:

General Progress

Seddon Construction are currently building the second phase of development comprising 44 cottages and 24 apartments. Progress has been affected by the severe wet weather over the winter. The new homes will be completed in sections, between June and December 2020. This is approximately a month behind programme.

We hope to be able to remove the fencing around much of the meadow in June this year. We had hoped to have the trees and wild flower meadow planted this winter but the wet weather has meant we will have to come back and complete some of the tree planting next season.

Events

You will have seen our events programme which we are reviewing in the light of the Coronavirus outbreak. We will share more details when the plan is finalised.

Hoarding

I have persuaded our board to consider replacing the hoarding at the East Entrance. They have approved a budget for me to obtain design options for alternative and more appropriate messaging to be provided to replace the hoarding. We have instructed a specialist company to provide a scheme for us which we will share with the Parish Council as soon as it is available. I would like to be able to remove the hoarding when we open the East Entrance.

East Entrance

We are about to start works along the access road from the East Entrance so that this entrance can be opened to the public this summer. The weather has delayed progress but we hope to have works under way at the end of this month. There is quite a bit to do to create the right appearance along this access. We will also need to keep the West Access available to assist with the safe management of works. We still have some heavy earth moving to do when we complete the foundation excavations for our third phase. It is envisaged that this will only be used for short and limited periods while we complete large earth moving works. Once the East Entrance opens this will be the main access to Great Alne Park.

Next Phase – Phase 3

We have recently submitted a reserved matters application for the third phase of development based on the original designs. Our current plan is to implement this, however, we are exploring alternative options to redesign this phase and incorporate more smaller and affordable retirement homes. Again, we will share these plans if our board decides to progress this option.

Farm Shop and Medical Centre

We are about to start work to convert the former sales centre into a medical centre for Alcester Healthcare, in accordance with obligations in the s106 agreement. We hope this facility will be available over the summer.

Our aspirations are to relocate the medical centre next to a farm shop on the land adjacent to the cricket club. We intend to share these ideas with planning officers shortly before working up proposals, which again, we will share with you.

County Councillors Report (max 5 mins)

County Councillor Clive Rickhards sent the following update:

MEMBERS GRANT- County Cllr Rickhards reports to have up to 6k per year but this has to cover the whole County Division. Any ideas for small scale projects are welcome. They have to have community benefit and participation and are not normally financed through local authorities.

DELEGATED BUDGET - There is another 35k available from April and probably a small amount to be carried over from last year. This covers signage and any traffic and transport issues. Suggestions are welcome.

U route Spernal- Coughton Fields Lane (AKA E5998)

The third and final log, at the Spernal Lane end of the track, has been removed by the off- roaders. Owing to the Coronavirus restrictions no further progress has been possible. Chairman to contact County Cllr Rickhards to urge completion of WCC's exercise to establish the legal status of the routes, after which the appropriate designation can be set.

Huff Cap Update

The following statement was provided:

We can now confirm that negotiations are proceeding with a prospective purchaser. Plans for the site will be provided to Great Alne Parish Council as soon as possible.

Harwood Willmott Partnership, 27th February 2020

A further update has been requested since – awaiting reply.

Mowing contract renewed

Since the last meeting and reviewing the price comparisons of different quotes, all Cllrs agreed to renew the contract with Limebridge Rural Services Ltd for 2020-2022.

Speed awareness group – update

This will be discussed again at the next meeting. Date to be confirmed.

Request for survey from Flood Risk Management Team

Mark Banning from the Flood Risk Management team will meet with the Chairman once restrictions are lifted. The original meeting was booked for middle of March but was cancelled due to illness.

General maintenance update

The Chairman and Cllr Clark have checked all of the drains in Great Alne and reported those that are blocked/silted up to Warwickshire County Council. WCC will arrange to have the areas identified jetted and cleared through. They have informed us however that due to the extensive backlog of works (and no additional resource available) there is a four-month delay to jetting.

The Parish Council would like to offer their sincere thanks to Richard Collings, who, at the beginning of March, spent several hours knee deep in muddy water removing silt and debris from the brook that runs under the B4089 between the Memorial Hall & The Church. This was in an attempt to try and prevent further flooding that is causing the road to become inaccessible. A very big thank you!

Progress against budget

As of 10th March 2020, the Parish Council have spent £19514 YTD. The budget was £18,564 which puts the Parish Council at 105%. As discussed at previous meetings, it has been an expensive year in terms of works to the recreation ground and tree survey/subsequent works.

Street light repairs update

The street light on Park Lane and the two on Henley Rd (at the bottom of Church Walk and outside The Spinney) have now been replaced.

Annual anti-virus purchase/laptop

The clerk reports that the laptop has seemed slightly more responsive with less issues since having a clear out and will therefore purchase the annual anti-virus package rather than look at a new computer.

Recreation ground – update

Limebridge Rural Services Ltd have supplied and installed the Chestnut fencing (running alongside the Huff Cap car park) and the two fence panels (in the top left-hand corner of the recreation ground).

The northern park boundary is also in hand but as the works will require a digger onsite, Limebridge consider the works would be best carried out in late summer when the surface and soil conditions will hopefully be a lot drier. They will quote for it in the summer.

The following work is outstanding:

1. Replace matting at the bottom of the silver slide, underneath the two swings and the exit from the toddler bit in to the main play area. The work to install the matting is still in-hand and they have the matting in stock ready to complete the works. The job requires the addition of topsoil before the matting is installed and it has been impossible to carry out the works due to surface water remaining on the works site. They will complete the works as soon as conditions allow.
2. Clear the algae/moss off the playdale frame and sand any rough edges
3. Sand the rough edge on the plank of wood with the stepping stones running along it
4. Lift tree canopy to ensure a minimum clearance of 2.0m from equipment (above the birds nest swing)
5. Turf around the two benches

Footway lighting maintenance quote including new service offered

The clerk has emailed the Cllrs to confirm they are happy with the new quote offered. This essential service has been agreed.

Tree Survey and works completed

The tree maintenance was completed by Limebridge earlier this month. All trees that were deemed medium or high risk when the survey was completed have now had the suggested work done. Limebridge have not removed the large limb of the Ash tree overhanging the road at the park as it is stable and to remove this would be very expensive as full traffic management would be required.

Support campaign for local electricity bill?

The Clerk has emailed Councillors to see if they would like to support this.

The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so.

The benefits of this would be:

1. Local communities and businesses could buy their electricity from a local energy company.
2. Building more local renewable energy would be financially viable.
3. Communities would benefit from the revenues that new local energy companies would generate, such as more local skilled jobs, energy efficiency schemes and investment in local facilities.

Date of next meeting – To be confirmed.