



GREAT ALNE PARISH COUNCIL
www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk
email: info@greatalne-pc.gov.uk

Great Alne Parish Council Update ahead of Meeting on 17th March 2021

The next **Parish Council meeting** will take place on **Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom**.

Please email greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com for the link to register for the meeting. We have added security measures to ensure only residents /people with a genuine interest can attend.

In order to try to keep the meeting as succinct as possible, an update is provided below to be read by Councillors (and residents should they wish to) ahead of the meeting.

We would politely request that if residents have anything they wish to raise, please do so in writing to the clerk, 3 days ahead of the meeting where possible. Email address is greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com

Should you have any other queries, please contact the Clerk, Kyla Brown on 07833 790 375 or via email at greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com

You can join Zoom for free by following this link: <https://zoom.us/>

Copies of the Minutes from the previous Parish Council meetings can be found on the website at <https://www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk>

Outline of Great Alne Parish Council Meeting procedure:

1. Members of the Public are entitled to attend all meetings of the Parish Council.
2. Meetings are managed in accordance with the requirements of the law and the Parish Council's standing orders (copy available on the website (<https://www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk>) and on request to the Clerk).
3. The Chairman will normally preside and will decide any question about the meeting's procedure.
4. Members of the Public will be permitted to speak during Open Forum and possibly at other times by the invitation of the Chairman. Otherwise, you are expected to remain quiet to allow for effective and unimpeded conduct of the business of the meeting.
5. All persons attending meetings of the Parish Council are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly way and treat each other with civility and respect. Any members of the Public interrupting the proceedings of the meeting may be asked to leave, and the Chairman may adjourn the meeting to restore order.

6. Recording of the meeting is permissible. If Members of the Public do not wish to be recorded, please notify the Chairman or the Clerk before the start of the meeting. Any meetings held online will be recorded and retained for 48 hours in order to assist with the Minutes.

7. If the Parish Council decides to consider an item in confidential session, members of the public will be required to leave the meeting. Usually this is to consider items where public knowledge would prejudice fair process such as matters relating to staff issues, contracts or legal matters.

8. Recording of the meeting during any confidential session is not allowed.

9. Please ensure mobile phones are switched off or switched to 'silent'.

10. More information can be requested from the Clerk after this meeting and/or during office hours.

11. In the event of a Parish Council meeting being held online, the Chairman will ask Members of the Public to remain muted. Should a Member of the Public wish to speak we ask that they press the virtual 'raise hand' button which will alert the Chairman that they wish to speak. The Chairman will then invite the Member of the Public to unmute themselves. In the event of difficulties with the internet connection, or a large number of attendees, the Chairman may recommend that Members of the Public should turn off their cameras. We would politely ask all Members of the Public to name themselves on their camera to enable the Clerk to record who attended the meeting.

12. If there is a requirement for an online vote of the Councillors, the Chairman has the option to require speaking to vote, or to do a show of hands. The Chairman or Clerk will read back the votes of the Councillors so that everyone is sure their vote has been recorded correctly.

CORONA VIRUS SUPPORT

The contact details, should you require any help from the Alcester Community Resilience team, remain the same:

Alcester Community Resilience:

Helpline: 07707 598379

Email: alcester.response@outlook.com

Alcester Community Resilience is also on Facebook

The items below are numbered to correspond with the numbered agenda items

4a. Update on Great Alne Park development

In line with the current national lockdown restrictions, Great Alne Park will remain closed to residents of Great Alne for the time being.

Mr Jez Conen (Senior Development Manager) from Inspired Villages of Great Alne Park has agreed to provide a report on progress with the development, as well as address residents' issues regarding the use of the Park Lane (West Gate) Entrance to GAP. These issues have been documented in the Minutes of previous Parish Council meetings and can be found on the Parish Council's website <https://www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk>.

A copy of Mr Conen's slide presentation will be circulated prior to the meeting. Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation in accordance with para 11 above.

4b. Representations from residents

To be considered at the meeting. Please raise any issues in writing to the clerk, 3 days ahead of the meeting where possible: greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com.

