## A Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16th September via Zoom at 7pm.

PRESENT Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr P Clark, Mrs M Holding, Mr I Millard and District Cllr Mrs G Forman Members of the public: 4

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE County Cllr Mr C Rickhards, Cllr Ms H Mainwaring

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

MINUTES

July meeting minutes agreed by Cllrs. Will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

#### OPEN FORUM:

#### ALCESTER SOUTH SNT

The following reports have been made to the police between  $6^{th}$  July and  $12^{th}$  September 2020.

Suspicious circumstances – Person seen in secure compound of building site. Area checked but nothing untoward found – 12/09.

The team have received increased reports of sheds being broken into and thefts at allotments across the county including Studley and Bidford. The team have asked people to be aware and assess the security they have in place with a view to adding further security measures such as CCTV, wildlife cameras, locks etc. If people require further advice on this, they can get in touch with the Alcester South SNT who will be happy to advise.

They have also provided some helpful advice in protecting your car from thieves.

Whilst crime in Great Alne has been low, there have been a few incidents in Alcester at the cash point on Bleachfield Street. The Councillors would like to find out if the police are taking any action to combat this. The clerk will contact Alcester SNT.

# GREAT ALNE PARK UPDATE (FORMERLY MAUDSLAY PARK)

Ben Ling, Village Manager sent the following update ahead of the meeting and also joined the meeting:

"We are very pleased that the wild flower meadow, amphitheatre and orchard have been completed and we are very much looking forward to hosting a summer of events next year for residents and the local community.

Due to the Coronavirus situation we have not yet fully opened all areas of the village, and at present the restaurant and facilities remain for resident use only. We are continuing to review the situation regularly and the team is looking forward to welcoming back the local community as soon as possible.

I am pleased to advise that the allotments are now open and can be used. We would ask that everyone using the allotments continues to practice social distancing and follows the advice from the government and local authority".

There are still a couple of allotments available. This will be advertised on the Great Alne Parish Council Facebook page and added to the October newsletter. If anyone would like further information, please contact Great Alne Park on 01789 488 901.

# MEMORIAL HALL REP REPORT

Cllr Holding provided the following update:

- The committee have continued to hold virtual meetings
- The Centenary Calendar is ready and will be available for sale from the end of September
- The Memorial Hall was supposed to be re-opening on 14/09/20 however the new guidelines will impact on this. Not all classes and groups were re-starting
- Plans for a pop-up pub night remain on hold until Covid-19 situation improves
- The committee hope that the annual Christmas events will be able to take place but nothing is confirmed at this time

# RESIDENTS

REPRESENTATIONS FROM  $oldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}$  resident queried whether the flood management survey had been completed yet as they have ongoing concerns about the drainage on Spernal Lane. Clerk will contact the relevant team again to arrange as this was delayed by Covid-19.

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Rickhards confirmed ahead of the meeting, that he was continuing to chase up the streetlight on Gunn Court that was replaced but not switched on. The clerk has also contacted the relevant team requesting timescales on this.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr Gill Forman confirmed the following:

- Covid-19 cases within Stratford-upon-Avon wards are 578 and the number of deaths total 168.
- Recycling centres are open using an appointment booking system. The centres were extremely busy initially but have started to quieten down now.
- Stratford-upon-Avon was affected greatly by the reduction in visitor numbers during lockdown. Tourism is increasing now though and car parking revenue is back up to 70% of what they would expect at this time of year. Relevant departments are working hard to try and encourage
- Elizabeth House is now open to the public again between 10am and 2pm weekdays.
- Creation of Unitary Authorities Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council are all planning/undertaking reviews of the proposed changes (see below) and a consultation will be underway when there is further information.

## CREATION OF UNITARY **AUTHORITIES**

A Government White Paper is to be issued in the autumn. Among other things, this will include a review of the principal authorities which will probably lead to the creation of a unitary authority of some kind in Warwickshire which will combine the functions of County and District Councils. Our county is being fast tracked and it could all happen in the next two to three years.

The government wishes to strengthen the role of local councils and other community governance arrangements. This might lead to significant changes for Parishes such as gaining control over services with money, staff and training. It may also be advisable for parishes to collaborate voluntarily together to have enough influence to be able to negotiate with the unitary authority.

