

**A Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Great Alne School, School Road,  
Great Alne, B49 6HQ at 7pm.**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr P Clark, Mr I Millard, Mrs H Mainwaring, Ms D Francis, County Cllr Mr Justin Kerridge, District Cllr Mrs G Forman Members of the public: 12
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	None.
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	Cllr Francis noted that she has an interest in section 5a) below, namely the update on GAP.
<b>3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES</b>	Minutes from the August 2021 Parish Council Meeting minutes were agreed by the Councillors. These will be signed by the Chairman and filed.
<b>4. OPEN FORUM</b>	
<b>4a. Representations from residents</b>	No issues had been raised before the meeting to the Clerk. Only one issue was raised during the meeting which was a query whether an email had been received by the Chairman dated 26 August regarding a defibrillator grant. The Chairman confirmed he would revisit the email and reply accordingly.
<b>4b. Alcester South SNT &amp; crime statistics update</b>	There are a number of means of accessing information on local crime and similar issues. The Clerk receives a weekly report from the Alcester South SNT, as well as through the new Warwickshire Connected Police community messaging system.
The main issues that are currently affecting our parish and surrounding area include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle crime including theft and damage, anti-social behaviour, burglaries of sheds, garages and outbuildings</li> <li>• Particular hotspots seem to be in and around Alcester, although there have been a couple of reported burglaries on Spenal Lane in the last week.</li> </ul>	
The Clerk gave a reminder that there is a new Warwickshire Police community messaging system in place - 'Warwickshire Connected' – which encourages direct engagement between the Community and the Police. This is a free messaging service where you decide when and how you hear about the issues that matter most to you, whether that be getting regular crime updates, the latest information on ongoing incidents and emergencies or learning more about what your local police are doing. It is also the place where you can get involved in helping to make your local area a safer place, tell the police what they should be doing in your area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and tell the police what matters are causing your communities harm. It is very quick and easy to sign up here: <a href="https://www.warwickshireconnected.com">https://www.warwickshireconnected.com</a>	
How to report a suspected crime or suspicious behaviour:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always report an active crime on 999</li> <li>• Non-emergency calls can be made on 101</li> <li>• Online reporting services are also available on the Warwickshire police's website: <a href="https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/">https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/</a></li> <li>• Twitter - @AlcesterCops</li> <li>• Facebook - Alcester Police</li> <li>• Instagram – southwarwickshiresnts</li> </ul>	

<p><b>4c. Memorial Hall Representative's Report</b></p>	<p>Cllr Francis, the PC Representative on the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall Committee gave the following update following the last meeting on 6 September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>As the car park from the Mother Huff Cap is fenced off it has been agreed with the school that parents can use the Village Hall car park instead.</i></li> <li>● <i>The Village Hall is looking for volunteers to help maintain the Memorial Garden- there is a lot of weed growth so any help would be much appreciated.</i></li> <li>● <i>The WI are going to display a 9" x 7" plaque on a 10 x 8 wooden frame to commemorate their centenary.</i></li> <li>● <i>It has been agreed that the next project will be the refurbishment of the entrance lobby, followed by the modernisation of the Committee room.</i></li> <li>● <i>Hopefully the Village Hall is going to purchase the snooker room from Mr Kelly, its current owner. Talks are at an early stage but hopefully some progress will be made before the end of the year.</i></li> <li>● <i>A new sign for the Hall has been agreed - and will commemorate the Hall's centenary.</i></li> <li>● <i>The Film Club has now restarted.</i></li> <li>● <i>Other dates for your diaries are:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Centenary Party Friday 15 October</i></li> <li>● <i>Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 4 December</i></li> <li>● <i>Christmas is Coming! Sunday 5 December</i></li> <li>● <i>Christmas Supper Friday 10 December</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> October.'</i></p>
<p><b>4d. County Councillor's Report</b></p>	<p>Cllr Kerridge formally introduced himself to the Parish Councillors and residents as this was his first meeting since he was elected to Warwickshire County Council in May 2021. Cllr Kerridge was welcomed to the meeting by The Chairman.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge confirmed that specifically in relation to Great Alne, he has recently been engaged in assisting with the road issues at Inspired Villages/ Great Alne Park. From reading recent correspondence, Cllr Kerridge considers that IV's actions and progress are positive. He is committed to seeing an agreement between WCC and IV on the technical issues relating to the section 278 agreement on the East Entrance (Henley Road).</p> <p>His personal goal is to promote cycling and safe cycle lanes – for all users, including cars.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge noted the efficacy of the WCC reporting function via the website for anyone who needs to report any issues or concerns. The reports, inputted on a form via the WCC website, go straight into the system for processing. A log number is immediately received. If anything is not dealt with, residents are encouraged to speak to Cllr Kerridge with their reference number.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge also referred to the two funds to which he has access as County Councillor;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The first is a council grant for community activity which promotes inclusion;</li> <li>● The second is access to new funds which will come on-line later in the year.</li> </ul> <p>He also has a delegated budget for roads and pavements.</p>

