

A Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held on Thursday 10th March 2022 at The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne, B49 6HX

PRESENT	Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr P Clark, Ms H Mainwaring, Ms D Francis. Members of the public: approximately 7.
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	County Cllr Mr Justin Kerridge, District Cllr Mrs G Forman (both of whom were attending the Parish Council meeting at Aston Cantlow in the absence of parish councillor appointments), Cllr Ian Millard.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	None.
3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES	Minutes from the February 2022 Parish Council Meeting minutes were agreed by the Councillors. <i>[These have been signed by the Chairman and filed].</i>
4. OPEN FORUM	
4a. Representations from residents	<p>No issues had been raised before the meeting to the Clerk. Two residents raised issues at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One resident raised concern about the speed limit on Henley Road, especially now the East Entrance of GAP had opened. He explained there are no markings on the road and it is so dark at night time that one cannot see the actual road in either direction.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Chairman responded that GAPC is very aware of this issue and has shared its concern with GAP who is also very concerned. WCC do not currently consider the speed limit along the Henley Road to be of concern as there have been no incidents recorded. The Chairman confirmed that GAPC would revert to Cllr Kerridge on this issue again.</i> • <i>A second resident is concerned about the signage that has gone up at the Park Lane end of Stoot Lane, confirming that the Lane is a public highway. She said there had been a significant increase in 4x4 traffic on the road since the sign had been erected. The resident also commented that the OS map lists Stoot Lane as a by-way open for public access.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Chairman responded that the OS maps do not necessarily show the correct legal status of the routes. Furthermore, WCC interpret the use of the routes in a particular way. However, if WCC has declared that route suitable for vehicular traffic then they have adopted it and have the responsibility of maintaining it (under s56 of the Highways Act 1980). WCC resist any attempts to close the road but equally they do not want to maintain it. Presumably WCC would therefore be liable if there was an injury along the road.</i> ○ <i>[There was further discussion on this issue at section 6b]</i>
4b. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update	<p>The Clerk receives a weekly report from the Alcester South SNT, as well as through the new Warwickshire Connected Police free community messaging system which residents are encouraged to subscribe to. It is very quick and easy to sign up here: https://www.warwickshireconnected.com.</p> <p>The main issues that are currently affecting our parish and surrounding area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle crime including theft and damage, anti-social behaviour, burglaries of sheds, garages and outbuildings • Particular hotspots seem to be in and around Alcester, although there have been a couple of recently reported burglaries on Sernal Lane and in Great Alne in January – mainly shed and outbuildings along the back of School Road. Update from Alcester SNT suggests gangs from Birmingham are responsible and at least one arrest was made shortly after these burglaries took place. Following a request by one of the affected residents, the Clerk has spoken to the farmer currently farming

<p>4c. County Councillor's Report</p>	<p>the field at the back of the School Road properties, and he is happy to speak to the concerned resident.</p> <p>How to report a suspected crime or suspicious behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always report an active crime on 999 • Non-emergency calls can be made on 101 • Online reporting services are also available on the Warwickshire police's website: https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/ • Twitter - @AlcesterCops • Facebook - Alcester Police • Instagram – southwarwickshiresnts <p>Cllr Kerridge provided the following written report to the Clerk:</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge emailed the Clerk to say he hoped to have an update on the off-road lanes before the meeting. Otherwise, he is keen to assure residents that he is working on trying to get both information and action.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge is also trying to get a more definite timescale for the Mother Huff Cap works and getting the works pushed up the priority list.</p>
<p>4d. County Councillor's Report</p>	<p>Cllr Forman provided the following written report to the Clerk:</p> <p><i>The 2022/23 budget went to full Council on the 21st of February and was approved. This will see a band D property's council tax rise to £154.12, which is a £5 or 3.3% rise. The green bin charge has risen to £42.00, but this year there will be no discount for paying early.</i></p> <p><i>When you received you council tax bills you should also receive information about the new waste collection service that will commence in August. The new collections will work on a 1-2-3 system. This will mean weekly food waste collections, food caddie bins should be delivered April/May. Fortnightly recycling collections, (blue bin), and ordinary waste every three weeks, (grey bin). The garden waste collections, (green bin), will remain at every two weeks.</i></p> <p><i>A considerable amount of work still continues around the possible merger of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council. We are still waiting to hear from The Secretary of State on his decision on this issue.</i></p> <p>[Cllr Francis requested the Clerk ask Cllr Forman whether she has access to the most recent Covid rates data for Stratford, for circulating].</p>
<p>4e. Update on Great Alne Park</p>	<p>The East Entrance is now open and the West Entrance is closed until the start of Phase 3.</p> <p>Update from Ben Ling, Village General Manager:</p> <p><i>'On the West Entrance – a couple of people are using the emergency services access function to open the gate, which they shouldn't be. We are looking to change the panel shortly so that you can contact reception and we can open the gate if it's an emergency service, which means we can remove the emergency services access function and stop anyone using it.</i></p> <p><i>Other than that, all access has been stopped and everyone is now using the east entrance.'</i></p>
<p>4f. Climate change</p>	<p>The Chairman presented his draft Climate Change Action Plan with the councillors and residents which he was sharing as a thought starter for discussion. The Chairman is keen to set up the Climate Change Volunteer Working Group as soon as possible, so that an</p>