There are currently two possible options being floated: a single unitary council for Warwickshire which would in effect combine the functions of the County Council and the Districts, or two unitaries, one each for the north and south of the county.

Further details will be provided as more information becomes available.

# **MATTERS ARISING**

Hedgehog signs – The clerk has been contacted by someone who may be willing to make a generous anonymous donation towards the work detailed in July's minutes. This person has asked if the Parish Council would be willing to contribute the remainder of the costs. The clerk contacted Traffic and Safety team at WCC to get further details on what the work entails and the likelihood of it costing more than the £500 quoted for the initial work. Their response is shown below:

As mentioned previously, the non-refundable £500 covers the investigative works and engineers" time. Typically, the installation costs, traffic management, material costs and the engineer's time to desian and mark out the site, does usually total up to more than the £500 deposit. The exact amount for each site varies depending on multiple factors- such as number of signs required and the complexity of work needed to be carried out.

I would imagine a scheme such as this would cost in the region of a further £500-£1500, however this is purely based on a very brief estimate, following a very brief overlook of the scheme. This estimate is by no means a promise or guarantee. If you give the go ahead for the scheme, this price may be higher or lower than the estimate I have just given (as said before, this is dependent on the number of signs required and various other factors).

We are very much data led, and therefore, following onto your next query, signs may not be seen as being feasible in this location, if the total number of accidents relating to the subject (in this case hedgehogs) falls well under our County target, or totals 0. Unfortunately, in this case, there have only been 2 accidents in the last 5 years in this location, none of which relating to hedgehogs.

Under guidance from the DfT, it is recommended that these signs should be used where there has been a number of collisions due to small mammals being on the carriageway, but they can be erected and used to give warning to the road user and to try and reduce the deaths of the animal population if this is seen as being a large, prominent problem. This will be reviewed following a number of site visits in the investigative stage to see if unfortunately, the number of hedgehog deaths do seem an apparent, common issue".

Cost are now estimated between £1000-£2000 but this does not guarantee any definite action.

The Councillors were in agreement that the Parish Council could not justify the costs involved with this work. A resident who anticipated this would be the case sent the following email:

"Despite not being able to have the DfT signs, we don't see any reason why the very discrete signs that are used in Wilmcote, cannot be used in Great Alne if we personally can raise the money to purchase them. Especially in light of hedgehogs being newly added to the Red List for possible extinction in the UK. The idea being to prevent hedgehog deaths in our village rather than monitor deaths".

The Councillors agreed this was a fair request and would be happy to support. The clerk will investigate alternative signs that could be put up, the cost of these and also seek permission from the Traffic & Safety team in order to erect these signs. To establish the best locations, the clerk will liaise with the residents who raised this matter initially to try and establish where most hedgehog activity has been identified.

**U\_route Spernal- Coughton Fields Lane (AKA E5998)** - As reported at the July meeting, the Rights of Way team at Warwickshire County Council have ordered some public highway signs to erect. This will allow the police to enforce the same laws that apply to any public highway. The signs have not yet been received but the clerk has contacted WCC to get a timescale. The police have not reported any incidents being logged in relation to this since the July meeting.

**Huff Cap Update** -. The new owners report that things are progressing well and they very much hope to have the pub open again as soon as it is safe and viable to do so. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

### General maintenance update –

**Broken Parapet on Ford Lane** – Highways England who now look after disused railway bridges have put a new chain-link fence on both sides and the contractor who 'made it safe' when the issue was initially logged will arrange to get their temporary fencing collected.

Damaged bridge which takes footpath AL100 over the brook behind Manor Court – This was logged with the Rights of Way team at Warwickshire County Council. It was inspected but they didn't feel it was a significant risk and felt removing some of the undergrowth would probably be sufficient. This will be added to their list to do however they are happy for the Parish Council to clear the undergrowth if desired. Councillors disagree and feel the drop from the footpath to the ditch is significant enough to warrant some action – be it a sign/tape or post and rail fence. The Parish Council will conduct a risk assessment and the Chairman will also get some video of the area in question so we can demonstrate to Warwickshire County Council what we feel the problem is along with a suggested resolution.

