A Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne, B49 6HX

PRESENT	Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr I Millard, Ms D Francis, Mr M Jenkins, Cllr G Foreman Members of the public: approximately 4.
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Cllr P Clark and Cllr J Kerridge
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	None.
3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES	Minutes from the January 2023 Parish Council Meeting minutes were approved by the Councillors. ***ACTION: to be signed by the Chairman and filed by the Clerk.***
	<u>OPEN FORUM</u>
4a. Representations from residents	The Clerk reported that there had been the following written representations received prior to the meeting: *a. Written representation from resident regarding the audible bird scarer on farmland close to Great Alne Park.* The Clerk confirmed that this had been addressed between her and Cllr Jenkins with the resident in writing over email, but she had agreed to add the issue as a resident's representation at the meeting. In summary, GAPC does not have a position on the use of audible bird scarers. Having referred to the code of practice on bird scarers adopted on 9 May 2022 by the NFU, the Clerk confirmed that relevant controls have been followed and the use of such scarers is not illegal; they are deemed to be essential in protecting crops. Although the scarer was not used in that location in 2022 it has been used before this date – suggesting that it depends on what crop is being grown. Ultimately, it's about protection of crops and farmers' livelihoods. This is now a moot point, as the crops are well established and the audible scarer has been removed. *b. Written representation re the installation of road signs warning of deer along Spernal Lane* This is a representation from the GAPC Facebook group as there has been an increase in deer sightings along Spernal Lane. The Clerk commented that this has previously been considered by GAPC and she had looked up the previous correspondence. The first step would be to get a road survey done by WCC Highways or the Road Safety Team. The cost for this survey is £500 which is non-refundable. It involves the road assessment, design drawings and an engineer's time. Data assessed would include any recorded accidents in the area caused by deer. If it was

	considered appropriate to install signage, this would cost approximately an additional £500-£1500 depending on the signs installed. The councillors discussed the issue and it was agreed that the speed of vehicles along Spernal Lane is a major factor. The CSWG will be carrying out speed watch sessions on the road but perhaps speed signs could also be considered. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WCC to enquire about a road survey assessment, confirmation of the cost and the timeframe involved. c. *Request from resident to revisit the installation of road signs warning of hedgehogs at the four entrance points to the village, as per Wilmcote.* The Clerk explained that this has also been previously considered by GAPC. The previous meeting minutes indicate that the council considered whether this issue would be a good use of communications with WCC – and queried whether it would really change drivers' behaviours, especially speeding? This proposal would also require a road survey at a cost of £500 and the council queried whether this was a good use of taxpayers' funds? There was previously very little evidence available that indicated hedgehogs were the cause of road traffic accidents in the parish and this data would be a major consideration for WCC in any assessment. The councillors considered the above information along with the fact that the hedgehog population is in decline and the importance of protecting this endangered species; particularly as part of the council's wider biodiversity and climate change objectives. One suggestion was whether stickers on the side of bins would be a good incentive to slow down drivers for wildlife. Another thought was liaising with Wilmcote PC to see whether they had experienced a number of hedgehog deaths and if the 'slow down' signs had made a difference. The Clerk agreed to speak to the Wilmcote Clerk for advice. It was also agreed that perhaps Great Alne Park might be able to assist with this issue as part of the solution for signage along Henley Road. Perhaps there is an option to get signs for all wildlife generally rather than specifically for one type of animal – in the hope this might require just one survey. ***Action: The Clerk to investigate further including contacting the Wilmcote Clerk and speaking to WCC about road surveys and general wildlife signage.***
4b. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update **a. Update from Clerk**	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. How to report a suspected crime or suspicious behaviour: • 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

