

Meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne, B49 6HX

PRESENT	Councillors Mr L Bowring, Mr P Clark, Mrs D Francis and once co-opted, Mrs L Bennett 12 members of the public in attendance.
1. CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR	<p>The Chairman introduced Mrs Louise Bennett to the councillors and those present at the meeting and explained that Mrs Bennett was going to be co-opted as a parish councillor following a successful application process. Mrs Bennett was previously a councillor for GAPC, so the Chair was delighted to welcome her back. The Chair proposed Mrs Bennett as a councillor and this was seconded by Cllrs Clark and Francis. Mrs Bennett was duly co-opted.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the Duty of Acceptance of Office Form had been completed by Cllr Bennett and also the Declaration of Interests form which would be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer at SDC within the required 28 days.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Action: The Clerk to forward Cllr Bennett's form to the Monitoring Officer. [The Clerk has completed this action].</p> </div>
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Apologies received from Cllr Ian Millard and Cllr Kerridge. The Clerk did not receive a response about the meeting from Cllr Holmes.
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	The Chair declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 5a).
4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES	<p>Minutes from the January 2024 Parish Council Meeting minutes were approved by the Councillors.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>ACTION: to be signed by the Chairman and filed by the Clerk.</p> </div>
5.	<u>OPEN FORUM</u>
5a. Representations from residents	<p>The Clerk confirmed there had been two representations from residents before the meeting and there were three residents in attendance who wished to raise an issue. The Chairman addressed those first.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Query regarding extent of mowing of verges on Henely Road.</u> The resident enquired whether the grounds maintenance team are required to mow the verge past the east entrance to GAP, up past the East Lodge property. It has not been done recently and is need of mowing. The Clerk said she would check the map for the grass cutting and email the resident to confirm.

	<p><i>ACTION: Clerk to check the mowing map and confirm.</i></p> <p>[Having checked the mowing map attached to the grounds maintenance contract, the Clerk followed up with Limebridge to confirm that they should be mowing that verge past the East Lodge and asked them to ensure it was done when the team were next on site. Limebridge confirmed they would. The Clerk emailed the resident to confirm.]</p> <p>2). <u>Damage to grass verge during Appleby Close resurfacing.</u> The resident stated that during the recent roadworks, one of the contractor's trucks reversed onto the grass at GAKMH and churned up the grass. The Clerk said she would liaise with GAKMH and if necessary, revert to WCC about the damage.</p> <p><i>ACTION: The Clerk to email GAKMH about this issue and if so, revert to WCC Highways.</i></p> <p>The Clerk emailed GAKMH. The Chairman was aware of the deep ruts in the grass at the front of the hall (and elsewhere on closer inspection) and suspected it was the contractors doing the resurfacing. However, as all vehicles were gone there was no way of proving they were responsible. Some of the ruts on the grass have been filled but they are still deep in places. We feel that as we cannot prove it, we cannot revert to WCC on this occasion. However, in future, we need to monitor any contractors who use the hall for parking.</p> <p>A second resident added that the same thing happened when Orbit's contractors were installing scaffolding along School Road. Orbit need to speak to their contractors about taking care on the soft verges as they are not very careful when working on site.</p> <p>3). <u>Parking at the Mother Huff Cap.</u> A resident living near to the pub noted that the car park is often full and customers regularly park on the road. This is especially the case on a Thursday evening for quiz night.</p> <p><i>ACTION: The Clerk will speak to the pub to see if they can suggest an alternative parking plan for customers.</i></p> <p>4.) <u>Protruding hedge on pavement along Henley Road.</u> Cllr Francis commented that prior to the meeting, a resident has raised this issue again. The hedge is overgrown and is protruding over the pavement, resulting in residents having to walk on the muddy grass verge. People with mobility aids or pushing a buggy have no choice but to go on the grass verge.</p> <p>The Chair noted he was unable to comment on this representation as the owners of the hedge are his neighbours. However, he noted that the hedge is extremely old and there is a risk that if it is cut back too hard it could die. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the residents to see what can be done about the hedge – preferably with the benefit of some expert guidance.</p>
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ACTION: The Clerk will take advice from an expert on hedges – tree surgeon etc and will liaise with the residents about the hedge – specifically ask what their plan is for addressing the accessibility issues for other residents.

The Clerk has had a very constructive and amenable meeting with the residents and discussed a plan. She will report back at the next PC Meeting.

5). Scarlett Tiger Moths. The Clerk reported that a number of residents were concerned about the welfare of the Scarlett Tiger Moths/ caterpillars in the comfrey plants outside a property on Henley Road. Small wooden signs have been installed asking for the plants not be cut – but these had been removed repeatedly. The residents were seeking the PC's clarification on who manages the verge and whether the comfrey plants could be left for the caterpillars.