<p>4e. District Councillor's Report</p>	<p>Cllr Kerridge is available and open for discussion for anyone who would like to speak to him. He is available on the phone or via email and encourages residents to get in touch with him.</p> <p>The Clerk asked Cllr Kerridge whether he had recently spoken to WCC in relation to the progress of the section 278 agreement governing the East Entrance to GAP, as IV had been in touch to ask for assistance in liaising with WCC Highways with a view to understanding what was causing the protracted delays. Cllr Kerridge said he would chase up with WCC Highways to find out the latest position. His understanding was that if all of the documentation from IV was in order, Highways should be looking at it next week (ie week commencing 17 October). Thereafter, the legal agreement could be entered into, which would secure funds, meaning that the roadworks could be completed.</p> <p><i>Before Cllr Forman started her update, a resident enquired whether Cllr Forman was aware of the issues concerning the Parish Council in Aston Cantlow. Cllr Forman was aware and suggested that the Clerk, Liz Butterworth, needed to report directly to SDC. If no councillors are available for co-optation then Cllr Kerridge and Cllr Forman would step in until there were interested councillors available.</i></p> <p>Cllr Gill Forman provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Covid rates:</b> Covid rates in Stratford are now at their highest since the start of the pandemic. Currently stated as 589.9 per 100,000. The age group with the highest rate is school aged children, with 3,618 per 100,000 in the 10-14 age group. The over 60s' rate is 150.7 per 100,000.</li> <li>• <b>Unitary Authority:</b> No decisions have yet been taken on the possible merger between Stratford District Council (SDC) and Warwickshire County Council (WCC). There is already a close working relationship between the two councils, with sharing of offices and officers, which is saving costs. The public consultation on the proposed merger runs from 6/9 to 24/10, and is available on the SWLP website - <a href="https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/">https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/</a>. Paper copies are available from Elizabeth House. Cllr Forman encouraged all residents to take part. There is a district council meeting on 13 December at which both councils will vote on whether they are going to ask the Secretary of State to support the merger.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Mainwaring asked Cllr Forman what her personal view was of the proposed merger between SDC and WDC. Cllr Forman's personal opinion is that the merger needs to happen. The current Government prefers larger authorities and there is a risk that if SDC and WDC do not merge to cover South Warwickshire, then the whole of Warwickshire will be run by one large authority. Cllr Forman believes this will result in the majority of the expenditure going to the north of the county and the rural villages will get left behind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC):</b> Between 31/8 and 8/11, the LGBC is consulting on new boundaries for council wards and the number of councillors sitting on Stratford District Council. Of most relevance locally, Coughton would potentially be in a different ward and Wilmcote would fall within the Kinwarton ward. The LGBC is keen to hear what residents and local businesses have to say. More information is available here: <a href="https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/the-local-government-boundary-review.cfm">https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/the-local-government-boundary-review.cfm</a>. [<i>The Clerk understands that the consultation has now been extended until 6/12 due to a misunderstanding about the steps needed for the council to formally request, before the review started, that the review should proceed with a presumption towards single-member wards</i>].</li> <li>• <b>Recycling update:</b> the recycling centre is back to normal following the recent fire. It cost a great deal of money to take the waste to Ettington (£28 per tonne) and Worcestershire and London (£90 per tonne). This additional cost is claimable from the insurers, however.</li> <li>• <b>Blue Bin Plant:</b> For the last 12 months, SDC has been working with six other councils to open its own blue bin waste recycling centre. However, this is unlikely to open until 2023/24. Hopefully the plant will eventually generate a small income for the council.</li> </ul>
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<p>5a. Update on Great Alne Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Visitors to Stratford:</b> Cllr Forman stated that revenue from car parks has increased and visitor numbers are almost back to pre-pandemic levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>A written update was provided by Will Gardiner, Development Surveyor for Inspired Villages on 30 September 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>'Advertisement Application</b>  <i>Thank you for providing the Parish's feedback in respect to the proposed flagpoles along Henley Road. We will amend the advertisement application to reduce the number of flagpoles down from 4 to 2. You asked if these could be positioned either side of the entrance road, however this presents a problem because we do not own the land to the right-hand side of the entrance. We are also of the view that this location would be unsuitable given the density of existing trees bordering the East Lodge which will screen the flagpoles. To reconfirm, the flags will only be required while we have new plots for sale.</i> <p><i>We need to add two entrance gateway signs to the advertising application that are proposed to either side of the bellmouth. I attach a document which sets out the proposed locations and designs together with a specification.</i></p> </li> <li>• <b>Variation of Condition 20</b>  <i>An initial draft of the supplemental deed of variation to the s106 has been prepared by our lawyers which we are currently reviewing. We paid the Council's legal fees for this work and we hope to have this circulated for signing by the start of October.</i> </li> <li>• <b>Park Lane Closure</b>  <i>Whilst we still await the completion of the s278 agreement, we have commenced all other works to allow us to open the East Entrance. This work commenced in July and has comprised the earth works movement of spoil heaps, clearance of swales and landscape planting. The civil engineering works is also about to commence which will see the formation of passing places and road construction to link up with the retirement village. Our engineers have provided a proposal to carry out temporary works to the bellmouth at the entrance which we can do without the need for a s278 agreement. It means we will need to return to carry out these works at a later date, which will be more costly for us but it will allow us to open the East Entrance by December. This is our current plan. We will carry out the s278 works during the six-month window when we commence Phase 3.</i> </li> <li>• <b>Phase 3</b>  <i>Our target was to commence Phase 3 in summer 2022, however market conditions are challenging for the placement of building contracts due to uncertainty with materials availability and pricing. A tender return on another Inspired project in the south-east region saw prices 60% above our cost plan. We expect conditions to return to normal during the course of next year. We are therefore forecasting a longer period for tendering and contract negotiations. Subject to the outcomes of the tender process, we now anticipate that Phase 3 works will commence towards the end of 2022. Although we are committed to delivering Phase 3 in a timely manner, we thought we should flag this now.</i> </li> <li>• <b>S.278</b>  <i>The updated s278 package went in to WCC over 6 weeks ago now. Our highways consultant has been regularly chasing WCC but yet has had no response in terms of timeframes for technical approval. We would be very appreciative of the Parish Council's support in hastening WCC's response time as this is currently holding up legal documentation (which could take a further 2-3 months after technical approval) and implementation of the contracted works. As identified above, this will now not hold up the re-opening of the East Entrance.</i> </li> <li>• <b>New Application (conversion of laundry facility and addition of 5 cottages to Phase 3)</b></li> </ul>
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We have prepared plans for the addition of five plots which will be built within Phase 3. We have incurred significant additional costs with improvements we have felt are necessary to the development. These include the improvements to the landscaping of the meadow, reconfiguration of the clubhouse which now has a larger gym for our residents, replacement of large areas of lawn which have had to be re-laid and improvements to drainage to the site generally. The additional plots will help fund this additional work. We have shared plans with our residents and will share these with the Parish once we have concluded consultation with those residents most likely to be affected by this change. This application will not affect our proposed timing for the delivery of Phase 3.