6a. Letter of thanks from GAKMH	GAPC has received a letter of thanks from GAKMH for the contribution of 50% of the costs of grass cutting at the Memorial Hall for the 2022 season (up to a maximum of eight cuts). Kinwarton PC are contributing the other 50%.
6b.4x4 and quad bike access on U-routes in and around Spenal Lane / HoEF	<p>The Clerk confirmed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Further to the update from Cllr Kerridge, it is clear that there is a common position between GAPC, the police and, from the Clerk's conversations with him, Cllr Kerridge. This position is to focus on the anti-social behaviour aspects of the incidents and therefore the best solution for all parties is that Old Warwick Road / New End Farm Road should be closed temporarily for 18m under a Traffic Regulation Order. This would allow WCC sufficient time to assess the road and confirm its status. However, WCC has to agree and will need to provide physical assistance to the police to enable the road to be closed. We have been pushing for an update / feedback on this but have yet to have a response from WCC. Cllr Kerridge assures us he is working hard to get information and action. b. The next step for GAPC is to give serious consideration to the 'community trigger process' under Section 104 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. <p><i>There followed an extremely informative and interesting representation by Mr Richard Hawker, who provided background information on the history of the local routes and by-ways and how the roads had been classified according to relevant legislation and council ownership over the years.</i></p>
6c. Update on treeworks at the park/Nightingale Close	<p>The Clerk confirmed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There were a couple more tasks to finish off the contracted works, but these have apparently now been completed. The Clerk will visit the park tomorrow to check. b. The arisings were chipped on site on Tuesday and spread along the northwest boundary to keep the weeds down. c. The repair to the damaged grass was done on Tuesday, although the contractor will need to revisit due to the grass being too wet in some areas.
6d. Amenity Area Grounds Maintenance Contract	<p>The Clerk confirmed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Limebridge Rural Services are happy to enter into a formal agreement with GAPC and for a 12m break clause to be included. b. The Clerk is following up on a couple of potential options for lengthsmen companies who can carry out the ad hoc tasks, and is due to speak with the Probation Officer for the CPBT in the next week or so about tasks they can help us with in the interim.
6e. WI planting for the Jubilee	WI have decided to plant two flowering pear trees at GAKMH, not in the recreation ground.
6f. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2021-2022	<p>The Councillors have agreed in writing to apply the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2021-2022 of 1.75% increase to the Clerk, being the delayed pay increase due in April 2021. Further approval has been received for the Clerk to be back-paid to April 2021, and for this additional salary to be paid before financial year end.</p> <p><u>For Decision/Approval:</u></p>
6g. New Model Code of Conduct	<p>The Councillors discussed and approved the revised Model Code of Conduct which WDC and SDC have agreed will be adopted from 1 May 2022.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Clerk will send confirmation of adoption to SDC, as required. ii. Training dates have been provided and the Chairman and Clerk are booked on to a session at the end of March.

