

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11 February 2019 in Alrewas Village Hall

PRESENT Cllrs Jan Altham, David Butcher, Donna Moss (Vice Chair), John Pegg, Janette Potter, Jane Reilly, Margaret Stanhope and Dave Whatton (Chair).

IN ATTENDANCE County Cllrs Janet Eagland and Martyn Tittley, Ms Michelle Shaker, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, District Cllr Michael Wilcox and Ms Kathryn Powell Clerk.

Visitors and members of the public were welcomed to the meeting and thanked for their attendance.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Speedwatch Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the scheme, noting the importance of safe roads in the community, and the opportunities for members of the public to get involved in traffic safety. She detailed how the Speedwatch scheme worked. Members of the public were able to ask questions and volunteer to participate.

1 Apologies

- a Noted and accepted: Cllr Stanhope gave apologies for a late arrival due to attending a District Council meeting.

- b Noted and accepted, with considerable regret, the resignation of Cllr Chris Niblock, with immediate effect, due to ongoing health issues. The Chair expressed his thanks for the significant contribution made by Cllr Niblock to the Parish Council and the village, especially during his time as Chair of the Parish Council. He also recorded his personal thanks for the support given to him and other Councillors by Cllr Niblock. These comments were strongly endorsed and he will write formally to Cllr Niblock recording the sentiments of the meeting. **ACTION: Chair**

The Clerk confirmed that it was not necessary to hold an election or co-opt another member as Council elections would be held in May 2019. She would contact Lichfield District Council to notify them of the resignation and arrange for the Parish Council website to be amended. **ACTION: Clerk**

2 New Declarations of Interest

- a Noted: that there were no new declarations of interest.

3 Minutes

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 January 2019 as a true record, without amendment. **(APC/19/1/M)**.

- b Considered: the updated action sheet **(APC/19/2/1)**

- c Noted: that interviews for the handyman role would take place during February 2019. Several indications of interest had been received.

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4 Public Participation

- a A village resident, John Walton, noted actions that he had initiated since the last meeting relating to the traffic issues likely to be caused by the development of land north of Dark Land. He was thanked for the information provided.
Another member of the public raised concerns about the likely impact on traffic on Main Street if the proposed traffic lights into Exchange Road were allowed. He was thanked for his comments.

- b Report from District Councillors
District Cllr Wilcox reported that the District Council was putting forward its medium-term financial strategy in the context of cuts in funding from central government. Candidates were being sought for the May elections. While the council would shortly go into purdah because of the upcoming elections, its work would continue through its officers.

Another village litter pick is to be held on 2 March 2019. Participants are asked to meet at the Surgery at 10am. Refreshments will be provided by the Bank Coffeehouse at the end of the litter pick. It is hoped that sessions will be arranged every six to eight weeks during the forthcoming months.

- c Report from County Councillors
CCllr Eagland noted that the Clerk circulated highways information to Cllrs sent by CCllr Eagland.

CCllr Eagland offered the opportunity for Highways Officers to meet with the Development Group. **ACTION: Development Group**

The Highways Department was considering how to address the issue of rabbit damage on Walkfield and the adjacent main road. Fencing was unlikely to provide a long-term solution. An inspection would be held jointly between SCC Highways department, representatives of the Parish Council, and a representative of the Cricket Club. **ACTION: Cllr Moss**

5 Traffic and speeding

- a CCllr Tittley made a presentation on traffic issues from the perspective of the County Council and noted:
- Traffic calming measures were being introduced in most local villages to address a range of concerns.
 - It was necessary to provide evidence of problems to the SCC Highways department and the Police to enable priorities to be developed and action taken
 - Speedwatch was a useful part of the evidence gathering and deterrent activities
 - It was important for the village to identify its own priorities based on local need
 - CCTV was not the best solution due to GDPR implications
 - There would be some costs to the Parish Council of implementing any new schemes
 - Often those speeding or causing other traffic hazards are members of the community so education is important

County Cllr Tittley was thanked for his presentation and advice and left the meeting.

- b Noted: the traffic management group are considering options and held a useful meeting with the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator at Barton Under Needwood. She had noted that the scheme was effective, but that there were some residents who did not improve their driving despite being picked up on Speedwatch sessions. It would

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be important to have an enthusiastic team to operate the Speedwatch sessions. Ms Shaker was thanked for her input and left the meeting.

RESOLVED: to incur the costs of setting up and running a Speedwatch scheme - £300 for initial training plus some setting up costs, to include money already approved for a speed camera initiative which had been subsumed within the Speedwatch proposal. **ACTION: Traffic Management Group**

That the Traffic Management Group were aware of the problems on the A513 due to high speeds. The Group intended to quantify issues to help develop a comprehensive plan. It was possible that the mobile speed camera van and a Speedwatch scheme could help gather evidence. A report would be made to the March 2019 meeting. **ACTION: Traffic Management Group**

CLlr Stanhope would contact a local business about the cost of setting up security cameras in the village. **ACTION: Cllr Stanhope**

- c Letter to Police and Crime Commissioner
The letter sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner was considered **(APC/19/2/2)**. It was hoped that he would support initiatives against speeding drivers on the A38, including the installation of Average Speed Cameras.