Damaged trees on Henley Rd -A couple of ash trees on Henley Road are in a dangerous condition. One bough is completely dead and, if it were to fall, would block the road. Pictures were sent to WCC at the end of May with our concerns raised. The Forestry team are looking in to this and the clerk is chasing for updates regularly. The Chairman will continue to keep a close eye on the state of these trees. The location is on the North side of the road, close to the notice board adjacent to the Park lane junction.

**Tyres on Ford Lane** - A large number of tyres have been left on Ford Lane. Stratford District Council arranged for these to be removed but Biffa were unable to get their truck down the lane. The hedges need cutting back and whilst this has been assigned to a contractor by Warwickshire County Council, they have been unable to provide an estimated time frame for completion of this

work.

Street light on Gunn Court - A new lighting column has been installed alongside the original. It was confirmed at the time on installation that EON would attend on a later date to transfer the service supply and take away the old column. This has still not been actioned. County Councillor Clive Rickhards is following this up with the relevant team at Warwickshire County Council and the clerk has also been trying to establish a time frame for this work.

**Pavements** – The work to repair the pavements between the church and the Memorial Hall and between 60-70 School Rd remain outstanding. The clerk has requested an estimated completion date for this work but this is not possible at the moment. These works remain on the programme and County Highways will complete an interim inspection to see if anything could be done. The Councillors suggested we should ask for County Cllr Rickhards help with this matter and the clerk will take this forward.

#### MAIN BUSINESS

PROGRESS AGAINST BUDGET As of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020, progress against budget stands at 39% (£8019 of £20,500). The Councillors were comfortable with this and there were no areas of concern.

SPEEDING/ROAD SAFETY

Residents have contacted the clerk to reiterate their concerns over speeding in the village. Over the years, attempts have been made to reduce the speed and Councillors completely agree it is a concern. A summary is provided below:

The Parish Council have tried for many years to try and reduce the speed limit before the sharp bend (Alne Cote Corner) from 50mph to 30mph. This has always been refused by the County Council. In May 2019, the Parish Council attempted once again to have the speed limit changed and had the support of County Cllr Clive Rickhards. County Cllr Rickhards kindly put forward this request but it was rejected by County Highways. The following reasoning was provided:

"Firstly, we have a national document produced by the Department for Transport that sets out when, where and for what reasons we are allowed to introduce speed limits. This ensures that decisions on speed reductions follow a national standard and are consistent through the whole of the UK. The guidelines within this document would not allow us to reduce this section of carriageway to 30 mph.

Secondly, if we were to install speed limit signs and gateways past the double bend, this would introduce another visual distraction to the main hazard at this location which is the bend itself. On top of the chevron signs, markings and advanced warning signs, the 30 mph signs and gateways would further distract the driver and likely cause further issues.

Thirdly, the Police have to be consulted for any change of speed limit, and it is likely that they would object to the new 30 mph extents as it would not be enforceable for them".

A flashing 30mph sign on School Rd was added a few years ago but when it stopped working, WCC Traffic and Road Safety reviewed the justification for maintaining this sign and decided they could no longer do so.

A mirror on School Rd was requested by the school to facilitate drivers leaving the premises. WCC informed the council that they do not supply or give agreement to mirrors on public highways. They confirmed they can be an obstruction and can give a distorted view of the road, giving a false sense of security.

A couple of years ago, Cllr Millard tried to set up a 'Speed Watch' team of volunteers to use mobile speed cameras throughout the village. Some residents undertook the relevant training but sadly, due to the lack of hours volunteers were able to commit to, this scheme could not proceed. At the end of last year, Cllr Millard appealed again for further volunteers and had a positive response. Sadly, Speed Watch training courses had stopped. Due to Corona Virus, plans had been put on hold but Cllr Millard has pursued this again with a positive outcome. The police have agreed that Mrs Sue Millard will take on the role as Speed Watch coordinator. The police met with her and have provided a pack with agreed sites within the village that the team can use and also template forms for completion when they undertake the checks. It is anticipated that the team's first session will

take place in mid-October. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone involved in getting this scheme up and running.