<p>6h. Permanent Memorial to celebrate the Jubilee</p>	<p>The Councillors discussed proposals for a permanent memorial for the Platinum Jubilee - copse planting in the Recreation Ground – including tree species for planting (as per research table) and a budget for tree planting, amount to be taken from reserves.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Chairman and Clerk met at the park on Tuesday and agreed that the area behind the pub, on the other side of the footpath, will be planted – with provision made for emergency access through the existing farm gate and 4m away from the residential properties on the boundary. ii. The Councillors approved the suggested list of tree species as per the Clerk’s research, with input from WCC’s Forestry Department and The Woodland Trust. iii. The Councillors agreed to a planting budget of £500 for the trees - £55 for 30 small saplings from The Woodland Trust and approx. 6-10 more mature trees (@ 1.5-2m tall) which can it is hoped be acquired at wholesale price. iv. Although initially planning to plant the copse around Easter, it was agreed that it would be better to plant the copse in the autumn to avoid risk of the saplings dying or not getting enough watering. v. In the meantime, the Councillors instructed the Clerk to buy one mature tree for planting at the Jubilee celebration Picnic in the Park. The Clerk will research prices for a field maple ‘Queen Elizabeth’.
<p>6i. Budget for Jubilee celebrations</p>	<p>The councillors discussed and approved a budget of £1,000 to be allocated from reserves for the Jubilee Picnic in the Park. Costs so far are estimated as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bouncy castle cost = £200 ii. Bird box kits for children to paint = £196 iii. Acrylic paints and brushes will be required for the crafts iv. Flyers for properties will be needed to advertise the event v. Prizes for competitions will be required– Jubilee Bake Off, Fancy Dress, Best Dressed House etc vi. Additional costs – TBC (further ideas after the meeting on 20 March)
<p>6j. Electric fence at Hill Top Farm</p>	<p>The Councillors discussed the extension of electric fencing across a public footpath at Hill Top Farm, off Park Lane. A number of local residents and the Clerk have made several online reports to WCC about the electric fence on the footpath, but the county council has taken no action to investigate. The Councillors agreed that that it is the responsibility of the landowner to retain the openness of, and access to, the footpath. The obstruction of the footpath in several places is unacceptable and illegal. The Clerk was instructed to draft a letter to the occupants of the farm and to also raise the matter with Cllr Kerridge for him to escalate further within WCC.</p>
<p>6k. GAPC banking options</p>	<p>The Clerk discussed her research on alternative banking options, including fee structure, availability of online banking provision and ease of payment with multiple signatories etc. All Councillors approved moving GAPC’s bank accounts to Unity Trust Bank.</p>
<p>6l. Volunteer Policy</p>	<p>The Councillors, having previously approved in writing the draft Volunteer Policy for the purposes of the Litter Picking event in December 2021, formally approved and adopted the Volunteer Policy for any volunteering events organised or run by GAPC. The Clerk will include the policy in the Council Documentation.</p>
<p>6m. Request for contribution towards new defibrillator at the Cricket Ground</p>	<p>The Councillors considered the request from Great Alne Cricket Club for a donation of £1000 from GAPC towards the retrospective purchase of the defibrillator which has been located at the Cricket Club on Henley Road. An access gate has also been installed for public access to the ground, should the defibrillator be required. The Councillors asked the Clerk to find out what the total cost of the defibrillator was, and whether an invoice is available to review. The Councillors would also like to understand the maintenance costs and obligations. In principle, GAPC is happy to make a donation. Subject to these two points, the Councillors will approve a donation at the next PC Meeting.</p> <p>The Councillors considered and approved a request received from Great Alne School for a donation towards the cost of putting on Alne Fest II in June. The Clerk noted that there was</p>

