

**Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne, B49 6HX**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr I Millard, Mr P Clark, Mrs D Francis, Mr M Jenkins.  Members of the public – 3 at various points through the meeting.
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	Cllr J Kerridge and Cllr T Holmes.
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	Cllrs Bowring and Millard declared a personal interest in relation to the discussion concerning proposed tree maintenance along Church Walk. The Clerk declared a personal interest in relation to the application for tree works – 23/02292/TREE.
<b>3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES</b>	Minutes from the July 2023 Parish Council Meeting minutes were approved by the Councillors.  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><b><i>ACTION: to be signed by the Chairman and filed by the Clerk.</i></b></div> <b><u>OPEN FORUM</u></b>
<b>4a. Representations from residents</b>	<p>The Clerk confirmed there had been a written representation from a resident on 3 August 2023 regarding increased traffic and the speed of farm vehicles through the village, with specific reference made to the number of vehicles accessing and exiting from Pool Barn Farm on Henley Road, Little Alne.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that a detailed response had been sent to the resident. GAPC has noticed the increase in traffic generally, which is particularly heightened during the harvesting period. The councillors consider the best approach would be to ask the police to remind tractor drivers in the village – along with all residents – to drive with increased care and attention. We could ask the Community Speed Watch Group to schedule in a few extra sessions along Henley Road, although the harvesting process has now wound down.</p> <p>With regard to Pool Barn Farm, the Clerk is going to arrange a meeting and ask them to use their influence to speak with the clients and emphasise to the drivers that they must drive with consideration and care. The Chairman has checked the original planning applications and confirm that the impact on traffic was considered by the planners at SDC.WCC Highways did not object and permission was granted by the SDC Planning Committee.</p> <p>More generally, the standard of driving and speed at which some vehicles – not just farm vehicles – are travelling through our village is increasingly dangerous and certainly in excess of 30mph. The Clerk confirmed that over the autumn period, GAPC (in collaboration with Inspired Villages Group) will be undertaking extensive and sustained speeding surveys across the village and adjoining roads. We will use this date to work with WCC to see what traffic calming measures they might be able to consider to alleviate the situation with speeding.</p> <p>GAPC will be able to update residents as soon as we get feedback from WCC on the results of the survey.</p>

<p><b>4b. Alcester South SNT &amp; crime statistics update</b></p>	<p>The Clerk updated the councillors with the latest crime report from the Alcester SNT, confirming that there had been no specific recent reports relating to Great Alne.</p> <p>A regular update is issued by Warwickshire Police and can be found on their website <a href="https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/">https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/</a>. Or residents can sign up to the Warwickshire Police community messaging system - 'Warwickshire Connected' – <a href="https://www.warwickshireconnected.com">https://www.warwickshireconnected.com</a></p> <p>The police, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Watch Network, have recently published a Crime Prevention Booklet. This covers topics such as burglary, dog theft, rural crime, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, car crime, cybercrime, scams and street harassment. The booklet provides practical guidance including how to protect your home and property, recognizing and reporting ASB, password protection and guarding against fraud. For a copy of the crime prevention booklet please visit <a href="http://www.ourwatch.org.uk">www.ourwatch.org.uk</a> or call 0116 402 6111</p> <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: <a href="https://www.warwickshireconnected.com">https://www.warwickshireconnected.com</a>.</p> <p>How to report a suspected crime or suspicious behaviour:</p> <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. County Councillor's Report</b></p>	<p>There is not much to report from the County Council in general. Cllr Kerridge has again offered his support to GAPC generally, but specifically in relation to any ongoing highways discussions with WCC.</p>