4c. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update

The following report has been made to the police since the 20 December meeting:

- Anti-Social Behaviour. Sernal Lane, Great Alne – Coughton. Report of two 4x4 vehicles off roading and damaging the green lane between Great Alne and Coughton. Details of one of the vehicles passed to police. Ongoing situation. 3pm Friday 1st January. 0245 01/01/2021
- Anti-Social Behaviour. Sernal Lane, Great Alne – Coughton. Report of three quad bikes, 4X4 and a Van/Campervan using the road to race about on, causing damage and generally being a nuisance. Afternoon of Monday 28th December. 0210 28/12/2020.
- Anti-Social Behaviour. Several reports received of vehicle using the E-roads / Byways in the area and generally causing a nuisance and damage to the tracks. Caller also concerned that Covid Laws were being broken by the drivers / riders. Ongoing issue. 0124 / 0151 / 0216 Sunday 10th January.
- Road Incident. Sernal Lane, Great Alne. Two off road dark coloured quad bikes seen being driving on the road towards Great Alne. They did not have number plates and the riders did not have helmets. 9.10am Sunday 14th February. 0069 14/02/2021
- Vehicle Crime. Henley Road, Great Alne. Purse stolen from car while the occupant was at a nearby premises. Purse contained cash and bank cards. Between 1.10pm and 2pm. Monday 1st March. 0196 01/03/2021

In relation to the use of local U-routes and E-roads such as Stoa Lane, Alcester police have informed us that as far as they are concerned, these lanes are legally useable by motorists, with there being no speed restrictions listed. It is not acceptable for vehicles to be stopped, blocked or drivers harassed for legal usage. Any evidenced anti-social behaviour or traffic offences such as erratic

driving or riding without helmets on motorcycles and no insurance can be reported and investigated through normal police reporting channels.

An update from the Alcester South SNT on any further issues of local interest has been requested and will be provided at the meeting.

4d. Memorial Hall Representative's report

Update to be provided at the meeting.

4e. County Councillor's Report

Update to be provided at the meeting.

4f. District Councillor's report

Update to be provided at the meeting.

4g. Climate Change

Update to be provided at the meeting.

5a. Huff Cap Update

The new owner of the Huff Cap, Mr Greg White, has offered to attend the meeting to provide an update following the recent planning application refusal from Stratford District Council and the submission of a new application for which the Parish Council received notice on 9.3.21, but has yet to submit representations.

All relevant planning documents relating to the Huff Cap can be found on Stratford-upon-Avon's District Council's e-planning portal:

<https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/AppDetail.aspx?appkey=QGCHX3PMMQL00>

5b. U Route – Sernal-Coughton Fields Lane

See above at 4c regarding general use of local E-roads and U-routes.

5c. General maintenance update

- a) Road repairs – Two incidents have been reported to the Highways Department since the last Meeting. Repairs have been made to the collapsed drain on Henley Road opposite The Maples, and work is scheduled for the carriageway repair on Sernal Lane opposite Linfoot Oaks.

There is now also a website for reporting and tracking issues on our local roads which the Highways Dept are encouraging us all to use – any resident can therefore now report a problem to:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reporthighwayproblem>

- b) Flooding management – There has been a lot of correspondence with the County Council Flooding Team and Highways over the last couple of months, particularly in relation to the drains along the length of Spernal Lane and the area around Appleby Close and The Huff Cap. The Flooding Team came out in mid-January and jetted the drains along the bottom end of Spernal Lane. However, following a particularly heavy period of rain, the drains were quickly blocked up again from the amount of rainwater running off the nearby fields. Latest information from Highways (9 March 2021) is that they are planning to clear the system out again and potentially survey the drains with a camera to see if there are any issues along the system which they need to be aware of.
- c) Streetlighting- Following the recent repairs and replacement street-light works around the village, an updated inventory of the Parish's street lights has been shared with Western Power Distribution, along with details of those lamps now operating on LED, which is approx. one third of our street lighting. The last two bills have seen a reduction which should lead to a substantial saving over the course of the year.
- d) Other – water leak at The Huff Cap. This leak caused serious flooding along the bottom of Spernal Lane and into Appleby Close at the end of February. It was caused by a burst pipe in the courtyard area of the pub, and a subsequent broken water meter outside the property near the post box. After several complaints to Severn Trent Water, they elevated the seriousness of the leak (it was at risk of freezing due to low overnight temperatures which would have been extremely dangerous on the bend); it was repaired on 3 March and the hole filled in a few days later. Thank you to the local residents who raised the alarm.