- **Landscaping Works**

Our landscaping contractor is approximately 75% through the landscaping element of the contracted works across the meadow area and east access spine road. Weather permitting the completion of landscape works is forecast for late November.

- **GP Surgery**

Alcester Healthcare have informed us that the Clinical Commissioning Group have moved to the next stage of consultation with a further review of the plan to take place in November. Progress is being made, albeit slowly, to get the Medical Centre operational.

- **S.106 Obligations**

As a brief update on other various obligations;

- First instalment of the affordable housing contribution (£2.741m) has been paid to SDC
- Updated Community Bus Plan submitted to the Case Officer which has been issued to WCC for their approval
- Permissive Footpath Plan is being updated and will be issued to the Case Officer in the coming weeks
- Financial queries are being investigated by SDC regarding Highways and Footpath Contributions – we have notified the council that the payments are due and will promptly issue payment once SDC provide clarification.'

The Chairman, after hearing the update, asked the Clerk to contact Will Gardiner to enquire when the new planning application for the proposed five additional cottages might be submitted to SDC.

## 5b. Huff Cap Update

The Clerk spoke to Greg White before the meeting and, although he was unable to attend in person, he confirmed that building work is on track; but he is waiting for WPD to attend site to work on the power lines. Once these cables have been dealt with, the new houses will proceed quickly. Greg is hoping to come to the next PC meeting in December with further news.

**Asset of Community Value:** Stratford District Council (SDC) has confirmed the redesignation and registration of The Huff Cap as an Asset of Community Value as of 2 September 2021. A building or other land is an asset of community value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future. If the asset comes up for sale, then the local community will be given a fair chance to make a bid to buy it on the open market.

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>

**5c. General Maintenance Update**

The Clerk provided the following update:

- a) **Flooding management** – The Clerk has again chased the WCC Flooding Team and Highways over the last couple of weeks to find out when Great Alne is scheduled for a long-overdue survey of the local drains with a camera to see if there are any issues along the system which require further action. The Clerk has sent photos and requested an update for the last couple of months. Hopefully, there will be more to report on this at the December meeting.
- b) **Road repairs/issues** – recent repairs and works include:
  - WCC Highways visited Henley Road last week to carry out the scheduled ‘siding out’ by the railings adjacent to Appleby Close and opposite Shawford. This involved the clearing and removing of compacted debris that spills from a bank or hedgerow onto a pavement or footpath.
  - The footpath on School Road which was difficult to pass due to creeping hedgerow has become much more accessible further to the owners arranging for works to be carried out by a tree surgeon in September. The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to the owners of the adjacent property for arranging and managing this work.
  - Any resident can report and track issues on our local roads at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reporthishighwayproblem>

CLLr Kerridge confirmed that he would take the PC’s concerns re the drains back to WCC Highways for further progress. The Clerk agreed to send both historical and future correspondence to CLLr Kerridge so that he is aware of any relevant discussions.