<p><b>4d. District Councillor's Report</b></p>	<p>Cllr Thom Holmes provided the following written report which was read out at the meeting by the Clerk:</p> <p><u>Review of the 123 plus waste collection system:</u></p> <p>Changes to Stratford-on-Avon District Council's rubbish and recycling collections introduced a year ago (the 123+ waste collection service) have been reviewed, with figures showing a reduction in the amount of rubbish being disposed of and residents recycling more than two-thirds of all household waste collected in the District. In the first year of operation, figures show that 68% of the District's rubbish has been recycled and 26% less residual waste was collected. During the period August 2022 to July 2023, 16,226 tonnes of residual waste was collected, which is 5,635 tonnes less than the same period the previous year. The introduction of a separate weekly food waste collection service has seen 4,888 tonnes collected between August 2022 and July 2023.</p> <p><u>123+ waste collection calendars:</u></p> <p>If residents would like a paper calendar this year please email: <a href="mailto:123collections@stratford-dc.gov.uk">123collections@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a> or telephone 01789 260123 and request bin collections calendar to be posted to household.</p>

	<p>A paper calendar can also be printed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Go to <a href="https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/when-we-collect.cfm">https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/when-we-collect.cfm</a></li> <li>2) Enter postcode and find your address from list -</li> <li>3) Click 'View your bin collections' button. Scroll down to 'Download Print-Friendly PDF'</li> <li>4) Click 'Download Print-Friendly PDF' to generate printable calendar</li> </ol> <p><u>Concessionary parking permit:</u></p> <p>Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet has on Monday 4 September, agreed to introduce the concessionary parking permit for residents of state pension age. From 1 October 2023, the concessionary parking permit for residents of state pension age will be re-introduced for a charge of £50 a year.</p> <p>Those eligible will be able to purchase the concessionary parking permit from the District Council offices.</p> <p>The concessionary parking permit will be re-introduced with the following terms and conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available for those residents of state pension age only.</li> <li>• Maximum stay of 4-hours a day (Monday to Sunday).</li> <li>• Initial cost of £50 per annum (subject to inflation each year).</li> <li>• Allows use of Bridgeway Multi-Storey and Bridgeway Surface Car Parks only. These two car parks are the closest to Stratford town centre (the former is home to Stratford Shopmobility), and both have an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system in operation which will make it much easier and cheaper to enforce.</li> <li>• Non-transferrable between vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>Please Note: One hour's free parking is still available at Bridgeway Multi-Storey and Bridgeway Surface Car Parks for all residents and visitors and disabled parking for Blue Badge holders remains free of charge in all District Council car parks.</p> <p>I also understand the council is looking at the possibility to include other car parks in the future.</p> <p><u>South Warwickshire Local Plan:</u></p> <p>The representations received to the Issues and Options consultation have now been published and can be viewed at: <a href="https://southwarwickshire.oc2.uk/document/124">https://southwarwickshire.oc2.uk/document/124</a>. Consultation responses are currently being analysed. Once this process is complete, the Council will publish our response and a summary of key issues through a Consultation Statement which will be available to view on the SWLP website. In addition, the council ran a second Call for Sites undertaken concurrently with the Issues and Options consultation and these submissions have also been published on the South Warwickshire Local Plan interactive map alongside the earlier Call for Sites.</p> <p>Please note: these sites are presented for information at this stage and have not yet been assessed as to their suitability for inclusion within the plan nor are they endorsed.</p> <p>The Council is now looking at the suitability of sites for inclusion within the Plan and are undertaking a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) in order to begin to assess their suitability. A revised timetable for the South Warwickshire Local Plan is expected to be issued in Autumn 2023 which will set out the next stages.</p>
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<p>ii) <b>CAG newsletter and survey _ October 2023</b></p>	<p>We are also working on access to funding for Climate projects so are very interested to learn about the new Environment Funding that will soon be online from SDC. Other work streams include how we measure the parish's carbon footprint and how we measure our progress and success.</p> <p>GAPC wants to understand how residents think the PC can best prepare and protect our parish from climate change and help deliver local improvements. But we also need residents' views to ensure we understand what is important to them about where they live. The survey will help prioritise our community's views across a number of areas and provide focus for the actions we need to deliver improvements to our local environment.</p> <p>The survey can be completed either online via a URL link or QR code, or via a paper copy (which will be available from the Clerk). The survey should be completed by 31 October 2023. The CAG will provide feedback on the survey data in the next newsletter once the results have been analysed.</p> <p>Access the survey here: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KS6YSJF">https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KS6YSJF</a></p>
