

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

PRESENT	<p>Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr I Millard, Mr P Clark, Mrs D Francis.</p> <p>Cllrs Justin Kerridge, Cllr Thom Holmes, Cllr Manuella Perteghella Ten members of the public in attendance.</p>
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	None
2. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR MELVYN JENKINS	<p>The Chairman announced that Cllr Melvyn Jenkins had resigned as a parish councillor, shortly after the last PC meeting. The Chairman described Cllr Jenkins' resignation as unfortunate and regrettable, and wished to pass on his thanks and appreciation to Cllr Jenkins for his contribution while he was with the parish council.</p> <p>Cllr Jenkins' resignation has created a vacancy for a parish councillor. The parish council will address this over the next couple of months. If anyone is interested in becoming a councillor, please speak to the Chairman or the Clerk.</p>
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	None.
4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES	<p>Minutes from the September 2023 Parish Council Meeting minutes were approved by the Councillors.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>ACTION: to be signed by the Chairman and filed by the Clerk.</i></p> </div>
5a. Presentation by Cllr Manuela Perteghella	<p><u>OPEN FORUM</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced our Guest Visitor, Cllr Manuela Perteghella, who provided the parish council and residents with an overview of her role as Parish Council Champion and future plans for her period of office at SDC as District Councillor for Welford on Avon.</p> <p><u>Role as Parish Council Champion within SDC</u></p> <p>Cllr Perteghella emphasised the role of town and parish councils within communities and how important it is for their views to be represented. She is keen to raise awareness of issues both upstream and downstream and to ensure parish and town councils' views are taken into account when they respond to consultations.</p> <p><u>Funding</u></p> <p>Cllr Perteghella also provided information about the new SDC Climate Change Fund which will be available for applications by March 2024, and how parish councils can apply to the Infrastructure Funding List which is looking for local projects to benefit from Community Infrastructure Levy Funding. The next cycle for this funding list is May/ spring 2024. Another possible source of funding is the Severn Trent Community Fund. Cllr Perteghella will share links or application forms for these funding sources with GAPC.</p> <p><u>Flooding</u></p> <p>Cllr Perteghella acknowledges that flooding is a big issue for the district, especially surface water flooding. This is due to insufficient sustainable drainage and not enough permeable</p>

**5b. Representations
from residents**

surfaces. These issues primarily involve the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council. The District Council Leader is planning to hold a meeting with these stakeholders to discuss the flooding in the district, but this meeting has not yet happened.

There is also the issue of when WCC will adopt SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) which some authorities in the UK have already adopted, but which WCC only intends to adopt when it becomes law in 2026.

Cllr Perteghella noted that if we get our Flooding Action Group up and running, we should then be able to have a group meeting with the WCC and Stratford local flooding teams.

Cllr Perteghella ended her presentation by pledging her support for GAPC and encouraging both the council and local residents to contact her with any issues or concerns.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Perteghella for attending the meeting and for sharing the very useful information.

The Clerk confirmed that there had been one written representation from a local resident who would be speaking (by prior arrangement with the Clerk) for 10 minutes on local footpaths and a proposal for improved active travel in Great Alne. However, the Clerk was aware of two residents who wished to make a representation in person at the meeting and it was agreed that they would go first.

i).Flooding issues

One of the residents attending the meeting expressed his concern about the recent extensive flooding in the parish and seeking an explanation of what was being done to address the issues.

The Chairman explained that we have some authority as a parish council to address such issues, but there needs to be an overall strategic plan agreed in collaboration with SDC, WCC and local landowners.

Cllr Millard also commented that farmers need to take responsibility for the cutting back of overgrown foliage etc and maintenance of their ditches. He was unclear whether there is any sort of enforcement (unless there is damage to property), to which Cllr Perteghella thought that fines could be imposed – but suggested WCC would be best placed to confirm this. There was a debate about the DEFRA requirements for farmers clearing their ditches and whether fines can be imposed.

ACTION: The Chairman stated that GAPC would contact Cllr Susan Juned regarding the flooding in Great Alne and send her the dossier of images. GAPC will do whatever needs to be done to mitigate the flooding, and will work with volunteers to do whatever is required.

li) Dogs in the park

A resident attending the meeting then addressed the councillors regarding a decision taken at the last GAPC meeting on 21 July 2023. At this meeting, the councillors agreed to clear up any misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the dog signs at the entrance to park, and to clarify that no dogs are allowed in the park, either for walking or exercising (regardless of whether it is on or off a lead). The resident, representing a number of residents living on Nightingale Close, considers that this decision is wrong.

Firstly, this stipulation would require residents with dogs to walk down Sernal Lane to access the main road. There are no streetlights along that stretch of road, no pavement or

footpath and it is particularly dangerous when the recycling bins are out. The resident argued that there is no need to walk down Sernal Lane when there is a footpath through the park. There are also families with children who walk to school with their dog; it is unreasonable to expect them to walk down Sernal Lane. The residents requested GAPC review the decision.

Cllr Francis noted that there had been dog mess found in the park and a lot of families who use the park are grateful that dogs are not allowed in there. The resident acknowledged that dogs do make a mess – but also noted that most of them are on leads. Cllr Francis said there were certain things that could be considered but would be expensive. She was also concerned that the councillors had already made a clear decision on this issue at the last meeting.

Cllr Millard suggested that we could put fencing around the playground area and football pitch and put up signs that there should be no exercising of dogs in these areas. The risk is that people would then take advantage of this. The other main concern is the danger of disease in children caused by contact with dog mess.

The Chairman had researched the number of incidents of toxiplasmosis and noted there is a very small risk of it happening.

