

**The Parish Council normally meets 6 times a year and is responsible for, among other things:**

- **Responding to/commenting on Planning Applications**
- **Maintenance of the Recreation Ground**
- **Maintenance of Defibrillator**
- **Maintenance and energy costs of Street Lights**
- **Contributing to residents' well-being, including acting as advocate on issues with County and District councils and other Government agencies**
- **Community events**

## **PLANNING**

**19 Applications received in year:**

- **5 Tree work**
- **3 Listed Building consent**
- **8 Full Applications**
- **1 Permitted development (subsequently withdrawn)**
- **1 Approval of non-material amendment**
- **1 Change of use**

## **RECREATION GROUND**

- **Costs of upkeep £1726 in 2022-23.**
- **Weekly inspections maintained. Annual external inspection carried out and no major issues reported.**
- **New picnic bench, new larger bin installed, plus new safety matting under the nest swing and double swings**

## **DEFIBRILLATOR**

- **Weekly inspections maintained**
- **£186 per annum maintenance charge**

## STREET LIGHTS

- 27 lamps in village, one currently not working
- Cost £2053 in year
- All legacy lamps will be replaced with LEDs in 2023-24

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Jubilee Celebrations last June – family fun day in the pub. Raised £1029 for Great Alne School and Welcome Here Stratford to help settle Ukrainian refugees. Also planted the Queen Elizabeth Acer – the first tree in the copse and had a blessing of thanksgiving from Steve Tash from Alcester Minster.
- Coronation Copse planting in March – 57 trees – all of which are sponsored by residents. Family fun day, archery, bouncy castle, stalls raising money for school, food and drink from the MHC. All proceeds from sponsorship have been earmarked towards the next planting / conservation project in the recreation ground. The PC was assisted by HoEF with the planting plan. The trees, along with the Jubilee Tree, are now all registered on the Queen’s Green Canopy map.
- Laying of a wreath from the parish council and gathering at the flag pole at 3pm in memory of HM The Queen following her death in September.

## GRANTS AWARDED

The PC successfully applied for a number of grants during the year to provide funding for projects of benefit to residents

- £4,000 awarded from Councillor’s Grant Fund for outdoor roof at Great Alne Primary School (GAPC working with Friends of Great Alne School on the application)
- £1,000 award from the Cost of Living Grant which is used for:

- Chatty Café
- Huff Space
- After school childcare one day a week (no longer funding as there was insufficient take up).
- £25,000 UKSPF for the streetlighting upgrade to LEDs

## **OTHER ISSUES**

- **People.** Councillor Hazel Mainwaring resigned during the year. New councillor, Mel Jenkins appointed, has fitted into the team well and is already providing an invaluable contribution!
- **Community Speed Watch Group (CSWG).** Group has been very active and ready to start new season. 14 volunteers trained and qualified to use the speed gun. Little Alne team also trained up. Once again many thanks are due to Sue and Ian Millard
- **Community Pay Back Team.** GAPC, Church, School, Memorial Hall all benefitted from the very high quality workmanship and attention to detail
- **Christmas and Easter hampers.** Organised by Clerk and Councillor Francis. Thanks are due to them, to donors and to the School
- **The Mother Huff Cap.** The Parish Council has supported the pub in getting them engaged in several community events. MHC team's involvement contributed significantly to these events' success.
- **Switched both GAPC bank accounts from HSBC to Unity Trust banking**
- **Climate Action Group up and running**

- **Worked with Kier Utilities on planning works for the upgraded electricity cable through the village**
- **Significant treeworks done in The Plantation with WPD to enable access to power cables**
- **GAPC now a food bank partner and can distribute food bank vouchers**
- **Housing Needs Survey undertaken**

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Follow up results of Housing Needs Survey**

**Climate change action group forging ahead. Aim is to produce action plan by the Autumn**

**Street Light replacement programme**

**Continue with Chatty Café and Huff Space**

**Establish more volunteer groups**

## **AND FINALLY**

**Thanks to residents, my fellow councillors and particularly our clerk Kyla Brown, for great support throughout the year.**

**Lynn Bowring**

**Chairman, Great Alne Parish Council**

**May 2023**