b. Possibility of cameras being installed in parish and extra police patrols	The main issues that are currently affecting our parish and surrounding area include vehicle crime including theft and damage, anti-social behaviour, burglaries of sheds, garages and outbuildings. At the last meeting, a resident noted that there are cameras in Haselor and Walcote that have direct links to the police and are paid for by the police. These are considered to be very successful and the Clerk agreed to contact the Alcester SNT regarding the possibility of cameras being installed in our parish. The Clerk confirmed that Alcester SNT are not able to provide additional patrols but would make a point of coming into the parish as and when they are able. Furthermore, there is no budget available for the installation of CCTV cameras and the police officer advised that the only option would be for private landowners to instal their own cameras.
c. Update from local farmer re 4x4 users and driving on farmland	The Clerk is aware that there is more traffic on the green routes again and we need to monitor this over the coming weeks. She has also recently had a discussion with a local farmer regarding a joy rider ruining crops on his land and leaving a burnt out vehicle in his field, which he then had to arrange to be removed.
d. Update on new Police Focus Group	Cllr Francis has recently attended a meeting held on 16 March 2023. She reported as follows: *"Warwickshire Police have set up two focus groups recently as they want to improve how they engage with communities – to understand the issues and concerns we have, solve problems, prevent crime and protect communities.* *I took part in an online group last Thursday and I'm going to go and sit in on some training sessions at a later date. There were about 14 of us on the call – most of the participants were from neighbourhood watch groups. I was the only Parish Councillor. I'm curious to know if Great Alne has a neighbourhood watch – I don't think so. I have asked the Alcester group. It may be something a resident of our parish would like to set up? Also, we could get a local police officer to come to one of our meetings?* *The Group were joined by 2-3 members of the Police and the discussion was facilitated by an external consultant and the lead was the Head of Learning and Development.* *Getting more police wasn't the proposal they were looking for – just a way to improve their customer service. It was interesting to listen particularly to the neighbourhood watch experiences – after crimes had been notified and a incident number allocated feedback seemed to be varied and sometimes incident numbers weren't given because it's all about stats and data. They took on board the need to feedback within a standard agreed timescale even if there's nothing to report. They need to get police off of phones and out on the streets so they know they need to employ more office based staff* *I did speak about resourcing because I believe policing should be more than just dealing with crime and so we did talk at length about police reputation and the prevention of crime or anti-social behaviour particularly about going into schools, about showing a face to children coming off a school bus or kicking a ball about with them in the park. But the police cannot win because if they are doing this kind of activity they will get criticised for not catching criminals* *A good suggestion was about retired police - they retired at around 55? – getting involved more with community police and sitting in on training.* *We only had 90 minutes so we couldn't make a big difference but this was the first meeting. I hope to go to more."*

	The Chairman thanked Cllr Francis for updating the council. He confirmed that there is a Neighbourhood Watch Group in Great Alne, but this is a small group based along Spernal Lane which focuses on that particular location. It is run by Ruth Richardson. There used to be a group in the centre of the village that was run by Mr & Mrs Simpkins who moved away several years ago. The Chairman considers that it would be worthwhile setting up a new group in Great Alne. He understands that a number of groups now find WhatsApp to be the most effective means of communication. The Chairman would like to know whether anyone would be interested in setting up a new group and what they would like to do. It may be worth obtaining guidance from the Alcester Neighbourhood Watch Group and Alcester SNT. We could share the information in the parish newsletter and on Facebook.
	ACTION: The Clerk agreed that she would include this in the next parish newsletter.
4c. County Councillor's Report	Cllr Kerridge was unable to attend the meeting and has sent his apologies. Cllr Kerridge had, however, emailed to say how great it was to see all the community activity going on in Great Alne. There is not much to report from WCC except that the budget was set to maintain and improve services with a just under 4% increase which is one of the lowest in the country. Cllr Kerridge also noted reports from a resident that flooding is still occurring at the Mother Huff Cap junction, and he will chase up the flooding team to see what further work is planned.
4d. District Councillor's Report	Cllr Foreman confirmed that there had been a budget meeting at SDC on 27 February – finances are tight for the coming financial year. She said that the introduction of a charge on the Greenway had made a big difference to the council. Another good bit of news was the higher interest rates which meant there had been better than expected investment returns for the council. Current reserves are approximately £10 million but these will be significantly dented in the coming year. She noted that the council is required to keep a minimum in reserve of £3 million. Cllr Foreman confirmed the council tax on a Band D property under Stratford District Council would be increased by £5 which is a 3.2% increase. Cllr Foreman also reminded residents that at the upcoming elections on 4 May, voters would be required to show photo ID or a voter authorisation certificate. More information is available on the SDC website or the Electoral Commission website. Fly-tipping continues to be a big issue in the district. Cllr Foreman advised residents to report any incidents to SDC so that they can build up a case and prosecute offenders. Cllr Foreman concluded her update by confirming that she would not be standing again as District Councillor at the elections in May. She thanked GAPC for their work and commented on how much she had enjoyed working alongside them. The Chairman and councillors thanked Cllr Foreman for her work on the District Council and the support she had provided to GAPC. The Chairman wished her well with her future endeavours.
4e. GAKMH parish councillor representative's report **a. Update including to former social club's roof**	Cllr Melvyn Jenkins, GAPC representative on the GAKMH committee, provided the following report:

	• Damaged Roof- There is currently no update on the situation with the roof. The GAKMH Chairman is going to ask for a progress report when returns from holiday next week. The roof problem is mainly confined to the assembly hall, not the snooker room. • Bar work -The works on the pop up in the Committee Room are still scheduled to commence on Monday 20 March • Spring Coffee morning- This is still going ahead on Saturday 15 April • Coronation Celebration- The format of the celebration will be agreed at the meeting on 27th March and details will be circulated just after the Easter holidays.
b. Mowing costs for 2023 season	The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting, she had emailed the Chairman of GAKMH, Martyn Davey, to confirm that GAPC will cover the cost of mowing the grass at the front of the Memorial Hall for the 2023 season, a maximum of 8 cuts, total of £374.50. The Clerk understands that Kinwarton PC has also agreed to the same.
c. Reregistration of the former social club as an asset of community value	The Clerk confirmed that she discussed with the Chairman and Cllr Millard whether it would be prudent to reregister the former social club as an Asset of Community Value, after noting that the previous registration had expired. This would add a layer of protection if the building were to be disposed of, as it would give the community the first right of refusal in the event of a sale. The councillors had agreed in writing over email that this would be a good idea. The Clerk had filled in the application form and it was signed by Cllr Millard at the meeting. ***Action: The Clerk agreed to submit the application to SDC in order to re-register the former social club as an Asset of Community Value.***
4f. Update on Great Alne Park	The latest update on Great Alne Park was provided by Cllr Melvyn Jenkins following a meeting with Ben Ling from GAP Management last week: • Phase 3 works: Work on all the cottages in The Pines has commenced- primarily brickwork up to damp course level; similarly, this applies to most of the cottages in Magnolia Close and 50% of the cottages in the area east of Millway House. It remains the aim to complete the show house cottage opposite Austin House by August 2023. The contractor is slightly behind schedule due to adverse weather conditions. • Additional Car Parking: The proposals remain as previously advised to the residents and IVG has accepted a quotation and appointed a contractor. The change is a non-material amendment agreed with the planners and it is expected that approval will be given shortly. • Solar Panels in the field adjoining the Cricket Ground: This field is owned by IVG and they are currently investigated installing solar panels to potentially reduce the cost of the Landlord's electricity bill for the communal areas in the Park. IVG is in discussion with Planning.

	• Vehicle Store Proposal: The need for a vehicle store has been identified and it is proposed that this will be built adjacent to the existing workshop area. • Amphitheatre Events: Events are being planned for residents and their families in the existing amphitheatre.
a. Signage on Henley Road update	The Clerk confirmed that she was in the process of arranging a site meeting with the Principal Road Safety Engineer at Warwickshire County Council. The intention is to show the WCC officer round the site entrance to GAP on Henley Road and discuss any potential opportunities or options to address the speeding issues. The Clerk will report back at the next meeting.
4g. Climate Change **a. Last meeting**	

b. Main points and actions from the meeting	The Clerk confirmed that the last meeting of the CAG was 26 February 2023 in The Mother Huff Cap. It was an excellent and very productive meeting with 12 volunteers in attendance.
	