<p>iii) <b>Attendance at County Council Reference Group Meeting</b></p>	<p>The Chairman has recently attended the WCC Reference Group Meeting. He summarised the highlights of the meeting including informing the councillors that there is a general responsibility on councils to protect biodiversity under the Environment Act 2001.</p> <p>WCC is working on an initiative to link up green pathways by planting 566,000 trees by 2030 – which is one for every person in Warwickshire. The CC is desperately looking for sites in which to plant the trees and is reaching out to friendly landowners and farmers who might have appropriate sites.</p> <p>Other useful information concerns the concept of a carbon market – whereby trees are planted to offset/remove carbon. Trees are planted like a crop to enable farmers to make money out of it. Tara Higgins at WCC is involved in this program and the Chair considers it would be useful to find out from Tara what constitutes a carbon market and how we might be able to use it / apply for it in the parish of Great Alne.</p>
<p><b>4h. Housing Needs Survey Result</b></p>	<p>The Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) from WRCC, Sarah Brooke-Taylor did not attend the meeting as she does not have much to report since her last update to the Clerk. Sarah has however, confirmed as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WRCC has contacted the landowners/agents of the sites initially shortlisted.</li> <li>• A meeting has been arranged with one landowner to discuss the housing needs survey, the role of the RHE, and SDC local needs housing policy.</li> <li>• Two land agents have advised that my email has been passed to a colleague, and will be chased next month.</li> <li>• The one landowner who has not yet responded will be sent a further letter/email two months after the initial correspondence.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman considers that there is likely to be more than one suitable site from those shortlisted. GAPC needs criteria to enable the councillors to decide what sites should be pursued. This ensures a level playing field and a professional approach.</p> <p>Cllr Millard noted that WRCC will do some of this analysis for us – this was how Linfoot Oaks had been identified as the primary site last time round. The Chairman recalled that there had been a couple of public meetings where the developer discussed the proposal but essentially, WRCC recommended the Linfoot Oaks site.</p>

	<p>The Chairman took this opportunity to remind councillors that Cllr Manuela Perteghella will be coming to the November meeting. Cllr Perteghella is SDC's Parish Council Champion and councils can use her as a resource or someone with whom to raise any issues. She will explain her role in detail when she attends the meeting, Cllr Perteghella has asked for any questions to be forwarded to her in advance of the meeting if possible.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
<b>5a. Mother Huff Cap</b>	<p>There is not anything specific to update regarding the pub but the Clerk would like to thank the pub operators, Sarah and Andy for their ongoing help and support with Chatty Café and Huff Space. They have been extremely generous in helping GAPC establish and run the sessions for residents, and the staff have been really helpful and engaged with ideas and suggestions for the groups.</p> <p>The Clerk has some new ideas for the winter and will be speaking to the operators about these soon.</p>
<b>5b General Maintenance Update</b>	
<b>a. Streetlighting – update on transition to LEDs</b>	<p>WCC has been installing the new columns and LED streetlamps for the last few weeks and the project is well on the way to completion. The Clerk commented that communication from WCC hadn't been very forthcoming in terms of timeframes but she is hopeful that the project will be completed before the end of October.</p> <p>There is one significant issue that the Clerk is managing and working with the WCC Streetlights Team to resolve. See below at item 6j for further details and the councillors' decision on how to proceed.</p>
<b>b. Highways</b>	The Clerk provided the following update:
<b>i) Update on Severn Trent roadworks</b>	The Clerk provided an update on the Severn Trent roadworks which have been ongoing for a few weeks at various locations along Henley Road. Fortunately, it seems that the burst water main has now been fixed and there is no longer water seeping through the road outside The Maples.