After further debate, the Chairman determined that the question being asked of GAPC at the meeting was whether it would review the decision – not to necessarily find a solution at the meeting. The Chairman therefore asked the councillors how they felt about reviewing the decision.

ACTION: The councillors agreed that they would review the decision and consider the possible options.

iii) Footpaths and active travel proposal

The resident began his presentation by talking about the condition of the local footpaths in Great Alne and the difficulties he has travelling around them with his bike, as he is a keen cyclist. The gates are either kissing gates or are padlocked, so access is difficult. He also commented that a number of the footpaths are obscured or have limited access due to vegetation / low lying branches. This makes them difficult for all residents as well as horse riders.

There are three issues with the footpaths:

- Vegetation is overgrown
- The drainage is poor – for example, the area in the field along the bottom of the churchyard
- The paths are too narrow in some locations – for example, at the beck between the Mother Huff Cap and the church.

The resident is keen to work with GAPC to improve the footpaths and proposes to carry out a survey/ visual observations of the conditions of all the footpaths in the parish and report back on those that need maintenance or attention.

The active travel proposal is the creation of a Greenway in Great Alne that would link down to Alcester to make it possible to cycle all the way there without going on a highway. It is currently not possible to enjoy any meaningful cycle journeys off road. The resident noted that the infrastructure is already in place (ie the old railway line) and 95% of it is untouched. The link could then also be extended to Wootton Wawen and on to Bearley.

	<p>The Chairman thanked the resident for coming forward to offer his assistance in this way. Both ideas also go some way towards reducing the parish's carbon footprint as well as creating a healthier community.</p> <p>There then followed a discussion about how we might go about exploring this opportunity further. The first suggestion was a viability survey which would have to come before any costing survey. We would need to set up a steering group and establish what if anything had already been considered as well as what support might be available eg Sustrans / SDC/ local businesses/ charity/ community entities. The recent Two Shires project was discussed – the first phase of which is Alcester to Evesham which is due to start in January 2024 (a suggested contact for this project is Jo Harvey whom GAPC could contact in the first instance for a preliminary conversation). It was also noted that Great Alne is already a very popular cycle route so there would be demand locally for such a project.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that GAPC would definitely give this further consideration and review. He thanked the resident for the vision. He noted that active travel in terms of footpaths and creating a greenway is very much in accordance with the objectives of the Great Alne Climate Action Group and that a cycle way around Great Alne and Alcester had been mentioned as something to consider. It was also a key finding as an issue important to residents in the 'Making Great Alne Greener' survey that was circulated with GAPC's newsletter in October. Active travel in and around the parish is therefore a 'no-brainer'. We would need to look into the availability of various grants and funds to cover the cost of any feasibility study, and GAPC would need to put considerable resources into the idea, perhaps through the Climate Action Group or a sub group thereof. Either way he considers it would be a great project for the parish.</p> <p>Cllr Millard suggested that the project has its own meeting where this is the sole focus – the feedback could then be presented at the following PC meeting. Cllr Francis also considers it to be a really good idea.</p> <p>The Clerk added that there is a considerable number of funding opportunities available currently which might be able to support preliminary investigations including a feasibility study – eg the SDC Infrastructure Funding List or the Severn Trent Community Fund or the Legacy Fund from the Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge added that this suggestion was 'music to his ears' and he would be like to be included as part of any working group. Cllr Kerridge referred to a recent project in Sambourne that has adapted a local footpath for off road mobility scooters to make it fully accessible. This was a project between The Ramblers Association and local landowners (who are required to maintain the structure).</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>ACTION: The Chairman agreed that this project idea would be discussed at the next Climate Action Group Meeting and we would contact the resident in the new year about working on a survey of the footpaths in the parish. He again thanked the resident for his suggestions and for volunteering to get the process underway with the footpath survey.</i></p> </div>
<p>5c. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update</p>	<p>The Clerk provided the following update:</p> <p>There have been no specific crime reports for incidents in Great Alne in the last couple of weeks but there is still suspicious behaviour in local towns and villages with individuals acting suspiciously on private property.</p> <p>There have been reports of parcel thefts in the run up to Xmas with parcels arriving at their destination having been opened with the valuable contents removed and replaced with</p>

<p>5d. County Councillor's Report</p>	<p>worthless objects of a similar weight. Residents were advised to check packages as soon as they were delivered.</p> <p>The local police can be contacted through the usual channels: PC Rob Davies (Beat Manager) PCSO Carolyn Davis PCSO Gary Johnson-Jones Alcester Police Station, Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DZ Tel: 01789 444816 (Team voicemail) or 101 E-mail: alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk Twitter: @AlcesterCops Instagram: southwarwickshiresnts Facebook: Alcester Police</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge provided an update to the councillors and residents regarding proposed changes to the local fire service. There is a pending consultation from WCC and all local community groups and organisations are invited to make submissions. There are also a number of local meetings scheduled to discuss the proposed changes, including in Henley and Bidford.</p> <p>Applications can be made to the County Councillors Grant Fund for another two weeks.</p> <p>Cllr Francis asked Cllr Kerridge if he would be able to assist with the possibility of the X19 Stagecoach bus being routed through GAP. Lack of access to public transport is a key issue for GAP residents and it is a long way for them to walk to the nearest bus stop opposite the recreation ground. However, if there were enough people who would use a diverted route on the X19 to pass close to Park Lane then it might be worth contacting Stagecoach for their views.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge said that this was a private route operated by Stagecoach and therefore WCC would have limited influence. However, there would be some funding around somewhere and it would be worth asking. He requested the relevant information be forward to him for further investigation.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge referred to a letter he has recently received from a Great Alne resident regarding the local pavements on some roads being covered in leaves and being dangerous and slippery. He said this is not an issue that WCC would be able to do anything about and suggested GAPC would have to source a solution themselves – perhaps engaging a manual pavement sweeper. He suggested we speak to the District Councillor to see if Streetscene could assist. The other option is whether GAPC pays for something directly.</p> <p>Cllr Holmes added that for pothole repairs, there is a facility on WCC's website to report the location and severity of the pothole and adding a photo is useful.</p> <p>Cllr Kerridge reiterated that he is keen to help with any matters that GAPC needs some support on – ie flooding, highways and streetlighting and to contact him or copy him in if required.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Kerridge and asked him about the availability of the section 106 funds for the GAP development – this money was allocated for footpath improvements and GAPC would like to know the status of the funding and where it is.</p> <p>The Chairman also asked Cllr Kerridge if he could look into the s 106 funds which were provisioned for affordable care in Alcester, as part of the GAP development. GAPC would like to know what progress has been made to provide affordable extra care as part of the project as the parish council has not heard any more on this point for several years.</p>
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5e. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Kerridge said he would look into this and asked the Chairman if he would forward the relevant planning application reference numbers to him for further investigation.