Whilst we understand that rumble strips, chicanes and a variety of other traffic calming measures may be desirable, implementing these is both costly to WCC (and therefore difficult to secure) and not as straightforward as we would hope. Traffic and Safety have to consider, among other things, whether measures would be a distraction, the number of accidents recorded in the area, if speed limits would be enforceable by the police. The Parish Council completely agree that the speed vehicles pass through the village is alarming and dangerous and will continue to try and reduce this. However, we ask that residents appreciate these decisions do not lie with the Parish Council and, based on previous responses we have received from the Traffic and Safety team, it is unlikely that we will be successful in achieving any significant measures in the near future. Additionally, the Parish Council, that is Great Alne residents, would have to pay for any traffic calming measures that might be agreed and this might not be acceptable to everyone in the village.

DOG WASTE

This was discussed at the last meeting but the clerk has been asked to raise the issue again as the problem persists. May we kindly remind all residents that it is an offence not to clean up after your dog (Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996). There are five dog waste bins throughout the village. Please use them where possible or dispose of the waste at home. Please contact the clerk if there appear to be particular problem areas or if you have any suggestions on managing this issue.

### RECREATION GROUND — UPDATE

The following works are still outstanding.

- 1. Replace matting at the bottom of the silver slide, underneath the two swings and the exit from the toddler area in to the main play area.
- 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

Limebridge Rural Services have apologised for the delay and will action this as soon as possible. When the Parish Council next renew the contract for grass cutting and maintenance, they will request a condition stipulating the length of time to complete non-routine work.

# ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

The annual playground inspection was completed by The Play Inspection company in August. The areas to address have all been assessed as either 'very low risk' or 'low risk'. As per the council's usual procedure, the clerk will meet with the chairman and Cllr Clark to discuss the findings of the report and decide which require action and which require monitoring. This meeting is provisionally booked for 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10am. A detailed summary will be provided at the November meeting and the inspection report will be added to the website.

# EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT – ANNUAL CHECK REQUIRED

The chairman will arrange to do the annual check of the emergency equipment that is stored at Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall. This will be completed once the Memorial Hall re-opens.

# EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

With the importance and high profile of Black Lives Matter, WALC have provided all local councils with information on the Equalities Act. This has been distributed to all Councillors. WALC also suggested that all councils should adopt an Equality and Diversity Policy. A draft policy was sent to all councillors for consideration ahead of the meeting. Councillors were in agreement that a policy of this sort should be in place. The Chairman will make some edits to the draft and circulate for Councillors approval.

## NJC SALARY SCALES FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2020-21 with effect from 1st April 2020. All Councillors have confirmed they are happy to increase the clerk's salary in line with these scales.

#### TRAINING

Cllr Mainwaring will be attending the 'Essential Planning Training for Councillors' course held by WALC at the beginning of October. The clerk will arrange log in and password details for all Councillors so they can access WALC's resources online and view available training should they wish to.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

The Government is proposing major changes to the planning system in England. The 'Planning for the future' consultation proposes reforms of the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed. The Chairman attended a briefing session on these proposed changes and updated the Councillors with the high-level information. More information will be available when the Government White Paper is issued. The consultation period closes on 29 October 2020, and comments will be shared after the Parish Council have consulted.

ADDITIONAL MEETING FOR COUNCILLORS (ON

Cllr Millard has suggested that the 5 Councillors and clerk should meet via Zoom for a brief additional meeting in between the bi-monthly Parish Council meetings. This would allow NON-MEETING MONTHS) information to be shared more easily and would enable a more efficient way of working. Councillors are all happy with this and have agreed to proceed with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other (non-meeting) month. The clerk will send invites to the Councillors to meetings via Zoom on 15<sup>th</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> December. The clerk will also contact John Crossling at WALC to ensure there are no issues with the Parish Council meeting in this manner (without the public).

