

GREAT ALNE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of **Great Alne Parish Council** was held at **7pm on Tuesday 14th July 2026 in The Conservatory, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Great Alne, B49 6HX** for the purposes of transacting the following business.

Present

Cllr I Millard, Cllr I Taylor, Cllr L Bennett, Cllr J Gardner
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)

Several residents who attended the meeting raised concerns over the condition of the church grounds. The comments included "the grass was overgrown in several places, it was difficult to get to certain graves, the paths were not clear, areas had been left to grow wild to encourage wildlife which was not suitable for areas with graves". Cllr Millard informed residents that the church grounds were the responsibility of the church and the PCC. Cllr Millard stated that he would write to the PCC on behalf of the Parish Council raising the resident's concerns.

A resident who attended the meeting raised concerns that the grass verge on Henley Road near the Cricket Club had not been cut this year. A resident a week ago spoke to Cllr Millard regarding the grass verge in Appleby Close, this also has not been cut. Cllr Bennett explained that we had new contractors this year for mowing of the park and the grass verges, and that she is in the process of reviewing with the contractor the areas that they are mowing. Cllr Bennett is in the process of arranging a meeting with the contractor which will take place in the village enabling both parties to be clear on the areas to be mowed.

The Executive Officer informed Councillors she has received a written representation for a resident concerning the footpath from Park Lane to the back of the Church. The resident stated that the footpath is impassable due to overgrown vegetation on either side – not just foliage but pyracanthas which was particularly thorny. Cllrs agreed to write to the owners of the properties concerned asking them to cut back the vegetation.

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that she has been copied into an email sent to the owners of The Huff Cap complaining about a group of customers using the pub garden and their anti-social behaviour. Cllr Taylor reported that he had witnessed the incident concerned and had spoken to the owners of the Huff Cap in person.

b) County Councillor's Report

The Executive Officer informed Councillors that she had received apologies from County Councillor Luke Cooper

c) District Councillor's Report

Cllr Millard introduced our new District Councillor Janine Lee. Cllr Lee stated that she will be holding monthly surgeries, but Councillors and residents could contact her at any time to raise issues, concerns or to ask for help.

d) Shed Project Update

The shed has been erected, shelving has been installed and there is a padlock on the door. A notice has been placed on Facebook advising for free the slabs that are not needed, if no one wants them a skip will be ordered to dispose of them.

e) Alcester South SNT update

The Executive Officer informed the meeting that the following evening, Wednesday the 15th of July between 7pm and 8pm at Alcester Police Station there is a Crime Prevention Event.

f) Huff Space

Cllr Gardner asked Councillors if they felt there was a need or a want to resurrect the Huff Space for the children of the village. Historically the Huff Space was held once a month for a couple of hours aimed at children under 18 at the Huff Cap. A nominal amount was charged and games and pizzas were provided. Sometimes they would move onto the playing field to play games. Attendance was 5 and 10 children. Cllr Gardner stated that the original volunteers still had valid DBS checks and have indicated that they are willing to volunteer again. Cllrs felt they need to know what the uptake and cost would be if the Huff Space was revived. Cllr Gardner will put a post on Facebook to gain an idea of the interest in restarting the Huff Space. Cllr Millard will speak to the Martyn Davey from the Village Hall to see if it would be possible to hold the Huff Space there. The Executive Officer suggested that Cllr Cooper could be approached for funding.

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence

Apologised were received from Cllr Bowring

2. Declaration of interests in items on this agenda

None

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2026.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th of May were approved by Councillors. Cllr Millard signed the minutes.

4. Councillors Reports

To receive reports and where required approve action/expenditure

a. Community Speed Watch/Road Safety next steps

Cllr Millard reported that a plan has been put together by WCC regarding proposed works to be carried out in the village to address speeding and signage issues. This is now waiting a safety assessment to be carried out. Cllr Millard is hoping to have an onsite meeting with WCC highways to discuss the footpath up to the church. No speed watch sessions have taken place. New volunteers and a Speed watch co-ordinator to oversee the day to day running of the project need to be recruited.

b. GAKMH update

Cllr Millard reported that the AGM was held in May. The key points from this were, income was down £2000, expenditure was approximately £1000 more, and no major improvements are planned until the social club situation is resolved. The recent BBQ was well attended and £1500 was raised.

c. Recreation Ground

Cllr Bennett reported that a replacement sign has been installed on the gate by Austin Cottage. The new parish Council phone number had been updated on the sign in the park. The replacement lily pads for a piece of play equipment in the park are ready to be installed but a problem has arisen in removing the old pads. The annual playground inspection has been agreed with ROSPA, we are just waiting for the actual inspection date.

d. Defibrillator

Cllr Bennett stated there was nothing to report.

e. Coronation Copse and Community Orchard

Cllr Bennett reported that watering, mulching and general tasks had been carried out by volunteers. The plaques in the copse are due to be revarnished. The Lengthsman is planning to cut the area soon.