ACTION:

- *Chairman to forward the relevant planning applications to Cllr Kerridge for him to investigate the s106 funding for affordable care in Alcester.*
- *The Clerk will consider how GAPC can get the roads swept of leaves.*
- *The Clerk will send information to Cllr Kerridge regarding the X19 bus route in Great Alne.*

Cllr Holmes provided the following update and forwarded a written report of the same to the Clerk:

Live & Local events

Live & Local is a network of over 250+ voluntary organisations across the West and East Midlands who book and promote professional shows, screening, and participatory arts into venues such as village halls, church halls and community centres. **The shows are chosen by the local community, for their local community.** Made possible by funding from Arts Council England and your local authorities, including Stratford on Avon District Council , but it all happens because of the commitment and enthusiasm of the voluntary organisations.

Climate Change Fund

Stratford District Council will be implementing a **Climate Change Fund**, to which parish councils can apply , as well as community groups and charities. Funding streams are climate adaptation, mitigation, reduction of carbon emissions for example via use of solar panels or green technology. The Fund has been formally approved by Cabinet. The funding allocated to the first year (2024) for the Climate Change Fund is £100,000 (in two tranches of £50,000). I will circulate details once call for projects is open.

Winter Warmth grants now available from Stratford on Avon District Council

As we head into winter, Stratford-on-Avon District Council is pleased to announce new funding options available to residents to help keep homes warm and reduce the cost of energy bills.

The new schemes are the Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2), Energy Support Fund (ESF) and Physical Intervention Fund (PIF). HUG2 is funded by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, and ESF and PIF are funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

HUG2 is designed to specifically tackle cold and damp homes that are not connected to the mains gas heating network. If you are eligible for the scheme, and your home assessment recommends the installation of energy efficiency measures, all works are carried out free of charge.

ESF has been set up to offer financial support this winter for vulnerable households within the District who are struggling to pay their energy bills. This payment consists of a one-off payment of £500 (for households with children) or £300 (for households without children). This payment is made directly to the energy provider.

PIF is a programme to assist individuals and households experiencing hardship through significant increases in the cost of living. The scheme aims to support vulnerable households by paying for works to repair, supplement and/or improve domestic heating systems. Households can apply for works up to a limit of £6,000.

The schemes all have different eligibility criteria which are listed on the District Council's website: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/green-home-grants.cfm>

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has teamed up with local energy experts Act on Energy to help administer all winter warmth grant funding. The charity may contact residents directly to let people know about the funding and issue invitations to local events where they can find out more.

If you would like to apply for any of these funding schemes or find out more about eligibility criteria, please visit the Act on Energy website: www.actonenergy.org.uk

Or you can contact Act on Energy directly via phone 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk

South Warwickshire Local Plan Timetable update

Following public consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Issues and Options earlier this year, both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have been progressing work on the joint Local Plan. Since the existing timetable for the preparation of the Plan was approved in March 2022 a number of factors are now requiring a revision to this timetable, including:

- A delay to the publication of 2021 Census data resulting in a delay to the production of the Coventry & Warwickshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (C&W HEDNA), a key piece of evidence required to support the Plan
- Changes to the administrations of both councils and the need to ensure new administrations and members of all parties understand progress to date on the plan and have an opportunity to input in the process
- The uncertainty of potential changes to national planning policy and to the planning system, including the process for producing plans.

Following a meeting of the SWLP member Advisory Group on 19th October 2023, a revised timetable is being recommended for approval to the Joint Committee of both councils at a meeting to take place at the first available opportunity, and certainly before the end of 2023. This proposed timetable envisages a Preferred Options consultation in autumn 2024 followed by further stages of consultation and a public examination, with final adoption of the Plan by 2027. (An alternative approach would be to cease work on the SWLP until the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill passes into law. This would likely mean pausing work on Local Plan preparation until possibly the autumn of 2024 and re-commencing work on a "new style" Plan under the new legislation. This alternative approach is not considered desirable and will not be recommended to the Joint Committee.)

Once a revised timetable is approved by the Joint Committee it will be published on the SWLP website. It is important to note that the proposed revised timetable is subject to a continuation of the existing national plan-making system. The government has recently consulted on reforms which may impact on the process and timescale for the production of the SWLP. Depending on whether and when these changes are implemented by the government, this may result in the need for further revision to the timetable in due course.

Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Masterplan Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation

The consultation starts on Thursday 19 October 2023 and runs until **5pm on Friday 1 December 2023.**

**5f. GAKMH parish
councillor
representative's
report**

The Gateway site in Stratford upon Avon has been identified by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as a suitable location for a new museum and visitor attraction celebrating the life, works and times of William Shakespeare. The proposed World Shakespeare Centre (WSC) will anchor a broader mix of town centre uses on the Gateway site and provide a complementary addition to Shakespeare's birthplace and his other family homes in the town, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), and other cultural attractions around the town.

The SPD provides a framework to guide the re-development of the Gateway site. It is one of several Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that accompanies the Core Strategy. The SPD will bridge the gap between the planning policies and proposals that are set out in the Core Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging SAP and will help to co-ordinate delivery of development that will create a new World Shakespeare Centre and other uses.

A copy of the draft SPD and all associated documentation can be viewed on the Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk/gatewayspd

Hard copies of the consultation documents are available to view at the District Council Offices and at Stratford-upon-Avon library as well as all other District libraries.

You are encouraged to submit your representations electronically. This can be done either by using the on-line form on the website at www.stratford.gov.uk/gatewayspd or by attaching a form to an email and sending it to policy.consultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk

If you want to post your response, please send it to Planning Policy, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX.

The Chairman of GAKMH, Mr Marytn Davey has provided the following report to the Clerk ahead of the meeting:

"The main points discussed and agreed at the Memorial Hall Committee meeting on 13 November were as follows:-

- *No information has been received to date regarding the planned auction of the former Social club*
- *The oak tree at the front of the Hall is showing signs of distress. It appears that it has fungal growth in the trunk that cannot be eradicated and that the tree will eventually die. In an effort to prolong its life the dead wood will be cut back sharply once planning permission has been obtained. Rupert Daffern will be carrying out the work.*
- *Electric hand dryers will be installed in the four cloakrooms shortly. The job will be done by Tom Smith (Dunamis Electrical).*
- *Arrangements for the Christmas events at the Hall were discussed, namely the Christmas Coffee Morning and Art Exhibition on 2 December, Christmas is Coming! on the 3 December, and the Magical Evening and Christmas Supper on 8 December.*
- *A Jazz evening will be held on 20 April. Shades on Black have been booked. They are a 10 piece band with a vocalist.*
- *The 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings will be commemorated on 6 June 2024. Ways of marking the occasion were discussed."*

Cllr Francis suggested that GAPC could send a note to the Chairman of GAKMH about the possible funding options for solar panels for the village hall, in an effort to signpost the potential energy efficiency improvements. The Clerk confirmed that this suggestion has

<p>5g. Update on Great Alne Park</p>	<p>already been discussed with GAKMH but it isn't straightforward due to the age of the roof and the tiles.</p> <p>The update from Adam Hall, Village Manager at Great Alne Park is as follows:</p> <p><i>"Phase three continues to progress well. The show home is due to be finished in late December with the first properties being handed over Feb/March 2024.</i></p> <p><i>The emergency entrance button on the west entrance has now been removed. The intercom will be used going forward, and this will go through to reception, who are now the only people who can open the gate."</i></p>
<p>5h. Climate Change update</p> <p>i) Update on last meeting and workstreams</p> <p>ii) CAG survey</p>	<p>The Clerk set out the progress made by the CAG group over the last few meetings; particularly the feedback received from the 'Making Great Alne Greener' Survey and work on completing the terms of reference for the group.</p> <p>There were 32 responses to the survey which is approximately 10% of the households in the parish. This is well above the national average figure for survey responses. Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% of respondents were 40-49yrs or 70-79yrs of age. • Key issues for residents are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flooding ○ lack of reliable and regular (including later hours) public transport that is cost effective ○ identified need for a bus stop at the Henley end of the village ○ need for input on energy efficient homes, particularly for listed and older properties ○ high interest for more information on renewables particularly battery storage and solar panels ○ high interest for an EV charging point in the parish and for more information on electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids ○ desire for more tree planting (particularly community orchard) and wildflower areas on verges and open spaces ○ high support for no mow May ○ high interest in guidance on establishing wormeries ○ identified need for a community 'swap and sell' event ○ high support or more information required on repair cafes ○ keen interest for more active travel, particularly footpaths and cycle ways and access to Alcester ○ identified need to improve footpaths and improve surface of pavements • Sufficient number of residents are keen to volunteer with a flooding and drainage action group - 11 in total • 60% of respondents are keen to get involved in CAG projects <p>The CAG volunteers are carefully considering the responses to the individual questions in the survey in order to ascertain what the priorities should be for the coming year. GAPC is working on the budget for 2024/25 and will endeavour to make funds available to deliver some of these priorities, where practicable.</p>