<b>ii) Plan to establish a Flooding and Drainage Volunteer Action Group</b>	<p>GAPC is considering how best to establish a Flooding and Drainage Volunteer Action Group. There is a call for volunteers in the newsletter survey, along with a proposal for 'Adopt a Drain' whereby residents volunteer to adopt a drain in the parish and take responsibility for ensuring the top of it is free from leaves and silt and that the main access pipe that receives the water is unblocked. The Clerk will liaise with the WCC Highways Officer for our area for guidance on what we can do as a group and the remit of any tasks undertaken by volunteers. A couple of residents have already come forward offering assistance.</p> <p>More information to follow, but if anyone would be interested in being part of this group, please contact the Clerk.</p>

<p><b>c. Community Speed Watch / Road Safety Update</b></p> <p><b>i) Speeding survey and traffic calming</b></p> <p><b>ii) Speeding stickers</b></p>	<p>Cllr Millard commented that the CSWG had been quiet due to the summer holiday period but there were plans afoot for getting the team out over the winter.</p> <p>GAPC is aware that County Cllr Ian Shenton has arranged for cameras in Bearley to assist with speed control through the village. The councillors wondered whether this was with police involvement? There would be significant costs and maintenance issues. The Clerk said she would speak to the Clerk for Bearley to find out more information.</p> <p>In the meantime, speeding surveys have been set up throughout the main road through the village and the main contributory roads. These have been paid for by Inspired Villages Group further to discussions about traffic calming outside the East Entrance to GAP. The information will be provided to WCC who will analyse the data before carrying out a road safety audit and considering potential measures. Besides the East Entrance outside GAP, other key areas are by Great Alne Primary School and the double S-bend at Alne Cote Corner.</p> <p>The Clerk is looking into purchasing speeding stickers for wheelie bins for residents along Henley Road and lower Spernal Lane. These will display 30 mph speed limits, as well as some 'Slow Down for Wildlife' stickers. The councillors have approved the expenditure in writing over email.</p>
<p><b>5c. Recreation Ground and Defibrillator</b></p> <p><b>a. Report from Play Inspection Company</b></p>	<p>The Clerk has received a lengthy report from the company that carries out the annual inspection at the Recreation Ground. There are no high priority matters to address but there is work to be done on some of the equipment over the winter. The Clerk intends to review the document and report back to the councillors at the next meeting. It is clear that significant investment will be required in the park equipment over the next few years and that GAPC should consider allocating reserves in the budget now.</p> <p>The Clerk proposes to pay now for the 2024 inspection in order to secure the same price as this year, which the councillors agreed with.</p> <p>The Clerk also reported that a local tree surgeon had contacted her regarding some dead/dying boughs on the ash tree at the entrance to the park that he had noticed in passing. The Clerk is meeting with the tree surgeon this weekend to discuss further.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p> <p><b>a. Conclusion of Audit</b></p>	<p><b><u>MAIN BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>For information:</u></b></p> <p>The external auditor provided its report on the 2022/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) on 14 Sept 2023. This is the first time GAPC has been subject to an external audit under section 3 so there were some general administrative points that were picked up by the auditor and will be noted for next year. Otherwise, the Clerk reported that the auditor has signed off on the AGAR and the audit process has been concluded.</p>

<b>b. End of Cost of Living Grant funding period</b>	The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the required report to WCC on the various projects and achievements undertaken by GAPC to assist residents with the 'cost of living crisis.'
<b>c. Precept received</b>	The Clerk reported that the second tranche of precept had been received on 19.9.23, a deposit of £13,750.
<b>d. Coronation Copse update</b>	The Clerk provided an update, including the maintenance that had been done by volunteers in weeding the base of the trees, adding more woodchips and changing the spiral guards. Thank you to Maureen and Graham Knight for their continued support with the copse maintenance.
<b>e. Update on fly tipping</b>	The Clerk has contacted two commercial waste companies about removal of the waste from the ford by the bridge. Neither company has responded to the enquiry. SDC has confirmed they are unable to help and their waste provider, BIFFA, has also been to site but cannot assist. It is going to be very hard to find a company who will be willing to access the site as it is very difficult to get to and will require specialist machinery.
<b>f. WALC AGM 15 Nov 2023</b>	The Clerk confirmed that the WALC AGM is being held on 15 November – a voting representative and substitute from GAPC need to be agreed. Cllrs Bowring and Millard agreed to be the representative and substitute respectively.
<b>g. Cyber insurance update</b>	The Clerk confirmed that Alcester Town Council has agreed to go halves with GAPC on the policy for cyber insurance cover. The Clerk is working on the wording required for a manual process to be in place in the event of a cyber-attack. Cllr Millard is assisting the Clerk with the appropriate wording.