f. Great Alne Primary School update

The Executive Officer read out an email from Kyla Brown who is a volunteer with the Climate Action Group, this included the Headteachers verbal confirmation that County has agreed to various assets being removed from the school and repurposed back into the local community. These items are approximately 6 fruit trees and 3 sheds and their contents. The proposed was to arrange removal by Monday 20th of July, this has proved impossible. Kyla Brown will email County Councillor's Luke Cooper and James Norris asking for their support in gaining access to the school site in the late summer or early autumn instead.

g. GAPC Website update

Cllr Taylor informed Councillor's there was no update and that he will speak to SDC to discuss moving the project forward.

h. Local Governance Reform update

No update was available

i. Climate Action Group update

No update was available

j. Former Social Club update

The planning application for the Social Club is awaiting a decision by SDC. Great Alne Parish Council has submitted "Objection" to the application.

5. Local Councils Insurance Policy

For noting: The Local Councils Insurance policy was renewed as from the 01/06/2026, and the premium of £859.35 was paid on the 22nd of May 2026

Noted by Councillors

6. GAPC Lawnmower

For noting: A new lawnmower and petrol can have been purchased at a cost of £515.91

Noted by Councillors.

7. GAPC Meeting Venue

Cllr Bennett proposed that GAPC hold some meeting at the Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall as she felt this might encourage more residents to attend Council meeting. Cllr Millard informed Councillors that there are many regular booking at the hall so there many be limited availability. There would be no cost to bhire the hall but in the winter months a contribution to heating costs would be required. After discussion Councillor's decided to hold the next two parish Council meeting at the hall. These will be on Monday 14th of September and Wednesday 18th of November. Cllr Millard will book these dates at the village hall.

8. Wider Flooding Activities

Cllr Taylor informed Councillors that the flood action programme is mostly finished. There are still small pieces of work to finish on Park Lane and Appleby Close. Cllr Taylor is working with a resident, Roger Bennett, to create a case study on the programme which should be ready to publish by the end of the year. Cllr Taylor met with Alcester Town Council's flood action group, at which it was proposed that Great Alne parish Council, Alcester Town Council, Kinwarton parish Council and Aston Cantlow Parish Council (covering Little Alne) work together on flooding issues. Cllr Taylor proposed and Cllr Gardner seconded, all Councillors agreed. Cllr Taylor reported that the drain guardians have been asked to check the drains and that there has been no negative feedback. Cllr Taylor also suggested that we reach out to farmers and ask them to redig the ditches on their land to avoid the ditches becoming blocked and undoing the good work of the past in alleviating flooding. Councillors agreed, Cllr Taylor to contact farmers.

9. Chain of Office for Chair of GAPC

Cllr Millard reminded Councillors that the the AGM in May a resident had suggested the Parish Council purchase a Chain of Office for the Chair to wear when attending engagements. After a discussion Councillors decided not to purchase a Chain of Office.

10. Planning applications

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

- Application reference: 26/00524/FUL. Great Alne Social Club, Great Alne, Alcester, B49 6HL. Proposed change of use from vacant and derelict social club to 4no. 1 Bedroom Apartments.

OBJECTION

Noted by Councillors

11. Accounts

a) Progress against budget report

The Executive Officer had emailed Councillors a progress against budget report prior to the meeting. There were no questions and Councillors approved the report.

b) Accounts information

The Executive Officer had emailed Councillors a report on Payment of Accounts from 1st of May to 30th of June 2026. Councillors approved the report.

c) VAT Claim

The Executive Office had put in a VAT claim year ending 31/03/2026 for £1632.78. The payment was received into GAPC bank account on the 8th of May 2026. Noted by Councillors

- Bank Account Balances @ 30th of June 2026:
 - Unity Trust Current Account T1 ending 0348: £1957.26
 - Unity Trust Instant Access Account (reserves) ending 0351: £48870.02

Councillors noted the account balances

12. Date and venue of next meeting.

Councillors agreed to change the date of the next meeting from Tuesday 15th of September 2026 to **Monday 14th of September**. Also, a change of venue. The meeting will be held at **Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall, Henley Road, Great Alne. B49 6HL at 7pm**

November's meeting date was changed from Tuesday 17th of November 2026 to **Wednesday 18th November 2026**. The meeting will be held at **Great Alne & Kinwarton Memorial Hall, Henley Road, Great Alne. B49 6HL at 7pm**

Exclusion of the public from meetings for confidential items of business To exclude the public (including the press) from a meeting of the Council, it is necessary for the following proposition to be moved and adopted.

Cllr Millard read out the following proposition: *“that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number 13, which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated”*

Cllr Millard proposed the proposition, and Cllr Bennett seconded the proposition. All Councillors voted in favour.

Cllr Millard asked the public to leave the meeting

13. Confidential Staffing Matter.

The Executive Officer gave a verbal report to Councillors which after a discussion was approved.