	In summary the group discussed the following:
	
	• A blended family of solutions is going to be the best approach for residents – as each resident will have a different set of needs, requirements and resources. Technical solutions will not necessarily be the be all and end all, particularly for those living in older properties.
	• CAG needs to consider how best to explain the Climate Emergency to residents. GAPC has to acknowledge the climate crisis and address it as our issue and one we are going to deal with.
	• There are a number of things GAPC can do to bring about a behavioural change. Once residents see GAPC lead by example, their behaviours and attitudes may align. For example, GAPC could meet with the planners at SDC to discuss issues and concerns especially with regard to listed buildings/ construction of new builds etc.
	• The group considered the main issues that affect Great Alne to be:
	  ○ Flooding in the village
	  ○ Buildings in the village
	  ○ Speeding / emissions/ air quality
	  ○ Preserving the natural environment
	  ○ Energy saving
	• The Group considered whether a dedicated Climate Change newsletter containing a survey would be a good idea – in order to assess residents' concerns and issues and establish how invested they are in climate change.
	• The Group also agreed that the list of issues to address could be very long: it would be beneficial to use the climate change goals contained in the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) as a basic framework with which to align GAPC's climate change goals. This will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting on 2 April at 8pm in the Mother Huff Cap.
	
	The Chairman has subsequently considered the climate action chapter of the SWLP and provided the councillors and residents with an overview. In summary, the Chairman considers that the next iteration of the SWLP will provide more of a steer as it will hopefully be more specific on the issues to be addressed and how best to approach them. Such practical solutions are what the CAG and GAPC needs to move forward. We need to make sure we are in step with the SWLP at this next stage.

5a. Mother Huff Cap	**MATTERS ARISING**

	The Clerk confirmed that there has been little progress on the parking surface at the pub or the provision of disabled spaces.
	ACTION: Clerk to speak to the planning department at SDC to establish what if any is the specification for the surface of the car park.
5b General Maintenance Update **a. Streetlighting – update on UKSPIF and see agenda item 6j below**	The Chairman confirmed that GAPC has just been notified that its application for funding has been successful and we will be awarded £25,000 to undertake the transition of the streetlights to LEDs. The first tranche of this UKSPIF funding is for the current financial year and SDC is keen to distribute the money as soon as possible, subject to signing up to a legal agreement which we should receive in the coming days. The Chairman noted that the next round of funding under UKSPIF was in 2023/24 and GAPC could apply again for funding for other projects such as Chatty Café, Cycle Ways, Footpaths, Ditches.
b. Highways	i) The Clerk confirmed that the large pothole on Pelham Lane has been reported to WCC. Cllr Millard asked the Clerk to report the pothole on Alne Cote Corner coming into the village on the first of the bends. The Chairman also asked the Clerk to report the damaged manholes on the pavement outside the park on School Road and also the damaged drain cover on the road in the same location. ii) The Clerk has reported the damaged signs on the junction of Pelham Lane and Henley Road have been reported to WCC. iii) The Clerk has contacted the enforcement officer at SDC regarding the groundworks along Pelham Lane and the subsequent flooding issues arising. This has apparently now been forwarded to WCC for addressing. iv) The Clerk has chased Kier Utilities regarding the completion of outstanding issues following major roadworks last summer. The Clerk is hoping to arrange a meeting soon with the project manager.
	ACTION: Clerk to keep on top of these highway issues and report the additional problems to WCC Highways.
c. Community Speed Watch / Road Safety update	Cllr Millard provided the following update: i. A volunteer meeting was held on 28th February prior to the start of the new season. ii. There is a volunteer rota being established which sets out the plan for the next 3 months. This will involve regular sessions with a mixed group (minimum group size of 3 volunteers is required). There is a refresher session scheduled for the coming week. iii. Two new volunteers have come forward and they will be vetted and trained up locally, as soon as the next training session becomes available.
5c. Recreation Ground and Defibrilator	The Clerk provided the following update: a. A deep clean of the recreation ground and all the railings was scheduled for Tues 21 March. The Clerk obtained a quote from M&P Building Services (the company