The Clerk confirmed she had liaised with the owner of the property behind the verge. The verge is WCC Highways land which is mowed as part of GAPC's grounds maintenance contract. If the resident wished to maintain that parcel of land they could, but it would be their responsibility. GAPC would recommend they leave the comfrey plants for the caterpillars for the period of time they need them, ie before cutting them. This is in keeping with GAPC's climate action agenda and biodiversity aims. GAPC is happy to maintain the land but will be leaving the comfrey plants in situ and will ask the grounds maintenance team to mow round them. The Clerk noted she had also asked the residents to cut the overhanging tree branches over the pavement so that the tree canopy is at the required safe level of 2.4 metres.

**5b. Alcester South
SNT & crime statistics
update**

The Clerk noted that fortunately there had not been any reports specific to Great Alne in the last few weekly reports from the Alcester SNT. Most of the issues in Alcester and surrounding villages are related to vehicle crime and ASB.

The Clerk reminded residents that at the Community Action Day on 2 March, the Rural Crime advisers had provided GAPC with a crime prevention box full of tools and gadgets and devices to provide residents with anti crime measures. The Clerk is custodian of the box and residents are welcome to borrow items, with a view to trying them out before purchasing their own. Items in the box include:

- Keypad door/ window alarms,
- Vibration/shock sensor alarms,
- PIR sensor alarms,
- Personal torch alarm with high intensity light,
- property marking kits,
- key hiding devices,
- faraday pouches,
- TV simulators,
- Timer switches,
- and much more!

The Clerk encouraged residents to contact her at greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com if they would like to borrow anything from the crime prevention box.

The Clerk also reminded residents that the Alcester SNT hold police surgeries monthly in Great Alne in the car park of GAKMH at 9/9.30am:

Wednesday 8th May
Wednesday 12th June
Wednesday 17th July

<p>5c. County Councillor's Report</p>	<p>Wednesday 21st August Wednesday 25th September Wednesday 30th October Wednesday 4th December</p> <p>Please note that due to the nature of policing a surgery could be cancelled at very short notice.</p> <p>Cllr Justin Kerridge was unable to attend the PC meeting but had confirmed to the Clerk that he had nothing to report other than what GAPC is already aware of. Communication between GAPC and WCC officers is good and Cllr Kerridge will continue to facilitate better communication where necessary – and encouraged GAPC to let him know if he can be of any assistance.</p> <p><i>[Following the meeting, Cllr Kerridge responded to a query raised about his delegated Highways Fund and confirmed that this transport budget could not be used for a Greenway feasibility study.]</i></p>
<p>5d. District Councillor's Report</p>	<p>The Clerk has not received an update from Cllr Holmes for this meeting so will contact him after the meeting to ensure there is a full update at the May meeting.</p>
<p>5e. GAKMH parish councillor representative's report</p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that there is nothing of significance to report from GAKMH. The Auction for the sale of the former social club is on 27th March, so update to follow at the next meeting.</p>
<p>5f. Update on Great Alne Park</p>	<p>Cllr Francis provided the following update from GAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The showhome is nearing completion and is set to be handed over on the 5th of April. This is a significant milestone for the project and will showcase the quality and vision of IVG's development. • In addition to this, soft landscaping has commenced, adding the finishing touches to the surroundings of the plot. The rest of the development remains on schedule, and completion on target for late summer or early autumn as planned. • The shop steering group has been working diligently on arranging for the shop to open. IVG is excited about the prospect of having this amenity available not only for the GAP community but also for the wider Great Alne community. It is hoped it will be up and running within the coming weeks, enhancing the convenience and appeal of the area. • Regarding the travel plan, there are no updates to share at the moment. However, a copy has been requested from IVG management and any further information will be shared. • The General manager has raised the issue regarding lighting on the east entrance monoliths within IVG team for discussion with SDC.
<p>5g. Climate Action Group update</p>	<p>The Climate Action Group has been busy working in its project groups and preparing their applications for funding from SDC's Community Climate Change Fund for the following proposed projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EV charging point in the village; • Flood mitigation measures;