<p>6n. Request for contribution towards Alne Fest II from Great Alne School</p>	<p>£250 allocated in the budget for a donation to school for the Christmas competition which did not take place because of Covid. The Councillors agreed to donate this sum of £250.</p>
<p>6o. Renewal of WLAC subscription</p>	<p>The Councillors agreed to pay the renewal for the WALC subscription – cost of £247.00 based on the number of electors in the parish- and comprises £47 for the NALC fee and £200 for the WALC fee. The invoice will come through in April.</p>
<p>6p. Leylandii trees on the border of the Recreation Ground</p>	<p>The Councillors discussed the leylandii trees along the left-hand border to the recreation ground which have not been maintained for many years. Several tree surgeons who came to quote for the tree works in the park/Nightingale Close commented on how dangerous they are due to their excessive height and lack of maintenance. The trees are the property of Austin Cottage. The Councillors authorised the Clerk to send a letter to the owners requesting they undertake essential maintenance on the trees, on health and safety grounds.</p>
<p>6q. Great Alne Parochial Charity request for new GAPC representative</p>	<p><u>For discussion:</u></p> <p>The Clerk noted that a letter had been received from Martyn Davey, Chairman of the Great Alne Parochial Charity, requesting nomination of a new Parish Council Representation on the Great Alne Parochial Charity Management Committee, following the retirement of one of the long-serving trustees. Cllr Paul Clark volunteered to be the new GAPC representative on the Charity.</p>
<p>6r. Date for the Parish Assembly</p>	<p>The Councillors discussed preparations for the Parish Assembly in May: the date of Saturday 14th May is preferable and the Clerk will contact GAKMH for hall availability. 7th May is second date option.</p>
<p>6s. Annual Meeting date and dates for the rest of this year's General PC meetings</p>	<p>Climate Change will be a big part of the Agenda at the Parish Assembly and the Councillors agreed that we would seek a guest speaker from a Climate Action Group to give a presentation at the Assembly.</p> <p>At this meeting, GAPC will be seeking willing volunteers to establish/re-establish a number of working groups to address various workstreams across the parish, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Church Friends Group ii. Community Speed Watch Group (to include new volunteers) iii. Climate Change Group iv. Good Neighbour Group v. Park Friends Group vi. Parish Plan Group <p>The Parish Assembly will be a call for volunteers to assist with setting up of these working groups, under the guidance of an allocated Parish Councillor.</p> <p>The Assembly will be advertised on GAPC's Facebook page, in the spring newsletter, through School and on the GAPC noticeboards.</p> <p>The Councillors agreed that the date of the Annual Meeting will be Thursday 12th May at 6.30pm. The next PC meeting will follow immediately afterwards at 7pm. The Clerk will contact GAP regarding availability of the Function Room.</p> <p>The dates for the rest of the PC meetings for 2022 are as follows:</p>
<p></p>	<p>Thursday 7th July at 7pm Thursday 22 September at 7pm Thursday 17th November at 7pm</p>
<p></p>	<p>Venue for each meeting TBC.</p>

7. Planning applications

The Clerk confirmed that the following are the planning applications recently submitted in the parish of Great Alne and their current status.

Any yellow highlighted applications are still to be determined, with submissions to SDC yet to be completed (see minutes below regarding these two applications).

Reference	Received	Status	Address
22/00205/VARY	3/3/2022	Pending consideration	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester B49 6JR
21/03871/VARY	7/12/2021	Pending Consideration	Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground Sernal Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6JG
22/00199/TREE	24/1/2022	Tree works approved	Manor House Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
22/00232/TREE	24/1/2022	Tree works approved	Long House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
22/00145/LDP	17/1/2022	Pending Consideration	49 School Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HQ
21/04057/ADV	22/12/2021	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Great Alne
21/04093/FUL	21/12/2021	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Great Alne
21/04013/FUL	20/12/2021	Pending Consideration	Juniper Henley Road Great Alne B49 6HX
21/04097/FUL	17/12/2021	Pending Consideration	Great Alne Mill Mill Lane Great Alne
21/04099/LBC	17/12/2021	Pending Consideration	Great Alne Mill Mill Lane Great Alne
21/03871/VARY	7/12/2021	Pending Consideration	Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground Sernal Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6JG
21/03788/LDP	30/11/2021	Proposed Lawful Development - Permitted	2, 7 And 8 School Close Great Alne Alcester B49 6HE
21/03778/AMD	25/11/2021	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Great Alne
21/03644/AMD	10/11/2021	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne
21/03205/FUL	6/10/2021	Application Withdrawn	49 School Road Great Alne B49 6HQ