<b>h. Update on Chatty Café and huff space</b>	<p>The Clerk reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Clerk has undertaken safeguarding training, in the context of working with young people in huff space. This was a free course provided by WCC. The Clerk is now the designated safeguarding lead for huff space/ GAPC.</li> <li>b) The last huff space session was held at the Heart of England Forest and the wonderful staff provided a super evening of outdoor activities and survival skills for the youngsters, including lighting fires, den building, and cooking marshmallows. The HoEF team are keen to set up additional events both with GAPC and local organisations, such as a carers walking session and a family volunteering day. The Clerk will liaise with the HoEF team and provide updates.</li> <li>c) More DBS volunteers are needed to help run huff space, to enable the volunteers to rotate. A male and a female supervisor is required for each session. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please speak to the Clerk.</li> </ul>
<b>i. Housing Needs Survey – next steps</b>	<p><b><u>FOR DECISION/APPROVAL/ACTION</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman noted that we are now waiting for feedback from Sarah Brooke-Taylor at WRCC once she has had her initial meetings with landowners of potential sites.</p>



	<p>Cllr Francis enquired how long it would take before any homes are likely to be built? Cllr Bowring considers that the process is already happening more quickly this time round. The next stage is a meeting to discuss the criteria to be used to assess the sites. It is unlikely that any ground will be broken before 2025. The crucial part is finding a developer. Last time round, the developer, Linfoot Homes, were part of the village – they were neighbours – so this was a positive aspect that helped the process. This time round the funding streams have changed which may make it easier to access funding for the project.</p> <p>The Chairman asked the Clerk to suggest to Sarah that when she next comes to a meeting, we have a discussion about what GAPC should do to communicate with residents. If there are 2 or 3 preferred sites in competition, how do we decide if one site is preferable to another and how do we decide in the context of residents' views eg is it a question of accepting the majority view? The Clerk agreed to speak to Sarah.</p>
<p>j. <b>Decision on cost implication of relocating streetlight</b></p>	<p>The Clerk provided a summary of the issue to be discussed:</p> <p>As part of the LED upgrade project, funded by UKSPF funding, WCC relocated a streetlight outside a property in the village; the owners of the property affected by the relocation are unhappy with the new location. The property is listed and situated within the Great Alne Conservation Area. The streetlight was moved by WCC because the original column was significantly obscured by a large tree, both from the road and from the property. WCC has now stated they will reposition the streetlight but there is a cost implication. The Clerk has carried out some research and considered the legal implications of the issue. Details of the legal position have been previously shared with the councillors.</p> <p>The councillors spent a significant amount of time debating; i) whether the streetlight should be relocated (on the basis both WCC and GAPC have acted within their legal powers and there has been no wrongdoing), and ii) whether GAPC should pay half of the cost of relocation, the full cost estimated by WCC to be £1500 plus VAT.</p> <p>The councillors had differing views. At the end of the discussion the councillors decided that if the streetlight is to be relocated by WCC, GAPC should not be expected to pay 50% of the relocation cost. Furthermore, if the streetlight is relocated, it should be conditional on the tree being cut back (with appropriate guidance on the appropriate amount of work required), and maintained as such going forward so that residents and pedestrians benefit fully from the light.</p> <p>The Clerk was instructed to revert to WCC and explain that GAPC was not prepared to pay anything towards the relocation cost as it was the WCC engineer who took the decision, unilaterally to move the column, without any prior consultation with GAPC.</p> <p>The Clerk had started to draft a letter explaining the legal position. The Chairman asked the Clerk to finish drafting the letter, including the councillors' decision, and to circulate to the other councillors for approval prior to sending to the homeowner.</p> <p><b><i>[The Clerk circulated the letter to the councillors as requested. Cllrs Francis and Jenkins were unable to support the content of the letter on the basis neither authority had acted outside their legal powers or done anything wrong. On the basis of majority consensus on the content of the letter, it was delivered to the resident at an on-site meeting on 20 October 2023. The resident is happy to work with GAPC on the extent of the tree works required and is currently setting up a meeting which includes GAPC and the tree surgeon].</i></b></p>
<p>k. <b>Maintenance of church footpath</b></p>	<p>The Clerk explained the background to this issue. The footpath, Church Walk, is land belonging to the Church but it has become very overgrown and there was apparently an accident last winter where a resident slipped on the leaves as she walked down the slope,</p>