<p>6.</p> <p>a. Streetlighting – update on transition to LEDs</p> <p>b. Bins- update on GAKMH black bin</p> <p>c. Highways - Appleby Close and Pelham Lane</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water provision in the park for future community planting projects; • Feasibility study for a Greenway between Great Alne and Alcester. <p>Having successfully met the criteria at Expressions of Interest stage for all four proposed projects, we are keen to hear in May whether any of our full submissions have been successful. We will feed back at the next meeting once we have the feedback.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p><u>General Maintenance Update</u></p> <p>The Clerk is still pushing for the final outstanding jobs to be completed so this project can be signed off by WCC. The Clerk has been chasing for an update, but the feedback is slow. There are a couple of wooden pole lanterns to replace with LEDs and one street column with lamp that has some technical issues with its electrical cables being encased in concrete. Two contractors are required to deal with this and will be managed by WCC. This is located on Nightingale Close.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that an invoice for completed works to date has been provided by WCC and been paid – which means the UKSPF funding received from SDC has been allocated as per the project application – and GAPC’s financial commitments have been met.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that SDC finally agreed that the black bin outside the hall had been installed by them - and they would replace it on account of it’s demolition by a lorry at the end of last year. SDC were aiming to install it before Easter. The Clerk has notified GAKMH.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that although the potholes on Pelham Lane had been attended to by WCC, they had been badly repaired. There was a significant amount of negative feedback on Facebook from residents about the quality and poor workmanship. The Clerk used this information and the images to email the WCC Highways officers that she has been working with on flooding issues. The officers were disappointed to hear the feedback and confirmed that the failed repairs had been referred to the delivery team to take up with the contractor; as although these repairs were temporary, it was a quality of works issue. A further number of temporary repairs for more potholes on Pelham Lane have been raised following the officer’s site visit and these will be repaired shortly.</p> <p>The officer also confirmed that plans are in discussion for a scheme for carriageway and drainage repairs on Pelham Lane. WCC is aware that there is an area of carriageway that has washed away significantly and requires building back up and the carriageway repairing alongside it. This is going to be a very expensive scheme, so WCC is in the process of getting external quotes for how to best repair this in a long-lasting way, whilst also providing value for money. In the meantime, cones and barriers will be placed out to warn oncoming drivers of the potential hazard. There is no exact date for these repairs yet, as plans are still ongoing, however this is going to be a top priority this financial year and GAPC will be updated accordingly.</p> <p>The Highways officers will continue to monitor this road on a regular basis and continue to arrange for these temporary repairs until the scheme can be carried out. Although temporary repairs are not ideal, they are necessary in order to keep the network safe until the above scheme can be completed.</p>
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<p>d. Footpaths survey and WCC's ROWIP</p>	<p>Councillor Francis provided the following update:</p> <p><i>As the Councillor with responsibility for the Footpath project, here is my first update.</i></p> <p><i>The purpose of the survey is to get a snapshot and a register of the condition of the paths and the accessibility of the paths from the perspective of different users.</i></p> <p><i>As you may know, the lead volunteer, Bob L'arbey, has been instrumental in getting the processes and paperwork in place so that we can get started. Without him we wouldn't be where we are now, and I'd like to thank him. Bob will take a couple of minutes after my update to give you some further information.</i></p> <p><i>The Footpath survey steering group have had two meetings since our last parish council meeting – one on 26 Feb and then last week on 19 March. Bob and I have also had a meeting with the former Chair of Salford Priors PC, who shared some important insight on getting this kind of project live. His PC focused on the signage rather than the condition of the paths or accessibility – they had a budget of £15,000 S106 money which they spent to complete their path signage project in three years. Alan had some good tips for us – one being having our website hosted on Parish Online and another good tip from Alan was to put each path's identity number at the entrances to each path so that any issues can be easily reported by the public. We may call upon Alan in future to attend one of our public meetings to talk about his experiences.</i></p> <p><i>Alan found Richard Barnard from Warwickshire County Council, who is the footpath officer but the only one for the whole of Warwickshire, a very useful ally. Kyla met with Richard at the end of January where he confirmed that the S 106 contribution from Inspired towards our footpaths is £10,000. However, the priority paths are the AL100 and the AL 195 as these are the ones considered to be of most benefit to the residents of Great Alne Park. The funding can be spent on other footpaths within the vicinity and the money is held by WCC Footpaths. Richard confirmed that styles, gates, hedges and fences belong to and are the responsibility of landowners so we will meet with the landowners as soon as we can.</i></p> <p><i>Our intention is to have 4 teams, each with a team leader, and we are having our first meeting with some of those volunteers tomorrow night to discuss and flesh out our suggested ways of carrying out the surveys. The teams will not only assess and score the current accessibility/condition of each path but also consider what the score could potentially be with improvement. The assessors will also look at how well the paths are signposted.</i></p> <p><i>Richard has supplied a map of the parish with all the footpaths on it and we have had 4 maps made - one for each team – so that each of our team leaders has a specific section to work on with their volunteers. We do already have the beginnings of a volunteer group – but we are looking for more.</i></p> <p><i>Very timely for our project is WCC's online ROWIP (Rights of Way Improvement Plan) survey. WCC is asking for the opinions of the public on their experience of using the public rights of way and how important they are to you. They also want to know why people aren't using the public rights of way so if anyone here is interested, the questionnaire is open until the 7th of April so come and speak to me and I'll give you the website address.</i></p> <p><i>We have completed the survey from the PC's perspective and have put as our top 3 priorities that need improvement: improved waymarking along routes (directional signs on the route showing you where to go), clearing overgrown paths and removing styles or replacing them with gates to make paths more accessible.</i></p> <p><i>So- lots to do but we are really pleased to have already made a start.</i></p>
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	<p>Bob L'arbey added that the Footpaths Team are prioritising the funding for certain issues such as signposting. We have a good group of volunteers to do the footpath survey, but we need to find a few more. Bob also added that all the documentation has been drafted for the volunteers and a set of metrics has been prepared for the assessment.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked both Cllr Francis and Bob L'arbey and said the response to the consultation on behalf of GAPC was good and very helpful. This is something GAPC has been wanting to do for a long time. The Chair mentioned that we had first looked at Parish Online about 18 months ago and had a demonstration. Although it looked very good and extremely useful, at the time it offered more functionality than what GAPC might need it for. However, 18 months later and we are now in a different position on many fronts eg streetlighting, highways, drainage and now footpaths, so this would definitely be something to take another look at.</p> <p>The Chairman added that he had also had contact with Alcester Town Council to initiate a discussion with them about our proposal for a Great Alne to Alcester Greenway. And this would tie in nicely with the work on our footpath network.</p>
<p>e. Community Speed Watch / Road Safety Update</p>	<p>In Cllr Millard's absence, the Clerk updated the council with confirmation that the purchase had been made of the Bushnell Speed Camera and hard case. The Clerk has also had a conversation with PC Gary Strain who has replaced PC Bratley as our area officer in charge of road safety and CSW. We are hoping to arrange a meeting with the volunteers, team leaders and PC Strain so that he can show them how best to use the Bushnell camera and the most effective way of reporting any speeding issues via the new centralised reporting system.</p> <p>The Clerk has also asked him to authorise two new locations in Great Alne for the CSWG – one being along Sernal Lane and the other being the approach road to school following concerns raised about speeding and dangerous driving at both locations (which was also supported by the recent speeding surveys).</p> <p>On this later point, the Clerk confirmed that the Alcester SNT are planning to do more regular patrols near the school at drop off and collection time, due to the reports of dangerous driving and speeding near the school crossing. We are also liaising with school about how best to report these incidents to the WCC Road Safety Team.</p>
<p>6b.</p> <p>a. Treeworks</p> <p>b. Update on gate and post work required at Henley Road entrance</p> <p>c. Park signage update</p>	<p><u>Recreation Ground and defibrillator</u></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the treeworks in the park along the north boundary had been completed by the tree surgeon. The work on the ash tree at the Henley Road entrance will be undertaken once it has started to come into leaf; when the tree surgeon can ascertain its shape. The neighbour at 12 School Road will be notified when we have a date. They have received notification that the treeworks are pending.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that we have received a quote from a contractor to fix the smaller pedestrian access gate for which approval is being sought at agenda item 6p) below. However, there is the possibility that a group of local residents might be prepared to fix the gate. GAPC will need to pay for materials but there will be no labour costs. The Clerk is still liaising with those concerned and will report back to the councillors.</p> <p>Now that we have feedback from WALC on the position with metal detectorists in the park, we can look at getting new signage for both entrances to the park. The Clerk will take this forward.</p>