21/03069/FUL (and amendment dated 24.2.22))	27/9/2021	Pending Consideration	15 Appleby Close Great Alne B49 6HJ
21/02879/TREE	8/9/2021	Tree Works Approved	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne B49 6HR
21/02796/FUL	1/9/2021	Planning Permission Refused	Seymour House 50 School Road Great Alne B49 6HQ
21/02797/LBC	1/9/2021	PP or LBC Not Required	Seymour House 50 School Road Great Alne B49 6HQ
21/02656/AMD	11/8/2021	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne
21/02546/TREE	9/8/2021	Tree Works Approved	2 Maudslay Cottages Henley Road Great Alne B49 6HX
21/02370/FUL	22/7/2021	Permission with conditions	1 Linfoot Oaks Great Alne B49 6RG
20/03403/LBP Appeal	23/6/2021	Appeal In Progress	Trap House Manor Court Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
21/01847/LBC	4/6/2021	Listed Building Consent Approved	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne B49 6HR
21/01632/FUL	17/5/2021	Permission with conditions	2 Gunn Court Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
21/01634/FUL	17/5/2021	Permission with conditions	Broadlane Cottage Spernal Lane Great Alne B49 6JD
21/01566/ADV	10/5/2021	Application Withdrawn	Maudslay Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS
21/01496/TREE	4/5/2021	Tree Works Approved	1 Gunn Court, Barnfield Park Lane Great Alne B49 6HS
21/00984/TREE	24/3/2021	Tree Works Approved	Yew Tree House Park Lane Great Alne B49 6HS
21/00941/AMD	20/3/2021	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Flaxfields Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HX
21/00900/VARY	18/3/2021	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS

[21/00865/AMD](#)

15/3/2021

Approval of Non
Material
Amendment

Maudslay Park Great
Alne

At the meeting the Councillors discussed and made a decision on the following applications:

a. Planning application 21/03871/VARY Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground, and the additional information provided by WCC.

Following detailed discussion, the Councillors determined that GAPC **would** be prepared to remove its objection on condition that; i) the purpose of the use of the site is reinforced - ie that it will only be used as a natural burial ground as per the permission granted in Planning Application 13/03305/FUL; and ii) Condition 21 of that same application is also adhered to and enforced, namely that in the interest of highway safety, burials associated with the development shall only take place between the hours of 10:00 and 15:00 Monday to Friday and at any time on Saturday and Sunday.

b. Planning application 22/00205/VARY Dan Skelton Racing.

The Councillors' opinions were split on this application, so they agreed to submit a response of 'No representation'.

The Councillors also instructed the Clerk to contact the planning officer at SDC responsible for the Seymour House planning applications, requesting an update and establishing why Listed Building Consent was not required for planning application 21/02797/LBC; *Retrospective application for the replacement gates, opening up of the existing entrance and new tegular paving.*

Accounts payments/invoices for approval since the February 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.

Date	Cheque No	Description	Amount
01/03/22	200426	SDC - streetlighting maintenance 21/22 Inv-10315695	235.58
08/03/22	200427	Clerk's wages for Feb 2022 (tax period 11)	
08/03/22	200428	Clerk's expenses for Feb 2022	39.28

Bank Account Balances @: 21 February 2022

Community Account: £35,391.29
Business Money Manager: £9,296.97

Money in:

0.08p in interest received on funds in the Business Money Manager account on 21.1.22
VAT refund of £1,574.31 received from HMRC into GAPC bank account on 24 Jan 2022.

In relation to the general accounts, the Chairman was keen to understand from the Clerk what payments were yet to be made from this year's budget to ascertain how close to budget GAPC is for the year. The Clerk provided a summary of invoices yet to be raised or paid, and confirmed these should bring us pretty much on budget for the year.

8. Accounting
information

9. Correspondence

<p>10. Date of the next meeting</p>	<p>Correspondence since the last PC Meeting includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Emails chasing response from WCC regarding 4x4 use of U-routes. b) Emails and calls regarding treeworks in the recreation ground / Nightingale Close. c) Correspondence regarding extension of electric fencing along public footpath at the top of Park Lane. d) Emails with WCC re issues regarding the Vehicle Activated Sign e) Emails regarding appointment of a new auditor f) Correspondence regarding Jubilee celebrations and plan. g) Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report <p>Date of next meeting – Thursday 12 May 2022 at 7pm. This meeting will be preceded by GAPC’s Annual Meeting at 6.30pm. Venue TBC.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that all meeting dates are based on current rates of Covid 19, any working from home guidance recommended by WALC and relevant Government guidance at the time.</p>
	<p>THE NEXT GAPC GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 12th MAY AT 7PM.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Meeting ended at 9.45pm. *****</p>