**5d. Community Speed Watch/ Road Safety**

The Clerk provided the following update:

- i. **Road safety improvements.** The Clerk stated as follows:
  - VAS Sign near the school: The Clerk has contacted the Warwickshire Transport Planning and Road Safety Group seeking an update regarding the VAS sign near the school and how progress is going with the new VAS Policy which is currently being reviewed/updated. The following response has been received this week:

*‘We have reviewed the vehicle activated signs throughout the county with a view to taking forward a policy to our members soon.*

*I understand that some member and senior officer discussions have taken place around this issue. I would now think that WCC Cabinet are likely to consider the proposed policy before the end of the year. Once that policy is in place we will be able to assess faulty/damaged signs and make a decision as to what action to take to repair, replace or remove them and, crucially, have a better idea of likely timescales.*

*With our budgetary constraints being as they are, a more robust VAS policy will allow us to target such signs at locations where road safety improvements are most likely. At the same time, the removal of redundant VAS will help to relieve pressure on the annual maintenance budget for these signs, which now number almost 400 across the county.*

*In order to avoid the possibility of unnecessary work, it is not the intention to carry out repairs/replacement of faulty signs until the policy has been agreed.*

*I am sorry that I can't give you a definitive answer on your particular sign at present and I'm happy to provide further updates on our internal democratic processes as they move forward.’*

- 50mph Speed limit along Henley Road near GAP: The Clerk has contacted IV in relation to the 50mph speed limit along the Henley Road, which includes the East Entrance to GAP. This is a dangerous road as one enters the village from Little Alne and will become increasingly so once the East Entrance to GAP opens. In due course, a coordinated approach between GAPC and IV to WCC would be preferable.
- ii. **CSWG – training.** The Clerk stated as follows:
- One of our local SNT officers, PC Rob Davies, held a basic training session for our new Community Speed Watch volunteers on Saturday 25th September 2021, at the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall. We were joined by volunteers from Little Alne, Studley and Kinwarton. The session covered basic equipment training, road safety awareness and risk assessment. With this basic training complete, the volunteers can go out with the formally trained volunteers (ie those who use the gun). The PC would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to PC Rob Davies for his time and guidance with providing the training.
  - Coincidentally, the Clerk was made aware of 4 formal training spaces that had become available at a formal training session in Leamington. Three of our volunteers made it to Leamington (the 4<sup>th</sup> was unexpectedly unable to attend). All three of these volunteers passed the training and are now ready to go out with the CSWG and use the speed detection device.
  - The formal training for the remaining volunteers should, it is hoped, take place before the end of this year - currently the officers are increasing the number of instructors who are trained on the gun so that they can offer more formal training groups to volunteers across the county. The Clerk will keep enquiring regularly for any updates as the spaces are limited.
  - Details of the formally trained volunteers have been forward to Cllr Millard as the lead of the CSWG.
  - During this part of the meeting, the Parish Council was introduced by the Clerk to two local volunteers from Little Alne who attended and passed the formal training in Leamington this week. One of the volunteers is an ex-police officer and is qualified to provide training courses. She offered to assist with the formal training of the remaining volunteers. The Parish Council were extremely grateful for this offer, and the Clerk said she would contact the Police Officer in charge of the formal training and see whether, and how, our volunteer might be able to assist.
- iii. **Progress on access to equipment:**
- The CSW Group will now need access to equipment and a speed detection device.
  - Currently, there are no known devices available to purchase. There is only one available to borrow, and that is an Alcester SNT Gun that is held by Wilmcote PC, with a view to other PCs being able to borrow it.
  - There is no guidance yet on when one will be available to purchase, but the Clerk is in close contact with the Warwickshire Road Safety Unit and is being kept in the loop on developments etc.
  - The Clerk has also been in contact with Studley PC and Sambourne PC – both of whom are establishing fledgling CSWGs. It is possible their PCs will approve the sharing of a device between the three parishes – either a 3-way split, or some variation thereof, recognising that Studley is a larger parish and will need access to the device for a longer period each month. This is still ongoing and the Clerk will provide the latest update at the next meeting.
  - The Clerk asked the Councillors to decide how they wish to proceed and to set some dates to get the CSWG out before Xmas.

The Councillors debated the pros and cons of the parish acquiring its own speed gun, compared to shared ownership with other parishes. There are cost advantages of operating a shared device on a loan system, but concern was raised about the difficulties of ad hoc access – for example if it was raining on a pre-allocated day. Councillors were also concerned about storage issues and the

**6a. Update on SWLP:  
Public Consultation on  
possible merger**

logistics of travelling to and from the council premises in Studley to collect or deliver the device. There was also discussion about how the speeding data collected would be used – and whether it would really make a difference to speeding in the village. The speeding device is a formal measurement to gauge speed and Cllr Millard explained that the evidence gathered could be requested as evidence by the police for a speeding offence or used to determine whether Great Alne is a hotspot for speeding and justified a visit by a police mobile speeding van.

At the end of the discussion, the Parish Council decided that the preferred course of action would be to make a single purchase of a device for the parish of Great Alne. This would include the acquisition of the tripod and the fixing assembly for attaching the device to the tripod. The Clerk was instructed to purchase the speeding device and ancillary equipment in the coming week.

