

GREAT ALNE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Great Alne Parish Council was held at 7pm on Tuesday 17th March 2026 in The Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Great Alne, B49 6HX.

Cllr Bowring asked Cllr Millard to chair the meeting on his behalf

Present

Cllr Lynn Bowring, Cllr Ian Millard, Cllr Julie Gardener
Mrs Gill Forman, Executive Officer for GAPC also attended.

OPEN FORUM AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR

a) Representations from residents (3 mins max per speaker)

Following on from the discussion at the January meeting regarding funding for the Chatty Café after March 2026, Roger Hawkins asked for an update. Cllr Millard asked about attendance at the Chatty Café. Roger Hawkins replied that the numbers were small, but it was a good cause, and he felt that it was definitely worth continuing with the Chatty Café. The cost is £60 per session. The Executive Officer informed Councillors she had not received an invoice from The Mother Huff Cap since November, which was for Octobers Chatty Café. Roger Hawkins will speak to The Mother Huff Cap to inquire if this is an oversight or if they have decided to fund the event themselves. Cllr Millard asked Roger Hawkins to let him know the outcome of that enquiry, so that if funding is still required, he can approach the Parish Charity regarding funding for April 2026 onwards.

b) County Councillor's Report

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that she had emailed Cllr Cooper asking him if he was attending the meeting and if not, could she have a report to read out at the meeting. She has received no reply and no report.

c) District Councillor's Report

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that she had emailed Cllr Holmes asking him if he was attending the meeting and if not, could she have a report to read out at the meeting. She has received no reply and no report.

d) Footpaths Project to include Church Footpath and Handrail

The Executive Officer read out an email received from Rev Katie Cross, which had been forwarded to Councillors earlier in the month. After a discussion Councillors felt that the replacement handrail was not going to happen any time soon, so the £500 which had been allocated by Great Alne Parish Council toward a new handrail should be reallocated to the footpath project as discussed at the January meeting of the Council. The £500 could be used to make a repair to the footpath from Park Lane running parallel with Henley Road. When and if the handrail is to be replaced in the future, Councillors will then consider if they are in a position to make a donation to the project. In Rev Cross's email she asks, "if the Council would be willing to go ahead with a repair of the path in the same material and colour as the existing path" Councillors questioned if the Council she was referring to was Great Alne Parish Council or Warwickshire County Council. Cllrs asked that The Executive Officer clarifies this with Rev Cross. The repair of the path would be costly, and Councillors stated that Great Alne Parish Council do not have the funds to cover this repair. Councillors would support an application by the Church to Warwickshire County Council to complete this repair. It was also suggested that the church contact the local County Councillor, Cllr Luke Cooper to ask for his support and to inquire if he would be able to meet some or all of the cost from his delegated budget.

Action: The Executive Office to reply to Rev Cross's email

e) Shed Project Update

Graham Knight updated Councillors on the project. The original choice of shed was out of stock by the time the planning permission was granted. Another shed was sourced but is now also unavailable. An alternative has been found but it is a different colour to the condition stated in the planning permission. Graham Knight and Cllr Bowring have individually emailed the case officer regarding this issue but have had no reply yet. Councillors hope the issue will be resolved by the next meeting in May.

f) Alcester South SNT update

The Executive Officer reported that there were no updates.

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bennett and Cllr Taylor

2. Declaration of interests in items on this agenda

Cllr Gardner declared her husband was the Lengthsman for the Council. Councillors decided that as this was an ongoing role Cllr Gardner did not need to declare this at meetings going forward.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2026.

Minutes of the January 2026 meeting were approved by Councillors. Cllr Millard signed the minutes.

Action: Minutes to be filed by the Executive Officer

4. Councillors Reports

To receive reports and where required approve action/expenditure

a. Flooding & Highways

Cllr Taylor sent a report for the meeting. Cllr Bowring read out the highlights of the report. WCC had to postpone the works they intended to carry out on Pelham Lane, Cllr Taylor is waiting for a new date for this work to be undertaken. WCC attended the village for emergency drain clearance during January and February. WCC attended Spernal Lane/Appleby Drive junction to clear the drains and the culvert, however torrential rain on the 7th of February caused severe flooding in the area. Kevin Mount from WCC will be undertaking a full review of all works completed in this location and look at potential works going forward. WCC carried out major road works at the junction of Coughton Fields lane and the B4089, plus works on the S bend at Alne Cote Cottage. Ditches were excavated, headwalls have been constructed, work was carried out on the culverts and new pipes were installed. WCC attended Park Lane to investigate/clear drains focusing on the drains around the junction with Stoat Lane. The drain RAG status as at the 20th of February were 115 Green, 0 Amber, 3 Red. The red drains were reported.

Councillors thanked Cllr Taylor for his report.

b. Community Speed Watch/Road Safety next steps

Cllr Millard reported there was no update, and no speed watch sessions had taken place. He hoped now the weather was improving sessions would commence.

c. GAKMH update

Cllr Millard reported that the AGM will be on the 20th of May and the village BBQ will be on the 3rd of July.

d. Recreation Ground e. Defibrillator f. Coronation Copse and Community Orchard

Cllr Bennett sent a report for the meeting. Cllr Bowring read out the highlights of the report. The weather is holding up the repair of the picnic bench and the treatment of the play equipment and the surfaces in the toddler area. One of the lily pads has been identified as damaged/rotten. The Executive Officer informed Councillors that the hexaboard to complete the repair had been delivered to the lengthsman that day. The lengthsman investigated the purchase of a petrol-powered pressure washer for the cleaning of the play equipment, but due to the cost Councillors decided it was more cost effective to hire a pressure washer when required.