5d. Creation of Unitary Authorities – update

Update to be provided at the meeting.

5e. Speeding/Road Safety

An application has been made to the Highways Department for replacement of the double 30 mph speeding sign which has disappeared from Henley Road, near the entrance to Manor Court. This request has been acknowledged, and a replacement double sign has been ordered.

The flashing speeding sign on Henley Road by Great Alne Primary School is currently not working. Highways have confirmed that maintenance of these signs has been cut right back due to budget cuts. The Clerk has followed up with the Streetlighting team who look after these signs, and they have confirmed that there is currently no budget available for maintenance. We have been added to a list and they will contact the Clerk in due course once funds are released.

5f. Proposed changes to the planning system

The government consultation has now closed. The government's response to the feedback is still awaited.

5g. Equality and Diversity Policy

The Equality and Diversity Policy, which was approved at the Parish Council meeting on 9 December 2020, has been finalised and has been added to the Parish Council website.

5h. Newsletter

The Clerk will shortly commence work on the spring 2021 newsletter. If you would rather receive your copy electronically rather than by post, please let the Clerk know. Email: greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com

6a. Approved budget/ Precept 2021-2022

The budget for 2021-2022 was considered and approved by the Councillors in writing via email.

Subsequently, the 2021-2022 precept request for Great Alne was approved by the Councillors via email (in lieu of the cancelled Parish Council meeting) and the submission was made to Stratford District Council before the end of January.

Further update to be provided at the meeting.

6b. Progress against budget for 2020-2021

Update to be provided at the meeting.

6c. Submission of VAT reclaim 2020

The VAT reclaim for 2020 was submitted to HMRC on 1 March 2020. The amount of VAT being reclaimed for the year is £1,784.40.

6d. Updating of banking mandate

In lieu of the January meeting, the Councillors approved via email the addition of the new Clerk to the existing bank mandate for the Parish Council bank accounts. This will allow the new Clerk to become a cheque signatory and deal with all banking aspects relevant to the Parish Council's bank accounts.

6e. Appointment of internal auditor

In lieu of the January meeting, the Councillors approved in writing (via email) the re-appointment of Lorraine Holmes of Arrow Bookkeeping as the Parish Council's internal auditor for the end of this financial tax year. A letter of appointment has been sent to Lorraine and the internal audit will take place after the end of March, hopefully in time for the next Parish Council meeting in May, current circumstances permitting.

6f. Procurement of new Parish Council laptop

The previous laptop was ageing and slow and not up to the increasing demands being made of it. The Councillors approved via email the purchase of a higher spec reconditioned Lenovo laptop which was supplied and configured by Printech in Alcester.

6g. Covid-19

- a) Support services: There has been a lot of information and correspondence at County and District level regarding initiatives to help support families in need during this period of national lockdown and when the schools were closed. This includes information on services offered from the Local Hardship Scheme and covering free school meals and the winter grant scheme. If anyone would like any further information on these schemes and support services, please contact the Clerk.

To keep up to date with the most current guidelines and advice from the Government and NHS, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

- b) Transport to vaccination appointments - Warwickshire County Council have provided VASA with funding to provide free transport to get those in the priority groups to their vaccine appointments.

VASA have over 120 volunteers, all who are enhanced DBS checked and have been trained and issued with PPE.

Patients or their friends and family can call VASA Monday to Friday, between 9am and 4pm to book transport to their appointment via a central booking line on 01789 262889, press option 1, or email transport@vasa.org.uk

If you require any further information please email Ali. Her email is ali@vasa.org.uk

- c) Asymptomatic Testing: There are signs up on the noticeboards regarding community testing at The Other Place Theatre in Stratford, for anyone in any age group who has no symptoms of Covid but requires a test.

6h. Census 2021

The 2021 Census date is Sunday 21 March. The answers on the questionnaire will help form decisions about services that shape our community for the next 10 years, such as healthcare, education & transport. It's easy to complete the survey. And there's a range of services to help you, including support in different languages and accessible guidance.