On the issue of proposed sites, the Clerk explained that she had received emails from residents suggesting the device be used at particular junctions or roads in the parish. Cllr Millard confirmed that there are currently three approved sites in the parish:

- by the telephone box on School Road,
- in the layby next to the church; and
- on the corner of Park Lane.

The Clerk has heard that due to the backlog, the police are currently only able to approve two new requested sites at the assessment, and that there is a waiting list of approximately 18 months for a site visit. However, the Clerk said she would speak to PC Rob Davies at Alcester SNT to see if he would be willing to look at other sites in the parish.

The Chairman noted that Cllr Forman had already provided the meeting with an update on the SWLP. However, he and some of the other councillors had recently attended a Zoom Briefing Session for Parish Councils on the proposed merger and was keen to share the information at the meeting.

The two Chief Executives from WDC and SDC were at the Briefing Session and provided helpful information on the background behind the proposed merger and the proposed financial implications. The objective of the session was to get a feel for the level of support or opposition and gain some general feedback.

As Cllr Forman had indicated, there is an online consultation exercise as well as a paper version. The Chairman considers it very important for residents to have a view and get involved.

Central Government favours larger authorities, and as Cllr Forman mentioned, Central Government has to approve the merger. But if there is no local government support for the proposal it will not be approved. The Chairman supports the merger: he feels the councils have little alternative financially. There is a report by Deloitte which accompanies the consultation, which overall, the Chairman considers to add value. The report forecasts a £10 million per annum deficit within 5 years and this is without finding any savings that are yet to be identified. The proposed merger will give rise to £3 million of cost savings.

There are therefore costs benefits but there are also significant risks – although there are no answers provided in the Deloitte Report. For example, there is a risk to democratic representation; the entity may be more remote and therefore not so responsive. Furthermore, the larger the council the larger the financial risk.

The Councillors engaged in a debate about the pros and cons of a unitary authority, including the efficiencies from outsourcing or getting parish councils to carry out extra work: this may be beneficial for residents but would result in a higher precept level. The Chairman considers that such devolution would necessitate neighbouring parishes working together, which in turn would require PCs to become increasingly professionalised. All of this has yet to be spelled-out however, so it will be interesting to see how the debate progresses.