iii)	Training of Community Energy Champions	The Clerk has arranged for one of the Climate Action Group volunteers to attend a training session on energy efficiency issues within communities. The training was provided as part of the conditions for receiving the WRCC Warm Hub grant for 2023/24. Thank you to the CAG volunteer who attended the session. It means that within the CAG we have a 'Community Energy Champion'. For more information, please ask the Clerk.
iv)	Working towards Community Action Day on 2 March 2023	The CAG will be running a table at the Community Action Day on 2 March 2024 in GAKMH and are working on a number of ideas to raise awareness about local climate change issues. They will be happy to discuss the results of the recent survey with residents and will be keen to listen to important climate issues with residents, as well as discuss proposed projects.
6.	6a. Mother Huff Cap	
	6b General Maintenance Update	
	a. Streetlighting – update on transition to LEDs	<p>The Clerk has had great support from The Mother Huff Cap, especially in planning the provision of free light lunches following the recent successful funding application from the WRCC. Residents can now obtain free tea, coffee and sweet treats as well as a light lunch at The Chatty Café every Thursday afternoon 1-3pm. Thank you to the pub for their support.</p> <p>The Clerk is working with WCC on finishing the streetlighting upgrade project. There have been a few issues with transitioning the columns due to cables being encased in concrete etc, but hopefully we should soon have a timescale for completion in the new year. The Clerk and Chairman have also been working on relocation of one of the lamps on Henley Road and will be meeting with the local tree surgeon in early December regarding the extent of pruning required to the tree to enable the relocation.</p> <p>Cllr Francis enquired whether it would be possible to have a few additional streetlights particularly around the bottom end of Sernal Lane and near the GAP entrance. Cllr Francis considers that additional lighting would increase safety for pedestrians and drivers and help to calm the traffic down. The Chairman said this would be a very expensive exercise and would have to be balanced with our climate change objectives, but accepted that there are areas in the main village where it is particularly dark. The Chairman suggested that we get the current transition project completed and then have a think about additional lighting.</p>
	b. Highways	<p>i) Recent flooding issues (see also 7k below)</p> <p>The Clerk suggested that as we have already covered some of the flooding issues, and would be revisiting in further detail at agenda item 7k below, that we would be better discussing the outstanding issues later in the meeting. The Chairman agreed.</p> <p>ii) Adopt a drain</p> <p>The Clerk noted that further to the recent climate action survey and discussions amongst the Climate Action Group, that many of the volunteers from that group have started going</p>

	<p>out and clearing the top of the drains along Henley Road and Sernal Lane. The Chairman extended his thanks to these residents.</p> <p>c. Community Speed Watch / Road Safety Update</p> <p>i) Speeding survey and traffic calming</p> <p>Cllr Millard explained that there had not been much action from the CSWG since the last meeting. There had been volunteer availability issues which had made it challenging. Also, the bad weather has made it difficult.</p> <p>Cllr Millard mentioned that Bearley PC are using a speed detection device that sends the data directly to the police. The Clerk was asked to find out what this device is and what it does exactly. Are Bearley PC trialling it or have they bought one? The Clerk said that she would ask the Clerk at Bearley PC.</p> <p>The Clerks said she would also circulate the speeding survey information through to the councillors which had been commissioned by IVG with a third party company. The data had come in on email shortly before the PC meeting. We can consider this in more detail at the January 2024 meeting. This data will be used by WCC to determine the extent of any future traffic calming measures.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>ACTION:</p> <p><i>Clerk to speak to the Clerk at Bearley about their speed detection device.</i></p> <p><i>Clerk to circulate the speeding information from the village survey from IVG.</i></p> </div>
<p>6c. Recreation Ground and Defibrillator</p> <p>a. Planned treeworks</p>	<p>The Clerk discussed the quote received from the local tree surgeon and sought clarification on the extent of works required to the ash tree at the entrance to the park, as the tree surgeon had three options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove dead wood • Reduce ash tree by up to 40% to shape • Pollard ash tree to main branch union. <p>The councillors agreed to reduce the ash tree by up to 40% to shape.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>ACTION: The Clerk will confirm with the tree surgeon for a definite quote and speak with the neighbour living next to the park to let them know.</p> </div>
<p>7.</p> <p>a. Housing needs survey update</p>	<p><u>MAIN BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>For information:</u></p> <p>The Rural Housing Enabler from WRCC, Sarah Brooke-Taylor, hopes to be able to provide GAPC with a shortlist of potential sites in the new year. Sarah has recently updated the Clerk on progress and has managed to make contact with, or meet, with the shortlist of potentially interested local landowners.</p>

b. Fly-tipping issue	<p>The large commercial fly tip mess at Ford Lane is ongoing, and the Clerk has exhausted most available avenues for assistance now. However, the WALC local clerks' Facebook group has provided two new potential options to explore so she will be following up with these over the next couple of weeks.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>ACTION: Clerk to follow up with the two companies about disposal of the rubbish.</i></p> </div>
c. Feedback on WALC AGM	<p>The Chairman provided an overview of the WALC AGM held on 15 November 2023, attended by the Chairman and the Clerk. It was a very well organised and well attended event with a lot of useful information available. The Clerk used the time well to network with various organisations and local groups to make contacts and obtain information relevant for the parish council's goals and ambitions.</p> <p>The Chairman attended two workshops on procurement and cyber security. There was also a useful session on parish and town councils' communications strategy which GAPC does need to give some consideration to going forward. The workshops were followed by the AGM which saw the election of the Board and receipt of the financial report.</p>
d. Litter picking event feedback	<p>The Clerk thanked those residents who attended the litter picking event on 14th October. There were a large number of bags of rubbish collected again including tins of paint!</p>
e. Broadband upgrade update	<p>The Clerk has had confirmation that we have reached 100% of pledged support for the Openreach Ultrafast Full Broadband Scheme and 72% of the issued vouchers have been received. We have invited Robert Rowan, the Openreach Partnership Manager for the project to the next GAPC meeting in January to answer residents' questions and explain the full program to the councillors and residents.</p>
f. Community Payback Team update	<p>The Clerk advised that she is working with the head supervisor of the CPBT to discuss the list of projects that the team will undertake in the parish over the coming months. This is a result of some recent damage caused to a resident's hedge as a result of a new supervisor coming to site with the team and not being aware of the existing workstreams. The CPBT are working on a solution to the damaged hedge, in collaboration with GAPC and the resident.</p>
g. Update on huff space	<p>The Clerk is delighted to confirm that huff space has been running at full capacity for the last two sessions – ie 20 young folk in attendance. The feedback from both the youngsters and their parents is fantastic. We will be running a Xmas Karaoke and Crafts session on 2 December, charades (by request) on 6 Jan and then in Feb we are heading to the HoEF for a wintry night time walk and camp fire cooking.</p>
h. Update on WRCC winter warm hubs i. Chatty Café and	<p>As touched on at 6a above, GAPC has successful applied for £500 in grant funding from the WRCC for its winter hub. We were eligible for the funding on the basis we would be adding something new to our existing offering to residents. While there is little we can add to huff space, we are in a position to offer a free light lunch to local residents attending</p>