	used by SDC for all its park work) which was approved in writing over email by the councillors. Limebridge was unable to provide a quote in good time. b. New matting is being installed under the double swings and the nest swing seat by M&P. c. The weekly inspection revealed a damaged plank to the wobbly bridge on the multiplay set in the toddler area. This has been reported to Kompan and a spare part ordered. It will be fitted by M&P. d. Limebridge is seeking an uplift in their mowing charge of 6% to offset inflationary price rises of 10%. The Clerk has referred to the 4% increase last March on the agreed contract price and asked Limebridge to suggest a lower increase for consideration by GAPC. After discussion, the councillors agreed to the 6% increase requested provided that there was no additional charge for the hand mowing required in the Coronation Copse and that there was no increase sought again in connection with the Copse. ***Action: The Clerk agreed to confirm GAPC's decision with Limebridge.***
	MAIN BUSINESS **<u>For information:</u>**
6a. Housing Needs Survey	The Clerk confirmed that the period for responding to the Housing Needs Survey has ended. Sarah Brooke-Taylor from the WRCC has confirmed there have been 4 postal responses and 13 online responses. Due to issues with the Freepost service, the WRCC will not start working on the report until next week.
6b. Internal audit	The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Audit was completed by the Clerk and Cllr Millard on 15 Feb 2023. a. All processes were in order, especially following transition of GAPC's bank accounts to Unity Trust. b. The Clerk confirmed that the funds held in the HSBC reserves account have been received by the Clerk as a cheque which has now been sent to Unity Trust for presenting.
6c. Local Elections 4th May	With regard to the local elections scheduled for 4th May 2023: a. The Clerk has recently undertaken a training session at SDC on the upcoming elections; b. The Clerk has nomination packs for existing councillors who wish to stand, and for anyone else who wishes to be nominated; c. Completed packs are requested to be given back to the Clerk for checking by very latest, Thurs 23rd March, and she will then take them in person to SDC for submission on Friday 24th March. d. Information has been provided by the Elections team for staffing of the polling stations on 4th May – anyone interested please get in touch with the Clerk.
6d. Plot of land on Pelham Lane	The Clerk confirmed: a. Although the groundworks appear to have ceased, there is still machinery and various items left behind. b. The enforcement officer at SDC has been contacted for guidance on the subsequent flooding issue along Pelham Lane, which has only occurred since the groundworks were undertaken.

6e. CPBT update	The Clerk confirmed: a. contact details have now obtained for the new supervisor which will be passed on to the Church Warden so he can discuss tasks for this coming season. b. The CPBT are making benches and planters for local partner organisations and groups to celebrate the Coronation. The Clerk has requested a bench for the Coronation Copse, one for the playground equipment area and two planters for the village. There is no charge for these items. The CPBT supervisor will get back to me with an update.
6f. Cost of Living update	The Clerk confirmed that GAPC is continuing to support residents with the Cost of Living issues. a. A Cost of Living Grant of £1,000 was successfully applied for in December 2022 and has been received. The fund is currently being used to pay for or heavily subsidise the following: i. Chatty Café ii. Huff space iii. An hour of after school childcare through Activity B's (on a month's trial period). b. The Clerk provided an update on each of the above and how well received they had been. The after school childcare session has not been well attended with only 2 new families signing up. This is partly to do with new arrangements at Great Alne School for the availability of wrap around care. The councillors discussed the need for the funding to benefit as wide a group of residents as possible, and agreed that just two families benefiting does not really satisfy this objective. It was agreed that the funding for the after-school childcare would not be continued after the end of the one month the trial period.
6g. Emergency funding	The Clerk reminded residents of the availability of emergency funding support via Acts 435 Charity (Alcester Minster) and the Great Alne Parochial Charity – if anyone needs further information, please contact the Clerk in strict confidence.
6h. Foodbank vouchers	GAPC can also distribute Foodbank vouchers – please contact the Clerk in strict confidence.
6i. Easter hampers	The Clerk noted that due to the fantastic response from local community residents and businesses to the Xmas hampers appeal, GAPC intends to organise Easter hampers for local families. a. Collection boxes will be located in the usual 4 places for donations by the end of this week; b. The GA Parochial Charity trustees have confirmed that they will make a contribution; c. Following approval in writing over email from the councillors, the parish council is using a remaining pot of funding allocated for a Xmas competition at Great Alne Primary School to purchase a few essential food items for the hampers (Cllr Francis, who volunteers at the Alcester Foodbank agreed to put together a list of essential provisions for the Clerk to purchase). d. Volunteers are needed to help put the hampers together and school will distribute to local families on Thursday 30 March. Please contact the Clerk if you can help in any way with the hampers.