For more information visit: <https://census.gov.uk/>

For this census the preferred approach is online submission. Every Census completed online saves paper and taxpayers' money. However, paper questionnaires can be requested from the free-phone

Census Helpline 0800 141 2021 (this is open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 8am - 1pm on Saturday).

If you or anybody you know in the village will still require assistance with completing their Census Form, please email the Clerk at greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com or telephone 07833 790375 (Monday - Friday 9am-5.30pm).

Further information is available on the Parish Council FaceBook page and website.

6i. Recreation ground

- i. Easing of Covid restrictions update: The Government have confirmed that playgrounds can remain open during this national lockdown. From 29 March it may be permissible for groups of 6, or two households to meet up outside, which means the recreation ground could potentially be quite busy at times. The Parish Council politely reminds people to read the signs within the playground and ensure the rules and social distancing are still adhered to at all times.
- ii. Ongoing maintenance and monitoring: A comprehensive update was provided on maintenance and monitoring issues in the December 2020 meeting. The new Clerk will be actioning these points over the coming weeks and will report back at the May meeting.
- iii. Litter-picking initiative: The increased use of the recreation ground and field over the lockdown has resulted in a marked increase in rubbish. The Parish Council would like to organise a Covid-safe 'Great Alne Family Litter Picking Weekend' after 29 March to encourage families (maybe Grandparents could help!) to get outside in the warmer weather and help look after our local environment. The Clerk is happy to arrange the weekend, including the litter pickers and disinfecting the pickers between each use. More information will be posted soon on the Parish Council FaceBook page and website.
- iv. 'Playground Friends Group': After a long winter, the park is likely to be increasingly utilised by local families over the spring and summer months. It needs a spring clean and tidy up! Parish Council are seeking volunteers to form a volunteer maintenance group, or local 'Playground Friends' group. Being part of this group would mean engaging twice a year with buckets, mops, sponges and brooms to help clean down the equipment and sweep up the twigs and branches in the toddler area. It would also mean helping to keep a general eye on the playground and reporting anything untoward to the Clerk. For example, there has been an increased number of dogs being walked on the recreation field over lockdown – which is in breach of local byelaws. If this trend continues the Parish Council will need to consider further action – increased observation from local volunteers will help monitor this situation.

Further details on these community actions will be posted on FaceBook and the spring newsletter, but if anyone would like to register their interest to get involved, please contact the Clerk.

6j. Grass cutting contribution and letter of thanks from Memorial Hall

The Parish Council has approved in writing via email, a request for a contribution towards the grass cutting at The Memorial Hall for the upcoming 2021 season. As in previous years, the cost is being

split 50/50 with Kinwarton Parish Council. The contribution made by each Parish Council for the year is £326.

A letter of thanks has been received and circulated from Martyn Davey, Chairman of the Memorial Hall.

6k. Dog fouling

Following a number of recent complaints about the increased incidence of dog fouling in Great Alne, SDC has been contacted to discuss options.

Since October 2020, Great Alne falls under a Public Spaces Protection (Dog Fouling) Order (the Order), which was enabled by Stratford District Council in exercise of its powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Order sets out a number of penalties and fines that can be imposed if someone is caught allowing their dog to foul anywhere in our village and fails to pick it up. Not being aware of the fouling, or not having a receptacle to pick it up, is not an excuse under the Order.

Please be aware that only a police community support officer or person authorised by SDC, has the relevant authority to impose a fine. Please use judgment and caution if you decide to approach someone who has failed to pick up after their dog. There is a dog control form on the SDC website which facilitates enforcement action by SDC, but completion of this form is limited without full cooperation from the offending dog owner.

In light of this conversation, SDC delivered a number of new dog fouling signs to the Clerk and some of these have been put up in hot spots around the village – they clearly detail the potential fine imposed under the offence. The Clerk has a few of these signs left and will put them up in particular places if anyone feels their street or a specific location could benefit. Please contact the Clerk by phone or email to request a sign.

A further deterrent suggested by the officer at SDC was the use of temporary yellow line paint to highlight the faeces on the street. SDC have found this has worked as a deterrent in a number of village locations as offenders realise that dog fouling is being monitored. The Parish Council would require one or two volunteers to undertake this exercise, with careful guidance.