	huff space funding	Chatty Café. We have been working with the management of the pub to work out what they can offer to fit with the funding budget. We will also be offering a free activity table each week that will include games, demos, crafts and also guest speakers from time to time. Thank you to the WRCC for the funding which is to be used to the end of March 2024.
	ii. Slow cooker course	The Clerk confirmed that GAPC also recently successfully applied for grant funding for the slow cooking course from the WRCC. This is a 4-week session that explains basic techniques of using slow cookers to residents. We have shared this opportunity with Alcester Town Council and have worked closely with the foodbank in Alcester and WCC to ensure that some of the spaces are allocated to those in our area who would benefit from an extra bit of support. The sessions are being run in GAKMH on a Thursday lunchtime and we have a chef leading the demonstrations. Each attendee has received a free slow cooker to keep, and receives all of the ingredients to be able to cook the recipe for that week themselves at home. The feedback has been brilliant so far!
		<u>FOR DECISION/APPROVAL/ACTION</u>
i.	Stagecoach X19 bus route	<p>As discussed above with the County Councillor, the councillors agreed to further investigate the possibility of the Stagecoach X19 bus route stopping at the top end of Great Alne village near Great Alne Park.</p> <p>The Chairman considers that it is important for WCC to be part of this review process. The Chairman is also keen to understand the status of the travel plan agreed under the section 106 agreement for GAP – which included a minibus for journeys to Alcester and Stratford which was also to be available for residents in Great Alne to use. What has happened to that travel plan? Once it has been resurrected, GAPC should work with the bus operators and WCC to provide a transport service. This is also a key concern that has come from residents in the 'Making Great Alne Greener' survey – so it is an important issue for our residents.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>ACTION: The councillors agreed that the Clerk will forward the relevant information to Cllr Kerridge for review and to seek information on the travel plans under the section 106 agreement.</i></p> </div>
j.	Allocation of CIL monies	<p>Councillors discussed how best to allocate the Community Infrastructure Levy monies, based on the defined criteria. GAPC has received remittance of £3,390.82 in CIL monies from SDC for the redevelopment at The Mother Huff Cap in October and £3,265.17 from the GAP development in November.</p> <p>Initial ideas from the councillors included spending the money on flooding, ditches, provision of water in the park for the new trees, or spending the money in the park to fence off certain areas to facilitate the walking of dogs. If we are successful with altering the X19 route, perhaps we could consider a bus stop. There are a number of options to be considered and the Chairman is keen to involve residents in this decision. The councillors agreed to revisit this at the next meeting.</p>
k.	FLAG plan and working with WCC	Following recent flooding after the last two storms, and increased concern raised by residents, the councillors again discussed how we can take the Flooding and Drainage action Group forward, including workstreams discussed by the Climate Action Group and recent engagement with WCC.