6j. Planting of the Coronation Copse on March 11th	a. The planting of the Coronation Copse was a huge success and well attended by residents and their families. The Clerk confirmed that all 57 trees were sponsored and with the help of the Heart of England Forest every one of them was planted. b. The Clerk provided an overview on costings for the event, and sought advice from the councillors on how to allocate the sponsorship money. The councillors agreed that the money raised should be earmarked in the reserves account for another event or activity or upgrade at the recreation ground. c. The ongoing maintenance and watering requirements were discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would send an information sheet to the tree sponsors with details of the receptacle used for watering the Jubilee tree, and expectations on watering for the first year. The larger trees will need pipes inserted into the soil so that the water can be fed straight down to the roots. There followed a discussion on how we might harvest rainwater or get a water feed into the park. It was suggested that a working group should be set up to decide future plans for the park going forward. d. The Clerk thanked Cllr Jenkins for his support with the spreadsheet of sponsors and fielding emails! To Maureen and Graham Knight for their support on the day with the trees and digging advice. To Richard & Catherine Brereton for putting up the marquee in the morning and for providing and installing the chicken wire around the base of the bigger trees. And thank you to everyone else involved in delivering this great community event that has created a wonderful legacy for us all and helped towards GAPC's climate action goals. The Chairman asked the Clerk to register his thanks to her for organising the event.
6k. Upgrading of streetlighting to LED	**<u>FOR DECISION/APPROVAL/ACTION:</u>** At the last meeting, it was agreed that a decision would be made at this meeting on how best to finance the upgrade project. GAPC has subsequently been successful in its application for funding of £25,000 from the UKSPIF. The Clerk sought and received confirmation of approval from the councillors to upgrade the streetlighting on the basis of this fund. Points to note: a. GAPC will have to pay the VAT although his will be claimed back in January 2024. b. The Clerk has had to fill in all the paperwork as SDC wants to transfer the funds before month end. c. The Clerk has requested an updated quote from the Streetlighting Engineer at WCC. He helped us put together an updated quote for the Greenshoots Fund and has said he will provide an updated version this week – as this is a requirement of the fund. d. We will need to get the project up and running asap – there is a lead in time of 10-12 weeks but SDC require the project to have started by the beginning of the next financial year. The Clerk expects to receive the legal agreement for review and signature this coming week and the funds before the end of the month. The councillors asked the Clerk to confirm what the reserve amount is for streetlighting and what the Reserves Policy states to do if any reserve fund is surplus? ***Action: The Clerk agreed to look into this.***
6l. Appointment of auditor	The Clerk sought and obtained confirmation from the councillors approving the appointment of Mrs Eleanor Choudry to be GAPC's internal auditor for the 2022-2023

	financial year. The Clerk has contacted Mrs Choudry and she has confirmed her availability to carry out the audit for GAPC again. Due to the turnover threshold for this financial year, the fees are likely to be in the region of £340 for the internal audit and it is unlikely that we will be able to self-certify our exemption for 2022/23.
6m. Recreation Ground update	The Clerk confirmed as follows: a. One of the wooden picnic tables is rotten and damaged – at the last meeting the recommendation was to replace with a recycled plastic picnic table. The Clerk has researched some options (including one recommended by M&P Building Services) and has sent these to the councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. Approval was sought and received from the councillors to proceed with purchasing a new picnic table. However, the councillors suggested that the Clerk see if a brightly coloured picnic table can be purchased for less than £428. The Clerk agreed that she would confirm in writing over email when she had done further research. b. At the last meeting the councillors agreed that the Clerk research additional recycled bench seating under the tree. The Clerk proposes holding off on this acquisition as we may be in receipt of a Coronation bench from the CPBT which we can position in the play area, thus saving the expenditure. The councillors agreed.
	FOR DISCUSSION:
6n. SWLP consultation response from GAPC	The next stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan has been launched. Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are working together to produce a new South Warwickshire Local Plan to cover our combined geographic area. This new local plan will set planning policies about where and how new jobs, homes and infrastructure are all delivered in the context of place-shaping and addressing climate change. The consultation on the plan ended on 6 March. The Chairman updated the council and residents on GAPC's response. If anyone would like to see a copy, please contact the Clerk.
6o. South Warwickshire Economic Plan	The Chairman provided an overview on the content of the South Warwickshire Economic Plan including the list of issues raised, the criteria applied for assessment and the perceived shortfalls. The deadline for submissions is 31 March: the Chairman intends to review the document and circulate a proposed response to the councillors for approval before submitting.
	PLANNING
7. Planning applications	Following the last meeting, GAPC submitted a response of 'no objection' to application 23/00115/FUL Clyne House, Park Lane. GAPC also submitted a response of 'no objection' to treeworks at Clyne House - 23/00098/TREE 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. *At this meeting, GAPC is required to consider and make a decision on the submission for those applications highlighted below.*