	<p>and broke her leg. The surface of the footpath is very slippery due to the moss underfoot as the path does not receive much light. The border on the left of the path is very overgrown and the Church Warden has indicated that the pall bearers are sometimes caught on the brambles and vegetation, and it can be challenging to transfer a coffin to the Church.</p> <p>Following a meeting between GAPC and the Church, both parties propose to send a letter to the residents living on both sides of Church Walk, asking them to maintain their border with the path to facilitate access for residents and those attending the Church.</p> <p>The councillors agreed that this was a sensible approach and asked the Clerk to draft the letters to the residents.</p>
<b>l. Appointment of qualified arborist to assess trees in problematic locations in the parish</b>	<p>In relation to point k) above, the Clerk also explained that GAPC has received complaints regarding the impact of the large trees on the left hand side of the path. The owners of the trees have a duty of care under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. Following a discussion about the path at a mid-meeting informal catch up between councillors, the Clerk contacted the tree officer at SDC seeking a site visit to assess the tall trees. SDC no longer offer this service, but suggested obtaining the advice of a qualified arborist or forester. The Clerk has managed to find a qualified arborist but there will be a significant fee for the assessment (£480 plus VAT).</p> <p>The arborist would also be asked to assess problematic trees at another site, near the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>The Clerk sought a decision on next steps and confirmation that the councillors agreed to the expenditure. After a lengthy and disparate discussion, it was agreed (by those councillors who had not declared a personal interest) that this was a significant expense for the council to pay for a report on residents' trees and GAPC did not want to set a precedent.</p> <p>The Clerk was instructed to draft a letter to both residents either side of the footpath requesting them to maintain their border either side of the footpath, and seeking maintenance to the tall trees on the left hand side of the footpath, as well as the tree at the bottom of Church Walk which is interfering with the light from the newly installed street light.</p> <p>The Clerk was also asked to draft a letter to the owners of the other problematic trees near the park, seeking a discussion with them on how best to maintain the trees.</p> <p>The letters will be approved by the non-conflicted councillors.</p>
<b>m. Community orchard planting proposal</b>	<p>The Clerk has been informed of WCC's intention to apply for £2.5 million of funding to set up Community Orchards across the county. The funding is from Central Government and forms part of the Coronation Living Heritage Fund. The Clerk would like to apply to WCC to be added to the list of interested parties who would like to take part. Any planting of the community orchards is required to be done by 31.3.25. The councillors approved the Clerk submitting GAPC as an interested party.</p>
<b>n. I Dig Conservation</b>	<p>In light of the above (point m), the Clerk has secured 250 trees from I Dig Conservation for planting in the parish: these are due for delivery in March 2024. The Clerk sought a decision from the councillors whether to cancel this order in light of the decision to register for the Community Orchard fund. The councillors decided to keep our options open and to</p>

	<p>stay on the list for the I Dig Conservation trees in the event the Community Orchard Fund application is unsuccessful or cannot be delivered before the end of the planting season.</p>
o. <b>Review of council documentation</b>	<p>The Clerk has started the final review of the council documentation including amending those policies which need tweaking. The Clerk is hoping to prepare finalised versions for approval by the councillors at the November meeting.</p>
p. <b>Dog signs in the park</b>	<p>The councillors discussed the current dog signage in the park and agreed that it is misleading and confusing. There is a sign stating 'No Dogs' but there are also other signs stating that dogs should not be exercised in the park. Thus there is confusion as to whether that means dogs should not be off the lead for exercising, or whether no dogs are allowed in the park at all, even those on the lead. After a discussion, the councillors decided that no dogs should be allowed in the park. This is because there has been a noticeable increase of dog mess in the park which is dangerous for young children, The only solution to this is a blanket ban on all dogs.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to arrange for replacement signage to this effect in due course.</p> <p><b><u>FOR DISCUSSION:</u></b></p>
q. <b>Litter pick on 14 October</b>	<p>The Clerk confirmed the litter picking event is scheduled for Sat 14<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 1pm. Information has been placed on the noticeboards and on Facebook and will be on the upcoming newsletter.</p>