	<p>It was agreed that the Clerk would contact various organisations to see what support they can provide the group. The key is timing and we need to move quickly. We could check with WCAVA on liability issues for volunteers. The best approach would be to set up the volunteer group and get them set up on a whatsapp group so that they can be contacted quickly in an emergency. The group will be led by a councillor (Cllr Millard) and the individuals would refer back to him.</p> <p>The Clerk will also see whether the CPBT can help with sweeping the leaves and speak to SDC about the road sweeper coming more frequently and at the right times eg autumn.</p> <p>The Clerk suggested a separate discussion with the councillors that focussed just on the flooding issues to brainstorm how we can take this forward. The councillors agreed this was a good idea.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>ACTION: The Clerk will feed back on progress at the next meeting.</i></p> </div>
l. CPBT – cost implication for repair of damaged hedge	<p>The recent issue of the damaged hedge has been discussed at agenda item 7f above. The Clerk reported that the CPBT have asked whether GAPC would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of the repair (ie the postcrete for the fence posts) due to the complexities of authorisation within the CPBT management. The Clerk had done some research and considered that the cost would be no more than £50. The Councillors agreed to the expenditure.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>ACTION: The Clerk is to organise the postcrete for the fencing work required by the CPBT.</i></p> </div>
m. NALC pay scale award for 2023/24	<p>Revised NALC pay scales have been agreed for 2023/24. The councillors agreed to the hourly rate increase for the Clerk as per the single pay scale point in her employment contract and also approved the increase to be back paid for the hours worked by the Clerk since April 2023.</p> <p><u>FOR DISCUSSION:</u></p>
n. Community Action Day and Parish Assembly – 2.3.24	<p>The Clerk provided the following update:</p> <p>GAPC is holding a Community Acton Day on Saturday 2 March 2024, 10am-2pm at the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall, Henley Road B49 6HL.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for residents to meet and ask questions with a number of local organisations and services including, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcester Safer Neighbourhood Team. • Rural Crime Advisers. • Act on Energy. • Alcester Fire Service. • The Warwickshire Rural Community Council. • Healthwatch Warwickshire. • Great Alne Primary School. • The Alcester Minster. • Great Alne's Climate Action Group.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other local community groups and organisations <p>Residents will have the opportunity to seek advice and support from experts on energy, home safety, local policing, local health and social care services, home security, local housing needs, our local primary school, our churches, local environmental issues and much, much more. Residents can visit the stands and ask questions and be sign posted to local support providers.</p> <p>During the event, residents will be able to access the new <i>crime prevention tool box</i> which the parish council will become custodian of, courtesy of the Rural Crime Advisers. This contains: window vibration alarms, property marking kits, faraday pouches, van alarms, shed alarms, property marking pens, TV simulators, personal alarms, and switch timers, as well as numerous security leaflets and some crime prevention booklets.</p> <p>There will be refreshments available throughout the event. There will also be a fire engine outside the Memorial Hall for residents to investigate at close quarters!</p> <p>The event will be followed by the Parish Assembly from 2-3pm which is a further opportunity for residents to come together and find out more about what is available in the local area and hear about the parish council's plans for the year ahead.</p> <p>The Community Action Day is free to attend and we are certain there will be something of benefit for everyone in Great Alne.</p>
o. Update on SWLP consultation process	<p>The Chairman confirmed that two stages of the SWLP have been completed. Some aspects of the plan have been postponed until 2024 (as confirmed by Cllr Holmes' update) which is partly due to the change of administration. The plan is scheduled to be adopted by 2027 although the Chairman considers this to be unlikely.</p> <p>With specific reference to the call for sites for residential development, 4 sites were put forward by landowners in Great Alne. These are available to view on the SWLP interactive map on the website. One of the sites is behind Nightingale Close and The Rectory; one is the area behind Appleby Close; one is the large field behind the school, adjacent to School Road; and one site is adjacent to the B4089 on the way down to Alcester.</p> <p>GAPC will keep residents up to date with any developments on the SWLP consultations, of which there will be several more over the next couple of years. There will be an update on the housing needs survey early in the New Year.</p>
p. Relevance of the Inclusive Communities Fund for GAPC	<p>The Clerk provided some information she had researched on the Inclusive Communities Fund and the councillors discussed whether GAPC should make an application for a specific purpose (eg active travel eg greenway/ footpaths/ cycle paths/ drainage). It was agreed that this could be an interesting opportunity and we should keep it under review. https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/icfund/</p>
q. Community Calendar	<p>The Clerk mentioned that she had been liaising with other local community groups and organisations and it had been suggested that a Community Calendar would be a good idea where everyone could advertise their events and to ensure there are no clashes. The councillors agreed. The Clerk said we would need to allocate a person who would be responsible for updating it weekly on behalf of GAPC. This is something to keep under review and discuss again in the new year.</p>

8. Planning applications

PLANNING

Following the last meeting, GAPC submitted a response of 'no objection' to application 23/02777/TREE, treeworks at Stuart Cottage, Park Lane, 'no objection' to 23/02421/FUL Alne Park, Park Lane, 'no objection' to 23/02292/TREE Gunn Court, Park Lane and 'No objection' to 23/02777/TREE Whitts End, Park Lane.

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
23/03039/TREE	14/11/2023	Pending consideration	Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall Henley Road Great Alne B49 6HL
23/02882/FUL	25/10/2023	Pending Consideration	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
23/02812/VARY	18/10/2023	Pending Consideration	Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground Spenal Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6JG
23/02777/TREE	12/10/2023	Treeworks approved	Stuart Cottage Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
23/02421/FUL	19/09/2023	Pending consideration	Alne Park Park Lane Great Alne
23/02474/TREE	13/9/2023	Treeworks approved	Whitts End Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
23/02292/TREE	29/8/2023	Treeworks approved	Gunn Court Park Lane Great Alne
23/02079/FUL	4/8/2023	Permission with conditions	7 Linfoot Oaks Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6RG

23/02038/TREE	1/8/2023	Tree Works Approved	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
23/01942/TREE	21/7/2023	Tree Works Approved	Coffee Pot Wood Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
23/01647/LDP	21/6/2023	Permission with conditions	7 Linfoot Oaks Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6RG
23/01532/AMD	7/6/2023	Application Withdrawn	Maudslay Park Great Alne
23/01519/FUL	6/6/2023	Planning Permission Refused	Alne Park Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
23/01384/HHP A	19/5/2023	Householder Prior Approval Not Required	31 School Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HQ
23/01366/AMD	17/5/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne
23/01352/AMD	16/5/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Cutlers Farm Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HR
23/01143/AMD	24/4/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Great Alne Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS
23/01144/AMD	24/4/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Great Alne Park Village Road Great Alne B49 6HS
23/01145/AMD	24/4/2023	Approval of Non Material Amendment	Maudslay Park Great Alne
23/01114/LDE	21/4/2023	Existing Lawful Development - Permitted	Kingsway Park Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HS

	23/00703/FUL	8/3/2023	Planning Permission Refused	The Coppice Park Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HS
	23/00689/FUL	7/3/2023	Permission with conditions	31 School Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HQ
	23/00723/TREE	6/3/2023	Tree Works Approved	Parkfield House Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
	23/00403/FUL	13/2/2023	Permission with conditions	Three Mill Cottage Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HX
	23/00115/FUL	16/1/2023	Permission with conditions	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
<p>The councillors decided as follows on the outstanding applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/03039/TREE – The Councillors agreed 'No Objection'. • 23/02882/FUL – The Councillors agreed 'No representation'. • 23/02812/VARY – The Councillors agreed 'No objection'. <p>There was a new application (both full planning application and LBC application) which arrived shortly before the meeting which is not on the agenda. The Councillors had a high level review of the application but agreed to provide their decision in writing to the Clerk once they had further opportunity to consider the application in full. This application is:</p>				
	23/02992/FUL	7/11/2023	Pending Consideration	Alne Cote School Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HG
	23/02993/LBC	7/11/2023	Pending Consideration	Alne Cote School Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HG
<p><i>[Following the meeting the councillors decided in writing to submit a response of 'Objection' to the above two applications on the basis that the proposed entrance gates are not in keeping with the rest of the property and are unsympathetic to the thatched canopy roof or properties of that age.]</i></p>				