<p>d. Summer park events</p>	<p>The Clerk has recently had a meeting with the operators of the Mother Huff Cap who are planning to run various events in the recreation ground over the summer including Friday evening rounders, music and comedy events and an open-air cinema.</p> <p>The Clerk has written confirmation over email from the councillors that they have no objections to these plans in the park provided that: the pub ensure all litter is cleared up afterwards; only plastic glasses are used in the park; the events do not finish too late in the evening; and the opinions of residents neighbouring the park are canvassed and considered. The pub is happy with these conditions and will take the planning forward, as well as speaking to residents.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>MAIN BUSINESS</p> <p><u>For Information:</u></p>
<p>7a. Proposed sites for affordable housing - update</p>	<p>The Chairman welcomed Sarah Brooke-Taylor (SBT), our WRCC Rural Housing Enabler who had joined the meeting. SBT confirmed that the list of five proposed sites had been shared at the Community Action Day on 2 March. Residents attending the event had filled in a voting slip identifying their preferred sites in order of preference. SBT referred to GAPC's website, where a dedicated page to the affordable housing proposals has been created for residents to view regular updates. The cut off for comments on this stage of the consultation is 8th April [<i>NB – this was later extended to 29 April to allow for circulation of a hard copy newsletter for those unable to attend the Community Action Day and those not online to see the updates on Facebook etc.</i>]</p> <p>SBT added that at the event on 2nd March, she was approached by a landowner whose land had not been considered in the original site investigation. SBT has subsequently provided all the same information to this landowner as was provided to the others, and she will feed back to GAPC on progress with this.</p> <p>SBT also commented that one of the sites feedback forms received from a resident contained a map with potential alternative sites. SBT said that 2 of the alternative sites identified were already included in the 5 proposed sites and 2 of them did not have landowner support.</p> <p>SBT will continue writing up her report for GAPC on the basis of the voting forms received. After this stage if there are other sites suggested, these can be put forward. SBT can then prepare a new list of short-listed sites and ask GAPC which ones they would like WRCC to consider. There will then be another public event and consultation – ie ensuring the community has ample opportunity to comment, engage and vote. GAPC is keen to ensure that everyone in the parish who wants to comment has the opportunity to do so.</p> <p>SBT said this effectively means we will be going back to where we were last summer as there will be new potential sites to consider. This process did not start with all original sites that were identified- but to the extent the landowners might now be interested, these will be included in a new list.</p> <p>The Chair thanked SBT for coming to the meeting and for her support and guidance. He said that GAPC will firm up its communication / consultation strategy. There will be a Zoom call between councillors at the end of April to take stock of where we are and how we can best take it forward.</p> <p>The Chair also reiterated that GAPC wants this process to be as open and transparent as possible for everybody and we do not want people to be unnecessarily alarmed. GAPC needs to be aware of what's happening, and how, and for views to be shared.</p> <p>One resident noted that the existing 5 potential sites were very different in size. If say, another 5 proposed locations are added then that will lead to a very disconcerted village.</p>