6l. SDC Garden Waste Initiative

From 1st April 2021, emptying of the green bin will only be carried out where residents have subscribed to the Garden Waste Service and are displaying a valid permit on their bin.

The 'early bird' discount cost, of £35 per bin, expired on 28th February 2021, meaning the registration cost is now £40 per bin.

Residents can subscribe to the service online (www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or by phoning 01789 260 628.

Residents can also request up to three food waste caddies which can be put out alongside the green bin and will be emptied at the same time.

There are notices on all of the village noticeboards regarding this initiative.

6m. Resignation of Marie Holding as Parish Councillor

Marie Holding has been a Parish Councillor for Great Alne for five years. She is resigning with effect from 31 March 2021. We would like to thank her for her service and dedication to our community over that time, and wish her well with her future exciting endeavours.

6n. Appointment of new Clerk

Kyla Brown is the new Clerk and RFO for Great Alne Parish Council, taking over from Joanne Bullingham on 5 January 2020. Kyla has lived in Great Alne for almost 11 years. She can be contacted on the same contact details as before – email greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com or Tel: 07833 790375 during office hours.

6o. Parish Councillors to take lead responsibility for specific areas

Councillors will discuss splitting the various key areas of management and responsibilities between them, such that each Councillor will be the main point of contact for specific areas. The key areas are:

- Flooding
- Street lighting
- Planning
- Finance / accounts/auditing
- Recreation Ground and Defibrillator
- Roads
- Residents' issues
- Insurance
- Climate change

6p. Dates and locations for 2020/21 meetings

The following meeting dates for 2021 are proposed:

19th May, 9th July, 15th September and 17th November.

Future locations of these meetings, ie in person or on Zoom will depend on Government guidance nearer the time.

Parish Assembly – To be discussed. It may be sensible to move this meeting to slightly later in the year when COVID-19 will hopefully be under control. This event could then potentially be held in person rather than via Zoom.

Planning applications

Since the last meeting the following representations have been made:

21/00248/TREE – Alne House, Park Lane, Great Alne – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No objection

20/00461/FUL - Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester – an amended application was submitted for variation to landscaping works. No formal representation was required, but the Parish Council reiterated the comments it submitted in relation to the full application, which were dated 2 April 2020.

Highlighted references show updates since the last Parish Council Meeting on 9th December 2020.

* The Parish Council has yet to consider and submit a representation on these planning applications.

Reference	Received	Status	Address
21/00697/FUL	11/03/2021	Pending consideration	Great Alne Mill, Mill Lane, Great Alne*
21/00698/LBC	1/3/2021	Pending Consideration	Great Alne Mill Mill Lane Great Alne*
21/00574/FUL	9/03/2021	Pending consideration	The Mother Huff Cap, Spernall Lane, Great Alne*
21/00248/TREE	11/02/2021	Tree works approved	Alne House Park Lane Great Alne
20/02937/AMD	09/10/2020	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/02521/FUL	10/09/2020	Permission with conditions	Glebe Farm, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/02492/LBC	09/09/2020	Listed Building Consent Approved	Dinglewell Farm, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/02488/FUL	08/09/2020	Permission refused	The Mother Huff Cap, Spernall Lane, Great Alne
20/02326/LBC	25/08/2020	Listed Building Consent Approved	Keepers Cottage, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/02241/TREE	18/08/2020	Tree works approved	3 Gunn Court, Ashfield House, Park Lane, Great Alne
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	Variation permitted with conditions	Cutlers Farm, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01862/LBP	08/07/2020	Listed Building Prop – Lawful dev granted	The Old Post Office, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01744/LDP	29/06/2020	Proposed lawful	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne

		development permitted	
19/03615/FUL & 19/03616/LBC	18/05/2020	Appeal Dismissed	8 Mill Cottage, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01223/FUL	12/05/2020	Application withdrawn	Cutlers Farm, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01237/LDP	12/05/2020	Lawful Dev. Cert. Proposed Permitted	Manor Court, Trap House, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01138/FUL	29/04/2020	Permission with conditions	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester
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, Alcester
20/00146/FUL	16/01/2020	Permission with conditions	Little Orchard, Henley Rd, Great Alne