

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 10 September 2018 in Alrewas Village Hall

PRESENT Cllrs Jan Altham, David Butcher, John Pegg, Jeanette Potter, Jane Reilly, Margaret Stanhope and Dave Whatton.

IN ATTENDANCE County Cllr Janet Eagland, District Cllr Mike Wilcox, Jean Burton (Accounts Officer) and Kathryn Powell (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed Mrs Potter as the newly co-opted counsellor and Ms Powell as the newly appointed Parish Clerk.

Members of the public were thanked for their attendance.

1 **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Niblock and Moss

2 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Pegg noted that he lived near the Dark Lane development.

3 **Minutes**

- a To receive and approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9 July 2018.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9 July 2018 were a true record. They were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

4 **Casual vacancy**

Confirmed: the co-option of Mrs Jeanette Potter to the Parish Council.

Received: Mrs Potter's Declaration and Acceptance of Office.

5 **Mrs Jean Burton**

- a The Chair and Cllr Butcher warmly thanked Mrs Burton for her long and dedicated service to the Council as Parish Clerk, an office from which she stepped down at the end of August 2018. Mrs Burton remains linked to the Council as Accounts Officer. Her support for the current and previous chairs and councillors was highly regarded, as was her ability to steer the Council through challenges. The District and County Councillors added their thanks to Mrs Burton for her excellent work. Mrs Burton was given a presentation by the Chair in gratitude for her service. Mrs Burton thanked the Chair and councillors for their kind comments and their support during her time as Clerk.

6 **Public Participation:**

- a There were no speakers from members of the public.

7 **Police**

- a Recent Smart Alerts from the Police were noted by Councillors.

8 **Essington Green and land north of Dark Lane**

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a Agenda items 7 and 10b were considered together. Representatives of the Council had met with the developers wishing to obtain planning permission for a further 19 houses on the Dark Lane development. The developer suggested that the Council could be offered land adjacent to the old Essington farm house down to the weir at a peppercorn rent as a public amenity.

Noted in discussion:

Concern that the Council should not be seen to gain a benefit from the development given its opposition to it

Concern about the costs and responsibility to the Council of taking responsibility for flood plain land

RESOLVED: to continue to oppose the Dark Lane development and the extra 19 houses on grounds previously set out. This would be reported to the District Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

b Report from District Cllrs

LDC was waiting to hear about its settlement from national government, but it was expected to be low and LDC is looking at how to raise funds to support parishes. District Cllr Wilcox hoped that people would stand as district councillors in elections next year. Information events are being held in October.

Cllr Stanhope reported that she will be standing down as a district councillor after over fifty years of service. The Chair thanked her for her significant contribution.

c Report from County Cllr Janet Eagland

The National Memorial Arboretum has indicated that it wishes to use park and ride facilities in Alrewas to cater for the many forthcoming events. Discussions are ongoing with the Show Committee for the use of the show field. Cllr Eagland would inform the SSC that this field was not the property of the Parish Council. **ACTION: Cllr Eagland**

It was reported that the Quarter Mile Bridge is on a bad state of repair. The Clerk would write to the Canal and River Trust to ask for repairs to be carried out. **ACTION: Clerk**

Repairs to the Croxall Road, including adding clearer signs will be undertaken by Tarmac.

9 Planning Matters:

a Planning application

These are shown, together with recommendations made, on the schedules entitled 'Planning Applications – for Parish Council decision 10 September 2018'. **ACTION: Clerk**

10 Planning matters for information

a Noted: the summary of planning responses and LDC decisions for July and August 2018.

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11 Neighbourhood Plan

a Noted: the result of the referendum with 94.5% of voters approving the Plan. The Clerk was asked to thank the external consultant for his work on the Plan. **ACTION: Clerk**

b Noted: the next stage was for the LDC cabinet to consider the Plan and for the full Council to adopt it. Noted: minor editorial amendments required to the document and the Clerk was asked to notify the officer at LDC. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Plan will be considered at the November meeting of the Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

c Cllr Pegg reported that he hoped to attend the Local Plan Allocations Examination. Cllr Altham also hoped to attend.