r. <b>Broadband upgrade</b>	<p>Residents and business owners in Aston Cantlow, Great Alne, Haselor, Little Alne, Newnham, Shelfield, Shelfield Green, Upton and Walcote are being urged to sign up for a scheme that could bring full fibre broadband to their communities in the next 12 months.</p> <p>The scheme is being supported by Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council, with the aim of upgrading all of the properties served by the Great Alne exchange so that everyone can benefit.</p> <p>Eligible households and businesses can be allocated a voucher worth up to £4,500 under the UK government's <a href="#">Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme</a>, which they then agree to pass on to Openreach to pay for the cost of building the full fibre network through their Fibre Community Partnership scheme.</p> <p><b>However, failure to secure enough voucher pledges will mean that the scheme won't be able to go ahead.</b></p> <p>To pledge support, go to Openreach's <a href="#">Connect My Community</a> website, enter the postcode and click 'Search'. Then click 'Pledge' and complete the online application form.</p> <p>We are currently at <b>77%</b> of the target required. However the Clerk stressed that residents should <b>check with their supplier what their charges would be for full fibre broadband. Some suppliers are slightly more expensive and some will be cheaper but please check with individual suppliers as with this scheme requires a commitment to a 12 month contract for full fibre broadband.</b></p>
s. <b>WRCC Winter warm hubs event</b>	<p>The Clerk recently attended an event hosted by WRCC on Winter Warm Hubs. It was a high quality event, with lots of helpful information and ideas and the opportunity to network with local warm hub hosts as well as community organisations that could assist with the hubs or with residents on issues such as energy efficiency/ home safety/ health and wellbeing matters. Of particular interest for GAPC are:</p>



	Reference	Received	Status	Address
	<a href="#">23/0242 1/FUL</a>	19/09/2023	Pending consideration	Alne Park Park Lane Great Alne
	<a href="#">23/0247 4/TREE</a>	13/9/2023	Pending Consideration	Whitts End Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0229 2/TREE</a>	29/8/2023	Pending Consideration	Gunn Court Park Lane Great Alne
	<a href="#">23/0207 9/FUL</a>	4/8/2023	Permission with conditions	7 Linfoot Oaks Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6RG
	<a href="#">23/0203 8/TREE</a>	1/8/2023	Tree Works Approved	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
	<a href="#">23/0194 2/TREE</a>	21/7/2023	Tree Works Approved	Coffee Pot Wood Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
	<a href="#">23/0164 7/LDP</a>	21/6/2023	Permission with conditions	7 Linfoot Oaks Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6RG
	<a href="#">23/0153 2/AMD</a>	7/6/2023	Application Withdrawn	Maudslay Park Great Alne
	<a href="#">23/0151 9/FUL</a>	6/6/2023	Planning Permission Refused	Alne Park Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0138 4/HHPA</a>	19/5/2023	Householder Prior Approval Not Required	31 School Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HQ
	<a href="#">23/0136 6/AMD</a>	17/5/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne
	<a href="#">23/0135 2/AMD</a>	16/5/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Cutlers Farm Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
	<a href="#">23/0114 3/AMD</a>	24/4/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Great Alne Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0114 4/AMD</a>	24/4/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Great Alne Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0114 5/AMD</a>	24/4/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne

	<a href="#">23/0111 4/LDE</a>	21/4/2023	Existing Lawful Development - Permitted	Kingsway Park Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0070 3/FUL</a>	8/3/2023	Planning Permission Refused	The Coppice Park Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0068 9/FUL</a>	7/3/2023	Permission with conditions	31 School Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HQ
	<a href="#">23/0072 3/TREE</a>	6/3/2023	Tree Works Approved	Parkfield House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0040 3/FUL</a>	13/2/2023	Permission with conditions	Three Mill Cottage Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HX
	<a href="#">23/0011 5/FUL</a>	16/1/2023	Permission with conditions	Clyne House Park Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HS
	<a href="#">23/0009 8/TREE</a>	12/1/2023	Tree Works Approved	Clyne House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
<p>The councillors decided as follows on the outstanding applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application 23/02421/FUL – the councillors agreed to ‘No Objection’ but commented that it is disappointing that the applicant has again submitted a planning application retrospectively.</li> <li>• Application 23/02474/TREE – the councillors agreed to ‘No Objection’.</li> <li>• Application 23/02292/TREE – the councillors had previously submitted a response of ‘No Objection’ to this application on 22.09.23. However, due to a Submission by a neighbour, felt that they should consider the submission and determine whether it altered their initial Response. <b><i>[The Clerk left the meeting for the duration of this discussion due to the application relating to tree works at her address].</i></b> The councillors discussed the application in the light of the neighbour’s submission, but could see no reason to change their response, particularly as the applicants intend to plant a replacement for the tree that is to be removed.</li> </ul>				
8. Accounts	ACCOUNTS			
8a Progress against budget update	The Clerk provided an update on progress against budget for the new financial year. There is nothing obvious to consider for discussion at the moment.			

8b. Payments for approval	Accounts information: as the last PC meeting was so early in July, the June accounts had not yet been prepared. The following table therefore sets out a list of payments presented for authorisation from 1 June 2023 to 17 September 2023.			