<p><b>6b. Highway Verge Management Policy – consultation launched by WCC</b></p>	<p>The Councillors debated how best to respond to the consultation (which closes on 24/10) – whether it would be preferable to submit one GAPC response, or to make submissions as individual councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Francis felt that now was not the right time for the two district councils to be merging as many people will lose their jobs. She considered that responses should be submitted as individuals.</li> <li>• Cllr Millard considered that people are going to lose their jobs in any event, and it would be preferable for there to be one unitary authority for the south of the county rather than one big authority covering the whole of Warwickshire.</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council decided ultimately to submit one response from GAPC. The Chairman said he would identify specific issues for the councillors to respond on which would form the basis of the response. All councillors agreed it was important to respond as the district councils require the feedback and evidence.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the draft Highway Verge Policy document circulated by WCC. As the Councillor responsible for ‘green issues’ within her portfolio, Cllr Francis had reviewed and summarised the contents of the draft policy document.</p> <p>WCC intend to encourage biodiversity and create wildlife corridors by the way they maintain selected rural roadside verges. As a Parish Council we can explore where/how we could possibly adjust or reduce the number of cuts to enable us to plant wildflower areas. Obviously, road safety has to be maintained.</p> <p>If the Parish Council believe we have verge areas that will be enhanced by gaining a grant for this scheme, the criteria are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Chosen area must be on WCC highway land</li> <li>ii. Speed limit must be 40mph or less</li> <li>iii. Cannot compromise the safety or hinder the safe passage of highway users</li> <li>iv. Consultation needs to be made with any affected properties within the vicinity of the verge</li> <li>v. Co-ordinate with the plans of any statutory undertakers that have assets within the area, to include Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service and the council's Street Lighting Department where applicable</li> <li>vi. Area must be directly accessible</li> <li>vii. Any wildflower species mix used must be appropriate for the location</li> </ol> <p>If GAPC decide to go ahead and our application is successful, we must be prepared to pay for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>viii. The cost of purchasing the wildflower seed</li> <li>ix. Regular maintenance of the wildflower verge/s</li> <li>x. The fulfilment of any health and safety requirements, to include the purchase of the correct PPE for our volunteers to wear while working on the verge</li> <li>xi. Public liability insurance to the recommended value to allow work on the public highway</li> </ol> <p>Please Note: This is just about wildflower seeding - not the planting of bulbs etc or for any other work on the verge. The suitability of any verge(s) chosen by us will be determined by an officer from WCC during a site visit.</p> <p>Response to the consultation is required by 1 November 2021.</p> <p>The Councillors discussed the draft policy and agreed that it is a good idea. One aspect to check is the public liability insurance to make sure there are no issues. There are a number of options on areas where we could plant a wildflower verge – ideally we would start with one verge and see how it works out. The Chairman agreed that the proposal meets GAPC’s environmental ambitions and that the wild flowers will also look good in the village. This also ties in with the suggestion of</p>
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	<p>tree planting – we would also need to carefully pick the proposed sites. There are issues to consider such as ongoing maintenance, and who would be responsible for managing the verge, but on the basis we have a commitment from the Community Payback Team for some help around the parish, this could perhaps be an area where they can help us.</p> <p>The Council decided to take this forward and Cllr Francis and the Clerk agreed to find a date to work together to submit a response on behalf of GAPC. The Clerk will run the document passed the Chairman for approval prior to submission.</p>
<p><b>6c. Report on upgrading village streetlighting to LEDs</b></p>	<p>This project has been discussed at high level in previous PC meetings and the Clerk had agreed to carry out some research into the different options for upgrading the parish’s streetlights to LEDs. The Clerk prepared a separate report which was circulated prior to this meeting.</p> <p>The Councillors considered the Clerk’s report and agreed that the streetlamps should be upgraded to LEDs, as well as replacement of the ageing concrete columns. The Councillors were keen to push ahead as soon as possible. The Clerk was instructed to look into the various funding options – ie whether an interest free loan spread over a number of years would be preferable to paying for the replacements from reserves. The Clerk is to report back at the next meeting in December.</p>
<p><b>6d. Plan for Community Payback Team (CPBT) assistance</b></p>	<p>The Clerk explained that she and the Chairman had met with the Church Warden, Gareth Roberts-Davies, and one of the officers from the local probation team to discuss how the CPBT might be able to assist GAPC with a number of tasks around the parish that require some attention.</p> <p>At the end of the meeting, the Probation Officer agreed that the Team would be able to visit the parish on a regular basis to assist initially with grounds maintenance in and around the church, and with a number of footpaths which have become overgrown and need re-establishing.</p> <p>The Clerk sent a long list of tasks, in order of priority, to the Probation Officer following the meeting and the plan is to agree a date when the Team can start. There will be a slight delay as the Probation Office ascertains whether it can safely transport the Team, including supervisors, to site in one van (due to Covid etc).</p> <p>The parish should be able to benefit from a monthly visit for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The Team will therefore be in the parish in one of two locations initially – either at the Church or along one of the footpaths near to the church.</p> <p>The Church Warden is getting keys cut so that the Chairman and the Clerk can provide access to the bathroom facilities at the church, and we will be the main points of contact for the supervisors.</p> <p>To start off with, the CPBT will be using their own equipment for maintenance, but in due course, the PC will be asked to provide equipment such as a strimmer, loppers etc, that will be kept in the parish, for use just in the parish. This equipment will also then be available to any other local volunteers who are helping out in and around the parish.</p> <p>The Councillors considered that assistance from the CPBT would be very welcome and of great assistance around the parish. Cllr Francis suggested that if the CPBT required access to any equipment, to liaise with Ben Ling at GAP in the first instance as it might be possible to borrow equipment from the GAP grounds maintenance team.</p>

<p><b>6e. Recreation Ground</b></p>	<p>The Clerk provided the following update with regard to the recreation ground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Broken swing:</b> The broken cradle swing was replaced in the toddler area last week. The swing was supplied free of charge by Kompan, the manufacturer, as there was a fault with the particular model and all such swings are being replaced.</li> <li>• <b>Actions post play inspection report:</b> The Clerk is in the process of dealing with some minor issues with replacement items needed for the play equipment which were highlighted in the Annual Park Inspection – ie obtaining bolt cap covers, new shackles, flat swing seats etc.</li> <li>• <b>Maintenance works over winter:</b> The Clerk is currently liaising with Limebridge Rural Services, our grounds maintenance contractor, in relation to the list of winter tasks that were discussed at the last meeting. For example; i) clearing of the boundary along the back of the recreation ground, and ii) the picnic tables need to be treated and relocated.</li> <li>• <b>Tree works along back boundary of recreation ground / Nightingale Close:</b> Cutting of trees along the back boundary of the park where the trees are overhanging into Nightingale Close residents’ gardens. The Clerk has been waiting for a survey on these trees to be carried out by WPD since June 2021; with little sign of progress despite numerous chasing emails. The Clerk sought authorisation from the PC to permit her to go ahead and arrange for 3 quotes by local tree surgeons to complete the whole job, as the window for nesting is November and we are in danger of missing the opportunity. The residents are understandably frustrated at the lack of progress and have been very patient while we’ve been waiting for WPD to conduct the survey (this is before they even agree to, or set a date for, any works). The PC agreed to the Clerk obtaining three quotes as suggested so that the tree works can be carried out around the nesting season.</li> <li>• <b>Retendering of amenity contract:</b> the Clerk will start work on this in the next couple of weeks as it is scheduled for renewal in January 2022.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6f. Great Alne Clean-Up Weekend – 20/21 November or 4/5 December</b></p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that due to the success of the Great Alne litter-picking weekend held across the parish in April, GAPC is planning to hold another event on either the weekend 20/21 November or 4/5 December. This will be organised again in collaboration with the Memorial Hall, who are happy to assist. ‘Base Camp’ will again be set up at the bottom of the drive of the Memorial Hall, subject to agreement with Martyn Davey.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that there will be an additional dimension to this next community event, namely a tidy-up of the church grounds. The Clerk will coordinate tasks with the Church warden, Gareth Roberts-Davies.</p> <p>We will need some more robust litter pickers for this event, as a few of them broke last time. The plan is to buy an extra 6 pickers, at a cost of @£20-£25.</p> <p>The event will be publicised on Facebook, on the noticeboards, on the website and in the autumn newsletter so that as many people as possible in the village are aware of the event.</p> <p>The Councillors agreed that the weekend of 4/5 December was preferable in terms of availability and the extra two weeks would provide more notice for residents and allow the event to be advertised on the next newsletter. The Clerk is to liaise with Martyn Davey as soon as possible and co-ordinate with him in terms of the Memorial Hall events taking place that weekend. The Councillors thought that volunteers would be happy to attend the Memorial Hall’s Coffee Morning for a well deserved hot drink!</p>