<p>b. Affordable Housing website page</p>	<p>SBT confirmed that at the Community Action Day, she had explained that initial discussions had centred around a one-acre plot of land. The map of sites shows an outline indication of the sort of locations being looked at; not the size of the land that would be needed. At this point we do not know exactly how much land or where that land will be. The answer to these questions will depend on where the community would prefer to see the development being built.</p> <p>The Chair also responded to the resident and said he understood the resident's concern. We all like living in Great Alne but it is not a museum. The village needs to enlarge and evolve. GAPC is leading the initiative so that we can try to do it on our terms rather than SDC's or external developers' terms. This is not a determinable exercise due to the uncertainty. We are taking our time and doing it thoroughly and properly to ensure the optimal outcome. It will take the amount of time it takes to do a proper job, but the Chair appreciates the importance of not adding unnecessary time to the process.</p> <p>Further to SBT's presentation, the Clerk confirmed that a dedicated page has been set up on the GAPC website so that residents have a source of regular and accurate information on any developments and updates. This page can be found by going to the home page of GAPC website and on the left hand side menu there is a link to Rural Affordable Housing in Great Alne: https://www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk/rural-affordable-housing-in-great-alne.cfm?source=left</p>
<p>c. Flooding update</p>	<p>In Cllr Millards absence, the Clerk provided the update.</p> <p>GAPC has been working hard for progress on the various avenues it is exploring to help mitigate, alleviate and prevent the flooding incidents in Great Alne. We are pursuing regular updates from WCC on planned highways works; getting onto regular cycles for gullies and drain jetting and clearance. GAPC is also working with WCC to see how we can most effectively help the farmers with traffic management so that they can easily do the proposed ditch work. We are planning another meeting next month with the farmers to discuss next steps and to get their views on some of the issues encountered.</p> <p>The Flood Action Group (FLAG) volunteers are cataloguing the assets in the parish – ie referencing all the drains in the main village (all 119 of them) and identifying each one on a 'traffic light' system. Red ones are being reported to WCC for action. The FLAG is also mapping culverts and ascertaining which ones are blocked, plus ditches. A few volunteers have even been working hard digging out sections of ditches on Spernal Lane to aid the water flow.</p> <p>We are also obtaining quotes from third parties for tasks such as CCTV investigation into blocked culverts and jetting of gullies on a more regular cycle than WCC can provide. We are also looking into training for our FLAG volunteers by WCC so that they have the required safety standard for working roadside on ditches and drains. We will be having another FLAG meeting in early April to take this forward with our volunteers and to ensure that all the drains are 'adopted' for maintenance.</p> <p>We are also still working with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on natural flood measures and will be hopefully meeting with The Woodland Trust in April to discuss their area next to the river.</p> <p>GAPC has reported the works done next to Coffee Pot Wood to the SDC enforcement team as we are concerned that the work undertaken may interfere with the water flow in this flood plain. We will continue to chase for feedback.</p>