6 Antisocial behaviour

The report from the PCSO was deferred to a future meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

7 Planning matters

- a Considered: Approval was recommended for the following applications **APC/19/2/3):**

19/00085/FUL National Memorial Arboretum: Erection of UK Police memorial and associated landscaping

19/00150/FUL Land adjacent to 78 Micklehome Drive: variation of condition 2 of application 16/00338/FUL. It was noted that several amendments had been made to the original plans.

19/00170/FUL H 73 Deepmore Close: Single story extension to rear to extend kitchen and lounge

ACTION: Clerk

Applications for tree surgery were noted for information. Cllr Stanhope confirmed that she commented on such applications on behalf of the Parish Council.

8 Financial statements

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the financial statement for January 2019 **APC/19/2/4).**

- b **RESOLVED:** to approve the Cheques for Payment list for January 2019 **(APC/19/2/5).**

9 Working groups

- a Membership listing:

Noted: that the updated listing was confirmed as accurate, but the Clerk was requested to add in members of the public who had joined working groups.

ACTION: Clerk

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Noted: the listing would be published on the website when complete. **ACTION: Clerk**

Noted: that Cllr Niblock's resignation had created a vacancy on the Lichfield Rail Alliance group. Cllr Whatton volunteered to join the group to represent the Parish Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

b Traffic Management Group

Noted: the concerns as expressed earlier in the meeting concerning the traffic issues relating to the development of land north of Dark Lane.

Considered: a proposal to engage a consultant to support the Parish Council in addressing traffic management concerns relating to the development of land north of Dark Lane. **RESOLVED:** To approve the appointment of the traffic consultant who had previously supported the Parish Council up to a maximum cost of £2000, from the existing Neighbourhood Plan and consultancy budget. **ACTION: Cllr Pegg**

Considered; the plans from SCC to repair and upgrade Chetwynd Bridge (Slaters Bridge in Croxall). **RESOLVED:** to support this proposal. **ACTION: Clerk**

c GDPR working group

Noted: that the Council has paid its annual subscription to the Information Commissioner's Office of £40.

Noted: that a further confidential shredding exercise was underway and that Cllr Niblock's papers would be included and shredded by an external contractor. Cllrs were asked to pass on any unwanted council papers to the Clerk to include in the shredding. **ACTION: All cllrs**

d Walkfield Sports Forum

Considered: a proposal to decompact the football pitch, as recommended by grounds staff at LDC (**APC/19/2/9**). **RESOLVED:** to commission the de-compacting work at a cost of £278.00 plus VAT.

e Neighbourhood Plan Group

Noted: that work was on hold while cllrs addressed issues relating to the development north of Dark Lane. A report would be brought to a future meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Moss

10 War memorial lighting

a Considered: an update from Cllr Butcher. Three options were presented:

- 1 Money used to purchase new Christmas lights which would need erecting each Christmas at a cost of £400 for a cherry picker machine
- 2 A suggestion had been received to plant a small Christmas tree by the village oak tree and war memorial to have lights which would not require a cherry picker to erect
- 3 the installation of portable uplighters which could have coloured films inserted and which would light the war memorial and tree.

RESOLVED: to spend the £500 donation from the Civic Society on uplighting (proposal 3). **ACTION: Cllr Butcher**

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11 Residents' complaints/ requests

- a Noted: that the Cricket Club were seeking a new pest controller to combat damage by rabbits. CClr Eagland requested that the Cricket Club should contact her about costs. **ACTION: Clerk**
- b Noted: a resident had complained about overgrowing vegetation in Mill End Lane. SCC had been advised by the Clerk and had contacted landowners.
- c Noted: that Oakwood Cottage hedges remain overgrown in Park Road. The Clerk would notify SCC. **ACTION: Clerk**

12 Police

- a Noted: Smart Alert, already circulated.

13 Civic Society report

- a Noted: a verbal report from Cllr Reilly. A report had been received of a damaged dog waste bin. The Clerk would send details to Cllr Reilly as the bin had been installed by the Civic Society. **ACTION: Clerk**
- b Cllr Reilly requested a copy of Cllr Altham's survey of bins. **ACTION: Clerk**

14 Planning decisions since the last meeting

- a Noted: decisions by LDC on recent planning applications commented on by the Parish Council (**APC/19/2/10**).

15 Parish Council Diary

- a Past dates – none
- b Future dates – none

16 Date of next council meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11 March 2019 at 7.30pm. The last date for notification of agenda items to the Clerk is 28 February 2019.

The open meeting ended at 20.45pm.

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

..... **Date**