12 Financial Statements

a: Noted that the Annual Return for 2017-18 has been audited and published. The Accounts Officer was congratulated on the excellent outcome of the Audit.

b Received and approved: the financial statements for July and August 2018.

c Approved: the cheques for payment list for August and September and October 2018 **ACTION: Accounts Officer**

d Approved: that the new Clerk should be added to the list of bank signatories. **ACTION: Clerk and Accounts Officer**

13 Agreement with the Royal British Legion (RBL) on office space

a Noted that an agreement is under discussion, but some concerns had been expressed about the nature of the tenancy agreement requested by the RBL London Headquarters. Other options would be explored on an informal basis. **Action: Cllr Whatton**

14 Highways and footpaths

a Noted: that the Traffic working group report was deferred to the October 2018 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

b Roundabouts on A38 flyover:

County Cllr Eagland reported that pot holes had been filled in. Local signs indicating the roundabout were covered by foliage which would be removed. Tarmac have offered to finance enhancements to the traffic islands. The Parish Council will be asked to approve any future proposal for such work.

c Progress on grit bins:

Noted that SCC did not prioritise the location but would have no objections to residents providing one themselves. Agreed that the Council would take no further action. **Action Clerk**

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d Safer access to Whitemoor Hayes by cycleway:

No update was available from the County Council. Noted: a suggestion that the existing bridge and footpath could be used as a cycle way. **ACTION: Cllr Whatton**

e Overgrown hedge 76a Main Street: An inspection had concluded that the hedge was not yet impeding the footpath. That inspection noted that that gutters contained considerable rubbish and that a tree located at Oakwood House was causing a hazard in the footpath. Agreed: that the creation of a working group to consider highways issues would be considered at the October 2018 meeting. The Clerk would contact the county council to see what work they might be able to undertake. **Action: Clerk**

15 Flood Task Group

a The report of the Flood Task Group was deferred to the October 2018 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

16 Walkfield

a The report was awaited from Lichfield District Council. The Officer would be reminded that the report was needed for the October 2018 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Moss**

b Progress on easement across Walkfield. There had been no contact with the developer.

c Rabbits: The Cricket Club had been asked to prepare a report for consideration at the October 2018 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

d Offensive graffiti on MUGA: the graffiti had been reported by the handyman noting that the surface had been damaged by the substance used to create the graffiti. Suggested actions from Lichfield District Council were to either replace the damaged surface or to repaint the whole area with a bitumen-based paint. The Clerk was asked to obtain further specialist advice on damage and report back to the October 2018 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

17 War memorial

Noted: that the concrete had been removed from the base. No further action was required.

18 Parish forum

Noted: that the next meeting will be on 22 October 2018.

19 Residents' Complaints/Requests

a Space for 30 trees:

A resident had informed the Council that the Woodland Trust were offering local groups 30 trees to plant to enhance the environment. Noted: that the Council did not own any land where trees could be planted, as there was no space on the Walkfield area. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Council to see if they could be planted along Rykneld Street to

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provide some barrier to road noise. The Clerk would inform the resident of the outcome of the discussion. **Action: Clerk**

b Bus shelters:

A resident had requested that further bus shelters were erected in the village. It was agreed that this could lead to antisocial behaviour and vandalism and so this would not be taken forward. The Clerk would inform the resident of the outcome of the discussion. **ACTION: Clerk**

c Library volunteers

County Cllr Eagland asked for support for the opportunity for people to volunteer for a Home library service to help those who cannot get to library. While this proposal was welcomed as an addition to support in the village, concern was expressed if this scheme should take the place of the mobile library service. The Council noted its opposition to any plan to abolish mobile libraries. County Cllr Eagland agreed to send details to the Clerk for publication on the Alrewas Telegraph.

ACTION: County Cllr Eagland and Clerk

20 Brief Items

a Civic society: no matters to report.

21 Parish diary

a Past dates: No dates to report.

b Future dates:

Cllr Whatton and Cllr Eagland would attend the service at Fradley on 16 September 2018

22 Date of next council meeting

Noted: the date of the next meeting is 8 October 2018. The last date for notification of items for the agenda is Thursday 27 September 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

..... **Chair/Vice
Chair**

..... **Date**

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