	<p>The Councillors also approved the Clerk's purchase of 10 new litter pickers, with a request that they be more robust than the last ones!</p> <p>The Clerk encouraged residents to contact her if they are able to help out, even if it is just for half an hour over that weekend. Every bit of assistance will make a big difference! There will be surprises for the children again when they've finished their session....</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the PC has received a request to purchase a grit bin for the residents of Linfoot Oaks. If the PC were to approve the acquisition, WCC would then have to approve the location of the grit bin if placed on an adopted highway, and WCC will then maintain and refill the bin every winter. Although the main entrance road into Linfoot Oaks has been adopted as a highway, there is already a grit bin on Spernal Lane near the entrance to Appleby Close: so it is not certain that WCC will approve the new location.</p> <p>In the event WCC does not approve the location at Linfoot Oaks, it is then open to the residents of the development to purchase and maintain/refill their own private grit bin and place it on one of the private roads. This option would fall under the responsibility of the residents' management company with the cost covered by the annual service charge.</p> <p>If the PC did approve the acquisition of a grit bin, preliminary research indicates that, depending on the supplier, a 100 litre grit bin kit with a scoop and 125kg of salt is approx £115 incl. A bigger grit bin @ 200 litre, with 250 kg of salt is £174 incl. A 25kg bag of salt is £9-£10 depending on volume purchased, ex VAT.</p> <p>Therefore, as an initial step, the Clerk asked whether the PC would consider the acquisition of a grit bin, so that the Clerk can investigate whether WCC would be prepared to approve the location of the bin in the Linfoot Oaks development and maintain/refill it.</p> <p>After consideration of the matter, the Parish Councillors decided not to agree to the purchase of a grit bin for Linfoot Oaks on the presumption that WCC will not approve its location due to the close proximity of the grit bin on Spernal Lane. It remains open to residents of Linfoot Oaks to purchase a grit bin and locate it on one of the private roads on the development.</p>
<p><b>6g. Request for a new grit bin at Linfoot Oaks</b></p>	
<p><b>6h. Part II of the Parish Assembly – January 2022</b></p>	<p>The Chairman explained that the first part of the Parish Assembly Meeting was held on Wednesday 19 May 2021. This was adjourned so that we could reconvene later in the year when the Coronavirus restrictions had been eased. The purpose of reconvening was to enable residents of Great Alne to join us to hear about proposals and plans for the coming year; to share views from residents on what they would like to see happen in our local community, and to invite some of our local organisations and groups to provide an update on their activities and upcoming events. We had hoped to hold Part II of the Parish Assembly in early November but, due to non-availability of the Hall and the proximity to Xmas, GAPC have decided to hold part II in January 2022 (date TBC once the hall availability is confirmed).</p> <p>In the meantime, if anyone has any spare time, or would like to get involved with a new hobby or activity, meet new local residents and perhaps make new friends, please do come along to the Parish Assembly which will be a real volunteer-seeking event!</p>
<p><b>6i. Dates and location for remainder of 2021 meetings</b></p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that from this month, PC meetings will be held on a Thursday evening going forward.</p> <p>The last PC meeting of the year will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021.</p>

However, the PC asked the Clerk to investigate options and costs of other appropriate local venues for the PC meetings going forward, due to the absence of a caretaker at the school, and therefore the need to pay the contract caretakers for opening and locking up school (awaiting costs information from the school). The Clerk agreed to report back before the arrangements are made for the next meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the dates of the 2022 bi-monthly meetings will be confirmed at the first meeting in February.

**7. Planning**

**Planning applications**

The following are the planning applications submitted in the parish of Great Alne in 2021.