Reference	Received	Status	Address
23/00689/FUL	**7/3/2023**	**Pending Consideration**	**31 School Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HQ**
23/00723/TREE	6/3/2023	Pending Consideration	Parkfield House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
23/00115/FUL	16/1/2023	Pending Consideration	Clyne House Park Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HS
23/00098/TREE	12/1/2023	Tree Works Approved	Clyne House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
22/03629/COUQ	9/12/2022	Pending Consideration	Barn School Road Great Alne
22/03472/LBC	25/11/2022	Pending Consideration	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
22/03056/TREE	13/10/2022	Tree works approved	Coffee Pot Wood Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
22/03007/TREE	10/10/2022	Tree works approved	Greystone Cottage Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
22/02809/LDP	22/9/2022	Application Withdrawn	Woodside Cottage Spernal Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HZ
22/02786/FUL	20/9/2022	Permission with conditions	Glebe Farm Kinwarton Alcester B49 6HB
22/02626/FUL	1/9/2022	Permission with conditions	Crocketts Farm Alne Hills Great Alne Alcester B49 6JS
22/02485/AMD	11/8/2022	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne

22/02305/FUL	1/8/2022	Application withdrawn	31 School Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HQ
22/01894/FUL	24/6/2022	Permission with conditions	Crocketts Farm Alne Hills Great Alne Alcester B49 6JS
22/01855/LBC	22/6/2022	Listed Building Consent Approved	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
22/01577/TREE	19/5/2022	Tree Works Approved	Long House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS

The councillors agreed that a submission of 'no objection' would be recorded for 23/00689/FUL (31 School Road) and 23/00723/TREE (Parkfield House, Park Lane).

The Clerk explained that a new planning application had been received today for 3 Mill Cottage, Henley Road. As this is not listed on the agenda for discussion the councillors agreed to discuss in writing over email and the Clerk would submit the response in due course.

8.Accounts

ACCOUNTS

8a Progress against budget update

a. The Clerk provided the councillors with an update of progress against budget – we are on target to be exactly on budget by the end of the financial year.

8b. Payments between meetings

b. Accounts information: the following is a list of payments set up and awaiting secondary authorisation for payment:

16.03.23	DD payment Stmt sheet? TBC	npower Business Solutions - inv IN06388341	140.16
16.03.23	697779508	Alison Adams (FoS)= stall at copse planting/from unpaid donation in budget	34.56
16.03.23	314629698	Clerk's expenses - Feb 2023	238.86
16.03.23	314629698	Clerk's wages - Feb 2023	1087.74
16.03.23	241402874	HMRC NICS - E'ers=£48.07 E'ee's £7.00. Inc Tax= £11.60 Total £66.67	66.67

8c. Payments for approval

c. The following is a list of invoices and payments presented for authorisation and paid since the last PC meeting on 17 January 2023