9. Accounts	ACCOUNTS																																																				
9a. Progress against budget update	The Clerk provided an update on progress against budget. There is nothing obvious to be concerned about at the moment. The Clerk is going to work with the Chairman on how best to present the accounts information for received grants from eg SDC or WRCC.																																																				
9b. Payments for approval	<p>The following is a list of invoices and payments presented for authorisation and paid since the last PC meeting on 23 September 2023. The blue cells represent payments set up to be authorised by a second bank signatory.</p> <table><tr><td>29.9.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>Limebridge Rural Services Ltd (Inc 2772)</td><td>252.00</td></tr><tr><td>30.9.23</td><td>Unity stmt 013</td><td>Unity Bank Service Charge (quarterly fee)</td><td>18.00</td></tr><tr><td>4.10.23</td><td>Unity stmt 014</td><td>npower Business Solutions (Inv IN08557818)</td><td>116.88</td></tr><tr><td>5.10.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>HoEF Ltd (huff space session in Sept 23)</td><td>90.00</td></tr><tr><td>16.10.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>GAKMH hire fee (Community Action Day 2.3.24)</td><td>117.50</td></tr><tr><td>16.10.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>Clerk's wages for Sep 2023</td><td>1361.25</td></tr><tr><td>16.10.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>Clerk's expenses for Sep 2023</td><td>59.75</td></tr><tr><td>16.10.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>HMRC payment. E'ers NICS = £103.57. E'ee NICS = £55.25 Inc Tax = £92.00)</td><td>250.83</td></tr><tr><td>27.10.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>Printing of GAPC newsletter - Autumn 2023</td><td>84.00</td></tr><tr><td>3.11.23</td><td>Unity stmt ****</td><td>npower Business Solutions (Inv IN08846742)</td><td>131.84</td></tr><tr><td>7.11.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>Survey Monkey package - invoice #44901782</td><td>372.00</td></tr><tr><td>7.11.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>NALC invoice 8255505259 - training course on planning system</td><td>52.04</td></tr><tr><td>7.11.23</td><td>Unity payment</td><td>NALC invoice 8255543429 - training course on funding</td><td>52.04</td></tr></table>	29.9.23	Unity payment	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd (Inc 2772)	252.00	30.9.23	Unity stmt 013	Unity Bank Service Charge (quarterly fee)	18.00	4.10.23	Unity stmt 014	npower Business Solutions (Inv IN08557818)	116.88	5.10.23	Unity payment	HoEF Ltd (huff space session in Sept 23)	90.00	16.10.23	Unity payment	GAKMH hire fee (Community Action Day 2.3.24)	117.50	16.10.23	Unity payment	Clerk's wages for Sep 2023	1361.25	16.10.23	Unity payment	Clerk's expenses for Sep 2023	59.75	16.10.23	Unity payment	HMRC payment. E'ers NICS = £103.57. E'ee NICS = £55.25 Inc Tax = £92.00)	250.83	27.10.23	Unity payment	Printing of GAPC newsletter - Autumn 2023	84.00	3.11.23	Unity stmt ****	npower Business Solutions (Inv IN08846742)	131.84	7.11.23	Unity payment	Survey Monkey package - invoice #44901782	372.00	7.11.23	Unity payment	NALC invoice 8255505259 - training course on planning system	52.04	7.11.23	Unity payment	NALC invoice 8255543429 - training course on funding	52.04
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	7.11.23	Unity payment	NALC invoice 8255585109 - training course on social media	52.04	
	7.11.23	Unity payment	NALC invoice 8255604979 - training course on community transport	52.04	
	8.11.23	Unity payment	GDPR/ Data Protection Act 2018 - fee renewal - ICO:00014852935 - set up DD	40.00	
	8.11.23	Unity payment	GAKMH hire fee (Slow cooker course x4 sessions)	120.00	
	14.11.23	Unity payment	Clerk's wages for Oct 2023	1153.92	
	14.11.23	Unity payment	Clerk's expenses for Oct 2023	223.75	
	14.11.23	Unity payment	HMRC payment. E'ers NICS = £61.49. E'ee NICS = £18.67 Inc Tax = £31.00)	111.16	
10. Correspondence since the last PC Meeting	<p>The payments list was approved by the councillors.</p> <p>Bank Account Balances @ 31 October 2023: £77,763.82</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348: £25,166.57 Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: £52,598.25 <p>Money in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3,265.17 in CIL monies from development of GAP £354.83 credit interest from Unity Trust Bank <p>Transfers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No transfers since the last PC meeting. 				
	<p>The Clerk confirmed the following correspondence had been received:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence re slow cooking course with WRCC, residents, ATC and chef Correspondence re WRCC warm hubs, funding and training as part of process Emails from residents re concerns over flooding Various correspondence dealing with residents' queries Correspondence re WACL AGM and seminars Emails re treeworks in the park Emails re CPBT tasks, meeting with supervisor and recent issue with hedge Correspondence re speeding along Henley Road and possible solutions. 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Correspondence regarding fly tipping off Henley Road. j) Correspondence re huff space and Chatty Café. k) Correspondence re Climate Action Meeting and various workstreams and meetings including Survey l) Correspondence re training / seminars and conferences m) Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report.
10. Date of the next meeting	<p>Date of next meeting – 23 January 2024 (Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne B49 6HX)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</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 style="text-align: center;">The Meeting ended at 10.30pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p>