Due to staff changes at CHT the Council is still awaiting confirmation/clarification of the support package for the defibrillator. The Executive Officer informed Councillors she had been chasing this up with CHT.

The water tower is full. The plaque for former Cllr Paul Clark's tree has been refurbished.

Councillors thanked Cllr Bennett for her report.

g. Great Alne Primary School update

Cllr Bowring reported to Councillors there was a meeting held at the school on the 24th of February which was attended by senior officers of WCC, the WCC portfolio holder and our County Councillor Luke Cooper. The meeting was well attended by residents who are passionate to keep the school open. WCC officers stated that the financial position of the school is not sustainable. Cllr Bowring informed Councillors he had written to WCC explaining the views of the Councillors of Great Alne Parish Council. A decision will be taken by WCC Cabinet on the 16th of April.

h. GAPC Website update

Cllr Bowring reported they is no update on the project.

i. Local Governance Reform update

Cllr Bowring reported to Councillors that there was nothing new to report. WCC and SDC have made their cases to the Government. The public consultation is open until the 26th of March Cllr Bowring encouraged fellow Councillors and resident to respond to the consultation.

j. Climate Action Group update

Cllr Bowring reported a meeting of the group was held on the 28th of January. The group is reviewing the progress made against the action plan, which is now 2 years old. A second meeting will be required to finish the review.

k. Former Social Club update

Cllr Millard reported that the work to the social club was ongoing despite there being no planning permission. The door between the hall and the social club building has now been bricked up. Rubbish outside remains and issue and nothing has improved on the exterior of the building.

5. Anti-bullying and Harassment Policy

Cllr Bowring has circulated the draft policy to Councillors. Councillors had not had time to review the policy so it was decided to carry this forward to the next meeting.

6. Replacement of Great Alne Parish Council Mobile Phone

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that the current mobile phone operates on 3G, which has been turned off. Therefore, the Executive Officer asked for approval to purchase a replacement mobile phone at a cost of £69.00 including £10.00 of phone top up. This expenditure was agreed by Councillors.

Action: The Executive Officer to purchase a new mobile phone

7. Grass Cutting at Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that the 4 Green Bin Subscriptions from SDC were due at a cost of £50.00 each, and that last year the Parish Council purchased the 4 subscriptions and then recharged the Memorial Hall for 2 subscriptions. Martyn Davey a Chairman of the Memorial Hall has agreed to repeat this arrangement this year. Councillors approved the expenditure and the recharge.

Action: The Executive Office to purchase 4 Green Bin subscriptions and invoice the Memorial hall for 2 subscriptions

The Executive Office also asked the Councillors to approve asking Kinwarton Parish Council for a contribution to the grass cutting at Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall for the 2026/27 season. Councillors approved the sum of £450.00 for Kinwarton Parish Council's contribution.

Action: The Executive Officer to invoice Kinwarton parish

8. Accessibility Statement

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that the Parish Council website required an updated Accessibility Statement, version 2.2AA standard. This is to comply with assertion 10 on the AGAR. Councillors approved the Accessibility Statement. The Executive Officer also informed Councillors that the Information Commissions Office registration certificate was also required to be posted on the website for assertion 10, and that this had now been posted on the website.

9. Planning applications

Between meetings, GAPC has submitted the following responses (further to email meetings):

- Application reference: 26/00133/FUL and 26/00134/LB. Swingletree, Manor Court, Great Alne, Alcester.B49 6HR. Replacing existing windows. All the windows in the house and conservatory need replacing. They are currently poor quality double glazed with a wooden surround. The proposal is to replace the windows with high quality double glazing and PVCU flush sash to match our neighbour at the Trap House. **NO OBJECTION**
- Application reference: 26/00019/FUL. Martingales Canada Barns Coughton Fields Lane Coughton Alcester B49 6BX. For the installation of an air sourced heat pump. **NO OBJECTION**
- Application reference: 26/00389/Tree The White House, Henley Road, Great Alne, Alcester B49 6HR Proposed : - T1 sycamore - Fell- T2 beech – Fell. **NO REPRESENTATION**
- Application reference: 26/00178/FUL. Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester B49 6JR. Retention of timber and steel observation cabin at top of gallop, with amended design and associated land allocated for biodiversity net gain and draft proposals for the planting of this area **NO REPRESENTATION**

Councillors noted the responses

10. Accounts

a) Progress against budget report

The Executive Officer reported to Councillors that progress against budget is on track for the year.

b) Accounts information

Councillors approved the report provided by the Executive Officer for the Payment of Accounts from 1st of January to 28th of February 2026

c) Update on credit card application

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that she now had the credit card.

- Bank Account Balances @ 28th February 2026:
 - Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348: £3081.52
 - Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: £36196.19

Councillors noted the account balances.

11. Date and venue of next meeting.

The GAPC Annual meeting will take place at 6pm on Wednesday the 13th of May in The Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park

The GAPC Parish Assembly meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday the 13th of May in The Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park

The next GAPC General meeting will take place on Monday the 18th of May in The Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

DRAFT