GREAT ALNE
PARISH COUNCIL

Combined Progress Reports – November 2026

Areas covered: **Recreation Ground**
Lengthsman
Defibrillator
Water Tower
Coronation Copse and Orchard

Recreation Ground

- The picnic table has finally been renovated, incorporating an extended table to allow for inclusivity. This was not without problems, as the plastic "wood" purchased to carry put the job was not fit for purpose, and to complete the job to a safe and satisfactory standard, new wooden planks had to purchased. These have been treated and will not need maintaining too frequently.
- Plastic planks originally purchased for the picnic table could be transformed into small planters to be positioned under the gateway signs at the entrances to the village.
- Play equipment/recreation ground inspection was carried out in September. No major issues, just a few things to monitor – the report has been circulated to all councillors for information, and comment if appropriate. Hard copies are available if preferred.
- The inspection flagged up delamination on the platform of the toddler multiplay. We have enough hexaboard left from renovating the lily pads for us to be able to use some of this to renovate the platform. Lengthsman is confident that this will be a straightforward job.
- The suspended bridge on the toddler multiplay has had its fixings replaced/tightened up – some were missing or had fallen out. Now this is a known issue, these will be checked more frequently and tightened as necessary.
- Cordless power washer is not powerful enough to satisfactorily clean play equipment, so suggest employing the services of contractor with suitable set up i.e. onboard water supply and powerful pressure washer (e.g. mobile wheelie bin cleaner company). Cllr Bennett has contacted 3 companies who specialise in jet-washing play areas, requesting quotes to carry out the work.

Lengthsman

- Mowing has recommenced, including the grass in Appleby Close.
- Signs throughout the village have been given their autumn clean using the new cordless power washer.
- Bench in copse/orchard area will be given an annual maintenance check and will be renovated if necessary.
- Plaques in copse to be renovated over winter.
- List of indoor and outdoor jobs being compiled now autumn/winter is approaching.

Defibrillator

- No known issues and being checked weekly, and reported as active on the WebNos system, thereby ensuring it remains visible as "rescue ready" on the national defib network (The Circuit).

Water tower

- Nothing to report, apart from gathering water nicely!

Coronation Copse and Orchard

- Volunteers continue to maintain both, engaging residents from the wider community when possible. A Facebook post has been made asking for sponsors of trees to pop into the copse to put some chippings around the base of their tree/s (and a few others), as this would really help the volunteer team.
- Over the course of this year, 3 sponsored trees in the Coronation Copse have been lost, and it is suggested that these be replaced. There are other trees which don't show much sign of life, but these will be monitored. Part of woodland/copse management often involves the periodic culling of trees anyway so these would not need to be replaced if found to be dead in spring.
- 3 fruit trees and 1 hazel have been lost in the orchard have been lost, and these need to be replaced.
- SDC currently has funding available for trees, so it is proposed to replace the dead trees in both the copse and orchard, with a view to applying for funding to replace them. If funding is not applied for the 7 trees could be replaced at a cost of around £450 + delivery from Frank P. Matthews. This is who the original trees for the orchard were supplied by, courtesy of WCC. All trees will be replaced with like-for-like native species wherever possible.