Reference	Received	Status	Address
<a href="#"><u>21/02879/TREE</u></a>	8/9/2021	Pending Consideration	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne B49 6HR
<a href="#"><u>21/02796/FUL</u></a>	1/9/2021	Pending Consideration	Seymour House 50 School Road Great Alne B49 6HQ
<a href="#"><u>21/02797/LBC</u></a>	1/9/2021	Pending Consideration	Seymour House 50 School Road Great Alne B49 6HQ
<a href="#"><u>21/02656/AMD</u></a>	11/8/2021	Approval of Non-Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne
<a href="#"><u>21/02546/TREE</u></a>	16/8/21	Tree works approved	2 Maudslay Cottages, Henley Road
<a href="#"><u>21/01566/ADV</u></a>	16/8/21	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Village Road, Great Alne B49 6HS
<a href="#"><u>21/02370/FUL</u></a>	22/7/2021	Permission with conditions	1 Linfoot Oaks Great Alne B49 6RG
<a href="#"><u>20/03403/LBP</u></a> Appeal	23/6/2021	Appeal In Progress	Trap House Manor Court Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
<a href="#"><u>21/01632/FUL</u></a>	17/5/2021	Permission with conditions	2 Gunn Court Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
<a href="#"><u>21/01634/FUL</u></a>	17/5/2021	Pending Consideration	Broadlane Cottage Sernal Lane Great Alne B49 6JD
<a href="#"><u>21/01566/ADV</u></a>	10/5/2021	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS
<a href="#"><u>21/01496/TREE</u></a>	4/5/2021	Tree Works Approved	1 Gunn Court, Barnfield Park Lane Great Alne B49 6HS

<u>21/00984/TREE</u>	24/3/2021	Tree Works Approved	Yew Tree House Park Lane Great Alne B49 6HS
<u>21/00941/AMD</u>	20/3/2021	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Flaxfields Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HX
<u>21/00900/VARY</u>	18/3/2021	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS* <i>Application to change the wording of condition 20 made on 5.8.21. Comments required by 26.8.21</i>
<u>21/00865/AMD</u>	15/3/2021	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne
<u>21/00697/FUL</u>	1/3/2021	Planning Permission Refused	Great Alne Mill, Mill Lane, Great Alne
<u>21/00698/LBC</u>	1/3/2021	Listed Building Consent Refused	Great Alne Mill Mill Lane Great Alne
<u>21/00574/FUL</u>	22/2/2021	Permission with conditions	The Mother Huff Cap Spennall Lane Great Alne B49 6HY
<u>21/00248/TREE</u>	19/1/2021	Tree Works Approved	Alne House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS

**8. Accounts**

Accounting information

Accounts (payments/invoices for approval) since August 2021 meeting. Those highlighted in white are paid, those in blue have been paid but yet to be presented. Those in yellow are yet to be paid.

31/08/21	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd - Grass cutting - 1956	487.00
08/09/21	WALC Training - Annual Conf 2021- INV- 21633	12.00
10/09/21	Clerk's wages for August (tax period 5)	891.00
10/09/21	Clerk's expenses for August 2021	66.13
16/09/21	E.ON (UMS electricity supplies) Inv No. H	142.25
21/09/21	Community Heartbeat Trust - Inv 9905 Annual Support Cost Year 5	151.20
30/09/21	Clerks wages for Sept (tax period 6)	591.00
30/09/21	Clerks expenses for Sept 2021	68.78
30/09/21	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd - Grass cutting - 1975	420.00

	02/10/21	E.ON (UMS electricity supplies) Inv No. H1A52DEBC3	137.67
	<p><b>Bank Account Balances @: 21 September 2021</b></p> <p>Community Account: £41,243.20 Business Money Matters: £9,296.57</p> <p><b>Money in:</b></p> <p>£12,250 being the second tranche of the precept for 2021/2022 from SDC. 0.08p in interest received on funds in the Business Money Matters account.</p> <p>The Clerk also went through the Bank Reconciliation for September 2021, the most recent Financial Statement for September 2021, and the Progress against Budget spreadsheet to date. All financial data was approved by the Councillors.</p>		
<b>Correspondence</b>	<p><b><u>9. Correspondence</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Numerous emails regarding Community Speed Watch – informal training, formal training, vetting of volunteers, access to speed detection device etc.</li> <li>b) A number of emails with WCC highways re scheduled road repairs and ongoing flooding concerns.</li> <li>c) Correspondence with residents and WPD regarding overgrown trees in the parish (particularly Nightingale Close).</li> <li>d) Correspondence from residents regarding concerns over speeding in the village and increase in traffic.</li> <li>e) Correspondence from resident regarding blocked footpath at Hilltop Farm off Park Lane.</li> <li>f) Correspondence with GAP management team regarding ongoing planning issues and developments and general update.</li> <li>g) Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report.</li> <li>h) Correspondence with SDC re nomination of the Huff Cap as an Asset of Community Value.</li> <li>i) Emails from SDC re SWLP Public Consultation.</li> <li>j) Emails with the Church warden regarding maintenance in the church grounds, and funding issues.</li> <li>k) Emails with Community Pay Back Team Probation Officer and Church Warden re potential assistance for the parish.</li> <li>l) Correspondence regarding provision of a grit bin in Linfoot Oaks.</li> </ul> <p><b>THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMEBR 2021 AT 7PM (VENUE TBC)</b> <b><i>[The venue for the next meeting has subsequently been confirmed as The Function Room at Great Alne Park]</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Meeting ended at 9.35pm.</b> *****</p>		