#### **PLANS**

REFERENCE	RECEIVED	STATUS	ADDRESS
20/02241/TREE	18/08/2020	Pending consideration	3 Gunn Court, Ashfield House, Park Lane, Grea
20/01926/TREE	17/07/2020	Tree works approved	Beehive Cottage, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01854/TREE	13/07/2020	Tree works approved	Little Orchard, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01860/VARY	13/07/2020	Pending consideration	Cutlers Farm, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01862/LBP	08/07/2020	Pending consideration	The Old Post Office, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01704/FUL	30/06/2020	Application withdrawn	Whipple Tree Cottage, Coughton Fields Lane
20/01744/LDP	29/06/2020	Proposed lawful development – permitted	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne
19/03615/FUL & 19/03616/LBC	18/05/2020	Appeal in progress	8 Mill Cottage, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01223/FUL	12/05/2020	Pending consideration	Cutlers Farm, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01138/FUL	29/04/2020	Pending Consideration	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green
20/01034/FUL	16/04/2020	Permission with conditions	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/00461/FUL	17/02/2020	Pending Consideration	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green

20/00236/FUL & 20/00237/LBC	27/01/2020	Permission with condition and LBC approved	Keepers Cottage, Alne Hills, Great Alne	
20/00146/FUL	16/01/2020	Pending Consideration	Little Orchard, Henley Rd, Great Alne	
20/00008/FUL & 20/00009/LBC	02/01/2020	Listed building consent refused	Dinglewell Farm, Alne Hill, Great Alne	

The Councillors discussed application 20/02241/TREE – 3 Gunn Court and have no objection.

Since the last meeting the following representations have been made:

20/01854/TREE – Little Orchard – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: Objection - There is no evidence that the tree is not healthy or causing any structural damage, and the Councillors feel the level of light could be improved by tree surgery rather than felling.

20/017041/FUL – Whipple Tree Cottage - Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No objection - The design appears to be well considered, the extension is modest in scale, so does not conflict with Green Belt policy, and the development does not impact on neighbouring properties.

20/01138/FUL – Dan Skelton Racing - Re-consultation – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No representation.

**20/01926/TREE – Beehive Cottage -** Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No objection.

20/01860/VARY – Cutlers Farm - Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No objection.

# **ACCOUNTS**

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount (£)
		161.01
DD Sheet 439	et 439 E.ON (UMS electricity supplies) Inv No. H18A69029F	
200315	Clerk wages and exps - June	
200316	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd - Inv 1489 - Grass cutting	318.00
200318	Space Graphics Solutions Ltd 8x Playground/Covid signs	120.00
200317	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd - Inv 1523 - Grass cutting	204.00
DD Sheet 440	E.ON (UMS electricity supplies) Inv No. H18C34AE63	166.37
200319	Community Heartbeat Emergency Phone Annual Rental	72.00
200320	Clerk wages and exps - July	
200321	Stratford-on-Avon District Council -Emptying of dog waste and litter bins (annual cost)	134.23
200322	WALC - Training Course for Cllr Mainwaring - Inv No. 20572	30.00
200323	WCC Street Lighting - Fitting of rear shield - Inv 10269574	115.15
200324	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd - Inv 1562 - Grass cutting	318.00

		E.ON (UMS electricity supplies) Inv No. H18E13FDC1	166.37				
	200328	Community Heartbeat Annual Support Cost	151.20				
	200325	Clerk wages and exps and backdated pay increase- August					
	200326	HM Revenue & Customs Employee & Employer NICs	29.84				
	200327	Clerk holiday pay 1st Jan 2020-31st Aug 2020					
	Bank Account Balances @: 21 August 2020 Community Account: £27,048.31 Business Money Matters: £9295.54  Money in: £27.00 from Joanne Bullingham (error in payment of wages in 2019/20) a £36.00 refund from WALC for course that did not go ahead.  Void cheques to date: 200048, 200303						
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul> <li>a. Mr J Crossling – WALC &amp; WCC - Survey of town and parish Councils re COVID situation</li> <li>b. Ms J Bozdoganli Stratford-on-Avon District Council - Planning Policy Update including recent updates on a number of planning policy documents at Stratford-on-Avon District Council</li> <li>c. Ms A Lloyd - Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Poster advertising recent litter campaign</li> <li>d. Ms K Flynn - Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Invite to take part in consultation for Stratford-on-Avon (Public Spaces Protection) (Dog Fouling) Order 2020.</li> <li>e. Mr J Crossling – WALC &amp; Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action - Invite to Zoom meeting - As the emergency response eases, what will the future look like and how can community support be continued?</li> </ul>						
	The next Meetin	ng will be held on Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7pt Meeting finished at 8.40pm.	m via Zoom.				