	7.06.23	Unity ref 258433624	Clerk's wages for May 2023	N/A
	7.06.23	Unity ref 258433624	Clerk's expenses for May 2023	60.76
	7.06.23	Unity ref 39376929	HMRC payment. NICS - E'ers=£88.33 E'ees=£42.01, KB Inc tax = £69.80. Total for tax period 3 of 2023-24 = £200.14	200.14
	7.06.23	Unity Stmt 009	npower Business Solutions (INV07219334)	127.20
	15.06.23	unity ref 746617957	Great Alne Park - Inv 006226 (function room hire for mtg)	35.00
	19.06.23	unity ref 169292505	Kompan - spare parts for the park - planks for wobbly bridge , fixings and bolt caps	100.32
	29.06.23	unity ref 51741731	M&P Building Services Ltd - Inv 3702	102.00
	30.06.23	unity ref 530591828	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd (Inv 2645)	252.00
	30.06.23	unity stmt 007	Unity Bank charges for depositing cash at Natwest (tree sponsorship funds)	0.50
	30.06.23	unity stmt 008	Unity Bank Service Charge (quarterly fee)	18.00
	5.07.23	unity stmt 10	npower Business Solutions (INV07622813)	115.07
	10.07.23	unity ref 258433624	Clerk's wages for June 2023	N/A
	10.07.23	unity ref 258433624	Clerk's expenses for June 2023	113.38
	10.7.23	unity ref 39376929	HMRC payment. E'ee NICs= £50.57, E'e IT = £84.20. E'er NICS= £98.18	232.95
	7.8.23	unity ref 593467060	Mother Huff Cap - invoice for Chatty Café and huff space - GAPC Cost of living support for residents - from fund award of £1000 from WCC	410.00
	3.8.23	unity stmt 11	npower Business Solutions (INV07923651)	117.59
	4.8.23	unity ref 908774660	Community Heartbeat Inv 17819 - Emergency phone cellular annual rental Yr 6	72.00

	15.08.23	unity ref 601583124	Clerk's wages for July 2023	N/A
	15.08.23	unity ref 601583124	Clerk's expenses for July 2023	42.76
	18.08.23	Unity ref 244288797	The Play Insepction Compay	99.00
	23.8.23	unity ref 477213564	SDC - dog and litter bin emptying fee	159.60
	1.9.23	Unity ref 85802037	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd (Inv 2737)	548.40
	5.9.23	unity stmt 013	npower Business Solutions (INV08229255)	115.89
	12.9.23	unity ref 401131813	Moore (external auditors INV 319885)	378.00
	17.9.23	unity ref 140076923	Clerk's wages for Aug 2023	N/A
	17.9.23	unity ref 140076923	Clerk's expenses for Aug 2023	346.70
	17.9.23	Unity ref 254733833	HMRC payment. E'er NICS= £8.36	8.36
9. Correspondence since the last PC Meeting	The payments list was approved by the councillors.			
	<b>Bank Account Balances @ 17 September 2023: <u>£68,203.36</u></b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348: <b>£15,959.94</b></li> <li>• Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: <b>£52,243.42</b></li> <li>•</li> </ul>			
	<b>Money in:</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £13,750 received from SDC on 18.9.23 being second tranche of precept (not included in above total figure in GAPC accounts)</li> <li>• This brings total to <b>£81,953.36</b></li> </ul>			
	<b>Transfers:</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No transfers since the last PC meeting.</li> </ul>			
	<b>The Clerk confirmed the following correspondence had been received:</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Correspondence re AGAR, end of year accounts and external audit.</li> <li>b) Emails re park maintenance and works.</li> <li>c) Various correspondence dealing with residents' queries.</li> <li>d) Correspondence re speeding along Henley Road and possible solutions.</li> <li>e) Correspondence regarding fly tipping off Henley Road.</li> <li>f) Correspondence re huff space and Chatty Café.</li> <li>g) Correspondence re Climate Action Meeting and various workstreams and meetings</li> <li>h) Correspondence arranging various meetings especially with WCC re flooding and drainage issues.</li> <li>i) Correspondence re training / seminars and conferences</li> </ul>			



<p><b>10. Date of the next meeting</b></p>	<p>j) Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report.</p> <p><b>Date of next meeting – 21 November 2023 (Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne B49 6HX)</b></p> <p>*****</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
	<p><b>The Meeting ended at 10pm.</b></p> <p>*****</p>