	<p>As reported at Section 5g above, the Climate Action Group, in conjunction with the FLAG are working on a funding application for £4,000 to roll out community-led flood alleviation measures as part of SDC's Community Climate Change Fund. GAPC has pledged to match fund this with £1,000. We will report back at the next meeting with progress.</p>
<p>d. Speeding data following recent speeding surveys</p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that WCC now has all the speeding survey data (again) after it was sent through to them in January. The lead officer at WCC has confirmed that it will be analysed and that they will also be looking at speeding issues near to Great Alne School and at the bottom of Sernal Lane.</p>
<p>e. Fly tipping update</p>	<p>After the unsuccessful attempt by a private company to access and remove the waste dumped off the bridge at Ford Lane, the SDC officer has contacted the Clerk to confirm that there is a new contract farmer looking after the land and as soon as it is safe to do so (ie dry enough), he proposes to access the location and remove the waste material himself.</p>
<p>f. Community orchard planting update</p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that a delivery of 250 whips was due to arrive at her address this week. With the help of a Climate Action Group volunteer, these whips would be heeled in to raised veg beds over the summer with a view to planting next autumn. The Clerk and Chair will be setting up a meeting with the WCC Forestry team very soon about the possibility of funding for a community orchard in the recreation ground.</p>
<p>g. Feedback following the Community Action Day</p>	<p>The event was extremely well attended with an estimated 250+ residents attending. Both residents and those exhibiting felt it was an extremely worthwhile day and there was lots of information shared and new connections made. There were plenty of opportunities to recruit new volunteers for various community activities and it was a chance for GAPC to share with residents the work it has been doing on climate change, flooding and affordable housing with the WRCC.</p> <p>The Rural Crime Advisers have provided a crime prevention box which the Clerk is custodian of (see agenda item 5b. above) and residents are welcome to contact the Clerk if there are any devices in there that will be useful to them.</p> <p>The event was followed by the informal parish assembly at 2pm which was also very well attended.</p>
<p>h. Newsletter after Easter</p>	<p>An update on the Community Action Day event will be included in the next GAPC newsletter for those residents who were unable to attend. The newsletter will also contain details on the proposed sites for affordable housing as well as a list of devices residents can borrow from the Rural Crime Advisers crime prevention box.</p>
<p>i. Auction of the former social club</p>	<p>The building is scheduled to be auctioned by Cottons on 27th March 2024. Further updates will be provided at the next meeting.</p>
<p>j. Donation to school to cover cost of skip</p>	<p>The Clerk has received a request from school to assist with a donation to cover the cost of a skip to enable a clear out to prepare a new music library for the children (and the wider</p>

<p>k. Grass cutting at GAKMH</p>	<p>community). The Councillors confirmed their approval in writing over email to the request. The Clerk will follow up with the school on how best to cover the payment.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting at which the councillors agreed to pay the requested grass cutting contribution to GAKMH for the coming season, GAPC has received a letter of thanks from the hall committee.</p>
<p>l. Update on winter warm hubs</p>	<p>The Clerk provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatty Café – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We continue to be keen to welcome guest speakers – and in early April we are looking forward to welcoming the Deputy Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner. ii. The WRCC grant of £500 to cover the cost of a free lunch for residents comes to an end at the end of March. We have had an increase in number of those attending since we have been offering the free lunch, and since Cllr Francis and Clerk gave the presentation to residents of GAP in January. a) Huff space – The session on 2nd March was cancelled due to the Community Action Day and Parish Assembly taking place the same day. The following session on 6 April will take place at The Heart of England Forest where we will be going for a nature walk and hunting for bats!
<p>m. Clerk’s appraisal in January</p>	<p>The Clerk had her annual appraisal and contract review in January with the Chair. They discussed workstreams and performance over the last year and future plans. Both the Chair and the Clerk are very happy with how the last year has gone and there were no issues raised by either party.</p>
<p>n. Internal finance check</p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Millard carried out the internal finance check on 21 February 2024. There were no areas of concern, or any issues raised.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she was working with Alcester Town Council and Bearley PC on sharing a cyber cover insurance policy with Clear Councils.</p>
<p>o. VAT reclaim for 2023</p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that the VAT reclaim (s126) had been submitted to HMRC at the end of January and the sum of £1,690.90 was received into GAPC’s Unity Trust account ending 348 on 28 February.</p>
<p>p. Approval of new quote for park gate</p>	<p><u>FOR DECISION/ APPROVAL</u></p> <p>The Clerk had circulated the quote for repairs and servicing of the pedestrian gate at the park. The councillors approved the quote and were happy to proceed – but subject to seeing whether the volunteer residents were able to carry out the repairs which would be a significant cost saving. The Clerk will take this forward and report back at the next meeting.</p>
<p>q. Decision to be made on new noticeboards</p>	<p>Following significant research on the new noticeboards, liaising with councillors and discussion with GAKMH, the Clerk was pleased to report that there appears to be agreement on the three new noticeboards. The Clerk had circulated the information to the</p>