20.1.23	DD sheet 472	HSBC Bank charges to 20 Jan 2023 (charged 23.1.23)	20.00
		HSBC ACCOUNT CLOSURE ON 23.1.23	
5.1.23	599180570	WALC Inv 54 - Understanding Planning and Planning for elections training	72.00
26.1.23		GAKMH - hall hire for Parish Assembly Meeting	70.00
31.1.23	129230599	Great Alne Park Management Ltd -inv 005140 (room hire)	70.00
3.2.23	753774748 - NB payment taken twice after bank switch	npower Business Solutions - inv INO6110689	160.32
3.2.23	753774748 - NB payment taken twice after bank switch	npower Business Solutions - inv INO6110689	160.32
3.2.23	878462239	321 Let's Have Fun (11 March event bouncy castle hire)	90.00
3.2.23	27971621	Batsford Timber Ltd (stakes and ties for large trees in copse)	67.74
9.2.23	225771578	HMRC NICS - E'ers=£41.69 E'ee's £3.65 Total £45.34	45.34
9.2.23	31019037	Clerk's expenses - Jan 2023	76.26
9.2.23	31019037	Clerk's wages - Jan 2023	1056.45
1.3.23	Unity stm 004	Apt Communications and Events - first aider and archery for Coronation Copse event - INV 23250	432.00
2.3.23	Unity code:ub	Botany Bay - trees for the Coronation Copse	513.95
09.03.23	332232963	WCC - streetlighting maintenance 2022/2023	240.19

Npower advised Clerk to make a manual payment for January's electricity bill as the new direct debit mandate would not be set up on time (told it takes 10 business days). The amount was set up and authorised for payment. Two days later the DD was set up and the invoice amount was taken from the bank account.

Bank Account Balances @ 14 March 2023: £42,404.04

- Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348**: £32,577.51**
- Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: **£9,827.53**

Money in:

HSBC Accounts closed on 23.1.23 and both moved to Unity Trust Bank.

31.12.22	Stmt No 002	Unity Current T1	Unity £500 deposit transfer	500.00
31.12.22	Stmt No 003	Unity Instant Access	Unity £500 deposit transfer	500.00
12.01.23	413	Business Money Manager	Account interest	5.36
21.1.23	414	Business Money Manager	Account interest	6.93
28/01/00	UT Stmt 003	GAPC Unity account 20470351	Account interest	0.09
09.02.23	UT Stmt 003	GAPC Unity account 20470348	HMRC VAT reclaim	1,431.20
14.02.23	415	Business Money Manager	Account Interest	6.44
16.02.23	UT Stmt 003	GAPC Unity account 20470348	Cost of Living Fund Award from WCC	1,000.00
28.2.23	UT Stmt 003	GAPC Unity account 20470348	Tree sponsorship funds	240.00

Unity Trust bank switch:

- Two deposits of £500 were required to open the two Unity Bank accounts.
- On 23rd Jan, the date of the switch, one account did not transfer. HSBC advised this is because the Business Money Manager account was not a current account. The Clerk went into the branch and manually completed an account closure form – and received a cheque in the post for the balance in that account (£9327.44). This was posted to Unity and was deposited in the new reserves account (Instant Access) on 16 March 2023.

Other receipts:

- VAT reclaim for 2022 submitted by the Clerk in January and payment was received into GAPC bank account on 9th Feb for £1,431.20.
- £1,000 grant awarded from WCC from the Cost of Living Fund.
- £240 received as sponsorship payments for trees in the Coronation Copse to 28 Feb 2023.

9. Correspondence since the last PC Meeting

Correspondence since the last PC Meeting

a) Correspondence regarding plot of land on Pelham Lane.
b) Contacting suppliers re supplies and provisions for the copse in the recreation ground.
c) Correspondence regarding various funding opportunities including Green Shoots and UKSPIF funding.
d) Correspondence re Climate Action Meeting and CSWG
e) Correspondence re various planning applications.

10. Date of the next meeting	f) Discussion re various training courses and seminars. g) Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report. **Date of next meeting – Thursday 18th May 2023 (Function Room, Great Alne Park).** *a.* **The official Parish Assembly will begin at 6pm.** *b.* **The Annual Meeting will begin at 6.30pm.** *c.* **There will be a short break before the General Meeting at 7pm.** ***d. The informal Parish Assembly will take place at 11am on Saturday 3 June at GAKMH, Henley Road, Great Alne, B49 6RS.*** ***[Due to the local elections on 4th May it has subsequently been agreed by GAPC that the Annual Meeting will be first at 6pm, with the first item on the agenda being the new councillors taking office. The official Parish Assembly will begin at 6.30pm, with the General Meeting just after 7pm].*** ********** *Councillors are reminded of their duty to consider all aspects of equal opportunities, crime prevention, unlawful discrimination, biodiversity of the natural habitat, and other best practice when making decisions at the meeting.*
	The Meeting ended at 9.35pm. **********