	<p>councillors prior to the meeting and was seeking approval to order the noticeboards from Greenbarnes as per her email dated 20 March 2024.</p> <p>The councillors approved the purchase of the three noticeboards as per the Clerk's research and information contained in her email dated 20 March 2024. Three quotes now need to be arranged for installation.</p>
<p>r. Decision to be made on Bushnell camera and case</p>	<p>The Clerk reiterated the information about the Bushnell camera for the CSWG. The Clerk had circulated the information to the councillors prior to the meeting. The Councillors had reviewed the information and approved the purchase of the camera and hard case. Cllr Millard had also emailed the Clerk prior to his annual leave, to confirm his approval for this purchase.</p>
<p>s. Decision on Chatty Café funding for free lunch</p>	<p>Following on from agenda item l) above, the Clerk confirmed that the WRCC winter hubs funding that has been providing a free light lunch was ending at the end of March. The Clerk sought councillors' views on whether GAPC should continue to fund the free lunch or revert to complimentary hot drinks and sweet treats. Following discussion, the councillors agreed to fund the hot drinks and sweet treats but not the lunch. We agreed to seek further funding next winter to offer residents a free light lunch again.</p>
<p>t. Expenditure for huff space session at HoEF in April</p>	<p>The Clerk informed Councillors that the huff space session at HEF would cost £90 for the group session on 6 April. Councillors approved the expenditure.</p> <p><u>For discussion:</u></p>
<p>u. Stagecoach X19 bus route – feedback from residents' survey</p>	<p>The Clerk confirmed that following the January meeting, a short survey was circulated in the February newsletter seeking residents' views on the X19 Stagecoach bus and how much they used it. There were only 8 responses to the survey. The main reason for not using the service is there is only one bus stop in the village which is opposite the park- and this is too far away for many residents in Great Alne Park. Also, the service is often unreliable and does not operate frequently enough through Great Alne in the evenings and weekends.</p> <p>Cllr Bennett commented that she had not received the last newsletter with this survey. The Clerk said there had been a few distribution issues, but she would check her records. It could be that not all residents received the newsletter so did not have the opportunity to respond.</p> <p>The Chair commented that WCC is currently undertaking a review of public transport options in the county, so this could be a good opportunity for GAPC to help steer the consultation. It would also be worth following up with Cllr Kerridge regarding the s106 agreement, which provides there should be a minibus for GAP residents for free, and for Great Alne residents for a reasonable charge.</p> <p>It would also be worth exploring the UBus option- we need to explore this underutilised asset for the community and how it works. We could advertise the service and provide a guide for residents on the website and in the newsletters. This would also fit with GAPC's climate action agenda as it is a smaller bus that would be on the public roads.</p> <p>It was agreed that we should look further into the use of the Ubus – Cllr Francis agreed to look into this further. It was also agreed that we would run the survey again once we had</p>

8. Planning applications

further information on alternative transport options or the consultation being undertaken by WCC.

PLANNING

Following the last meeting, GAPC submitted the following responses:

- 24/00041/LBC– submitted a response of ‘No representation’.

Between meetings, GAPC has submitted the following responses:

- a response of ‘no objection’ to planning application 24/00489/TREE – The Spinney.
- Unfortunately, the deadline was just missed to submit a response of ‘no objection’ to 24/00434/TREE – Woodbine Cottage, but the Clerk confirms that SDC Planning Dept approved the treeworks with conditions anyway.

The Clerk noted that it is sometimes difficult to get responses from councillors in good time and th makes it difficult to manage the submission deadlines. Some councils do not submit a response to every planning application, especially treeworks (if they are not in a conservation area). The councillors agreed that if the Clerk was short of comments, the Chair would chase for feedback. The Chair is also going to look at possible different approaches to each category of planning application. In the meantime, it was agreed that the councillors would ideally respond to the Clerk within three working days.

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.

Reference	Received	Status	Address
24/00489/TREE	27/2/2024	Pending Consideration	The Spinney Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HX
24/00434/TREE	20/2/2024	Pending Consideration	Woodbine Cottage Henley Road Great Alne Alcester B49 6HX
24/00241/FUL	31/1/2024	Pending Consideration	Alne Cote School Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HG
24/00242/LBC	31/1/2024	Pending Consideration	Alne Cote School Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HG
24/00041/LBC	8/1/2024	Pending Consideration	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR

23/03414/TREE	19/12/2023	Tree Works Approved	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
23/03299/FUL	7/12/2023	Application Withdrawn	Crocketts Farm Alne Hills Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6JS
23/03066/TEL28	14/11/2023	Comments sent	PCP005 Henley Road Opposite Little Orchard Henley Road Great Alne
23/03039/TREE	13/11/2023	Tree Works Approved	Great Alne And Kinwarton Memorial Hall Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HL
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
23/02882/FUL	25/10/2023	Permission with conditions	The Lodge Henley Road Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6HR
23/02812/VARY	18/10/2023	Pending Consideration	Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground Spernal Lane Great Alne Warwickshire B49 6JG
23/02777/TREE	12/10/2023	Tree Works Approved	Stuart Cottage Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
23/02778/AMD	11/10/2023	Pending Consideration	Maudslay Park Great Alne
23/02474/TREE	13/9/2023	Tree Works Approved	Whitts End Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
23/02421/FUL	11/9/2023	Planning Permission Refused	Alne Park Park Lane Great Alne Alcester B49 6HS
23/02292/TREE	29/8/2023	Tree Works 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/HHPA	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

There are no submissions to be made to SDC following this meeting.

8. Accounts

ACCOUNTS

a. Progress against budget update

The Clerk provided an update on progress against budget. There is nothing of any concern raised. The councillors are satisfied that the budget is in control.

b. Payments for approval

The following is a list of invoices and payments presented for authorisation and paid since the last PC meeting on 23 Jan 2024. The blue cells represent payments currently set up to be authorised by a second bank signatory.

2.2.24	unity payment	Stratford News & Media (Inv KNO00012272) - advert for new c'llor	209.16
7.2.24	unity payment	New Town Printers - newsletter, enclosures, boards and maps	287.20
8.2.24	unity payment	WCC - annual streetlight maintenance recharge - Inv# 10373130	276.05
13.2.24	unity payment	npower Business Solutions (Inv IN09751058 = £157.15 - original	162.62

		invoice #IN09613689 for £162.62).	
14.2.24	unity payment	Clerk's wages for Jan 24	1160.47
14.2.24	unity payment	Clerk's expenses for Jan 24	61.09
14.2.24	unity payment	HMRC payment. E'ers NICS = 64.91. E'ee NICS = £21.65 Inc Tax = £36.00)	115.67
15.02.24	unity payment	WCC - GA streetlight upgrade to LED lanterns and steel columns - Inv # 10373783 (completion to date)	30,495.66
21.02.24	unity payment	WCC - emergency repairs to Gunn Court street column - Inv#10374674	48.97
26.02.24	unity payment	Great Alne Park Management Ltd - Inv #008655	350.00
5.3.24	unity payment	npower business solutions (Inv IN09853990)	137.02
19.3.24	unity payment	Clerk's wages for Feb 24	1838.56
19.3.24	unity payment	Clerk's expenses for Feb 24	131.70
19.3.24	unity payment	HMRC payment. E'ers NICS = £195.83. E'ee NICS = £112.92 Inc Tax = £225.60)	534.34

The payments list was approved by the councillors and there were no queries.

Bank Account Balances @ 29 February: £43,616.34

- Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348: **£17,871.94**
- Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: **£25,744.40**

Money in: £1,690.90 (VAT reclaim for 2023 calendar year).

Transfers: 19 February 2024 - £30,495.66 (being the UKSPF funding plus accumulated reserves to pay for the work to date on the streetlight upgrade project)

The Chair requested the Clerk to transfer the CIL monies received from SDC into GAPC's reserves account.

NB – invoice paid for streetlights included £25,000 UKSPF, £3,300 from accumulated earmarked reserves (ringfenced for streetlighting upgrades), meaning £2,195.66 came out

<p>9. Correspondence since the last PC Meeting</p>	<p>of cashflow to cover the difference. However, we will have a VAT reclaim of £5,082.61 for this invoice.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed the following correspondence had been received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Liaising with WCC and other groups and organisations re flooding b) Correspondence re WRCC warm hubs, funding and training c) Emails about Rights of Way Improvement Plan and footpaths d) Correspondence regarding a community orchard e) Liaising with WCC re streetlight upgrade f) Correspondence with Bearley PC and ATC re cyber insurance policy g) Various correspondence dealing with residents' queries h) Emails re treeworks in the park i) Correspondence re huff space and Chatty Café. j) Correspondence re Climate Action Meeting and various workstreams and meetings k) Alcester SNT Team: weekly police report.
<p>10. Date of the next meeting</p>	<p>Date of next meeting – Tues 21st May 2024 (Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne B49 6HX)</p> <p>The PC meeting will be preceded by the <i>Annual Meeting</i> at 6.00pm. The <i>official Parish Assembly</i> will begin at 6.30pm. There will be a short break before the <i>General Meeting</i> at 7pm.</p> <p>The Clerk noted that we need to set the dates for the remainder of the year at the May meeting.</p> <p>At the end of the meeting...</p> <p>The Chair received a letter of resignation from our longest serving councillor, Mr. Paul Clark on the grounds of ill health. The councillors discussed Paul's incredible achievement to have been a councillor for 47 years and thanked him profusely for his astonishing length of service and his dedication to the community.</p> <p>The following article was subsequently published in the newsletter and WALC news:</p> <p><i>"At the end of our last parish council meeting on 26th March 2024, we received a letter of resignation from our longest serving councillor, Mr. Paul Clark. Paul has been a parish councillor in Great Alne for an astonishing forty-seven years. In this time, he has stood as parish councillor, Chairman and Vice-Chairman and has worked alongside more Clerks than he can remember!</i></p> <p><i>"We are so lucky to have had the benefit of Paul's guidance and experience over the years - all with such professionalism, humor and good grace. On behalf of the remaining parish councillors and all of Great Alne's residents, we would like to thank Paul for his unwavering dedication, loyalty and service to the parish. His contribution to parish life has been truly remarkable and unparalleled; and he will be sorely missed at the top table.</i></p> <p><i>"However, we are not letting him go that easily and are delighted that he has agreed to continue to assist the parish council in various guises, including helping us maintain our recreation ground, defibrillator and managing various maintenance tasks across the village. Thank you, Paul, for everything you have done for Great Alne over the last five decades. We wish you well in your well-earned retirement!"</i></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>The Meeting ended at 9.45pm.</p> <p>*****</p>

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