

# Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12 October 2020 by Zoom

## UNCONFIRMED

- PRESENT** Cllrs Dave Whatton (Chair), Jan Altham, David Butcher, John Pegg, Janette Potter, Jane Reilly, Denise Tolson, Michael Wilcox
- IN ATTENDANCE** Cllr Janet Eagland, District Cllrs Sonia Wilcox, Derick Cross, Mr Stuart Threlfall (Chair of the Quarry working group), Mrs Lesley Servian - local resident, Ms Kathryn Powell, Clerk

The Chair welcomed all participants, including members of the public, to the meeting of the Alrewas Parish Council held by Zoom.

### 1 Apologies

- a Noted and accepted: Cllr Margaret Stanhope

### 2 Resignation of Cllr Margaret Stanhope

The Council accepted, with great regret, the resignation of Cllr Margaret Stanhope after over 51 years of outstanding and loyal service to the Parish Council and Lichfield District Council. Cllrs noted her hard work and dedication to the local community and her expertise in planning matters which had been made available to fellow Cllrs and which would be sorely missed by the present Parish Council members. It was reported that Cllr Stanhope had been instrumental in setting up Alrewas Parish Council after the dissolution of the Alrewas, Fradley and Streethay Parish Council. She had given great support to Chairs of the Parish Council past and present. A letter for appreciation and flowers would be sent to Mrs Stanhope on behalf of the Parish Council.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Lichfield District Council would be informed of the vacancy. **ACTION: Clerk**

### 3 Minutes

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 September 2020 without amendment, as a true record. **(APC/20-21/4/M)**. The Chair would sign the Minutes outside of the meeting due to social distancing requirements.
- b Considered: the updated Action Sheet **(APC/20-21/5/1)**.

### 4 New Declarations of Interest

- a Noted: Cllr John Pegg for planning application 20/01291/FUL as it was adjacent to his property. While noting this interest, Cllrs agreed that Cllr Pegg could contribute to the discussion on this item as Chair of the Development Group.  
Cllr Michael Wilcox for agenda item 10, request for litter picking equipment, as a member of the Keep Alrewas Tidy Group.

### 5 Public Participation

- a Village residents:  
It was agreed that contributions would be made under agenda items 6c and 6d.
- b Report from District Councillors:  
District Cllr Michael Wilcox reported that LDC members had just received a briefing from SCC on the latest government restrictions to combat the Covid 19 pandemic. Lichfield District and Staffordshire was currently classed as medium risk with the rate in Lichfield 86 per 100,000, but this was under constant review by public health officials. Most cases were reported in the 19-24 age group with men presenting

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with more cases. LDC was aware that people from higher risk areas were visiting Lichfield which increased the risk of transmission. A local test centre in Lichfield was being planned. Regular reports would be made to central government. Any decision to change the Covid 19 status would be taken across the whole county. Residents were urged to report any breaches of regulations, especially large gatherings. District Cllr Wilcox would send the reporting details to the Clerk for publication on the website. **ACTION: District Cllr Wilcox/Clerk**

LDC had sent its response to the Government White Paper *Planning for the Future*. Cllr Wilcox would provide a draft to the Clerk to inform the APC response.

**ACTION: District Cllr Wilcox/Clerk**

Local leisure centres would be reopening, subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

LDC had agreed to extend its arrangements for holding meetings by Zoom until at least March 2021.

### c Report from County Councillor:

Regular updates from the Cllr had been circulated to Cllrs by the Clerk. Grant information for those affected by Covid 19 restrictions would be sent to the Clerk and published on the APC website. **ACTION: Cllr England/Clerk**

Requests for funding would be collated by Cllrs and considered at the November APC meeting. Cllr Reilly would co-ordinate as Chair of the Communications and External funding working group. **ACTION: Cllr Reilly**

SCC had provided an "Entitled to Benefits" checker, the details of which had been published on the APC website.

Cllr England had arranged for a speed survey on the A513 and the results had been circulated to Cllrs and the Quarry working group Chair.

Cllr England had reported the weight limit on the Bagnalls Lock Bridge to SCC Highways. A structure team would be sent to make an assessment and report back.

SCC would be undertaking maintenance on hedges and overgrown footpaths shortly.

## 6 Planning Applications for consideration and ratification

### a Recommendations made on planning applications (APC/20-21/5/2):

#### RESOLVED:

**20/01312/FUH** 47 Micklehome Drive

**20/01242/FUH** 47 Furlong Lane

**20/01241/FUH** 5 Main Street

**20/01291/FUL** Land North of Dark Lane

recommend **Approve**  
recommend **Approve**  
recommend **Reject** due to  
Parking problems in this  
part of the village  
Recommend **Reject** on the  
following ground:

- this is an area within the approved Neighbourhood Plan designated as local green space so should not be built on
- building here would restrict public access to the west of the current

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- building site in future, limiting residents' access to village facilities
- animal security and welfare – no residential accommodation planned so it is not clear how the animals can be monitored and made secure
- the removal of horse dung would be an issue at this site

### **20/01373/FUL** Manor Fields

Strongly recommend **Reject** as this revised proposal does not meet the previously expressed concerns about this development, including not being in line with the Neighbourhood Plan or Lichfield Local Plan, traffic concerns, loss of mature trees, impact on listed buildings etc. District Cllr Michael Wilcox had called in the proposal for consideration by the LDC Planning Committee if not refused at Officer level.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### b Government White paper – *Planning for the Future*

Considered: the commentary on the Government White Paper from the Clerk (**APC/20-21/5/3**). Noted in discussions:

Concerns over the loss of local input into planning proposal and the apparently diminished role of parish councils  
Concern that decisions will be made by those with little understanding of local conditions or priorities  
Good design standards sympathetic to an area were welcomed  
The standardisation of CIL funding was welcomed

Considered: the Parish Council's draft response to the White Paper:

The Clerk was thanked for her paper (**APC/20-21/5/4**). It would be revised to include points from the LDC response and circulated for virtual endorsement before the end of October deadline.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### c Planning application L.20/03/867M – proposed quarry and cement factory at Orgreave

Considered: a verbal update on developments from the Chair of the Quarry Working Group, Mr Threlfall. SCC has received 667 objections to the proposal to date. A few substantial objections had been shared with Cemex to give them the right of reply. SCC had requested further information from CEMEX and may put this out for further consultation depending on the content of the response. The information from the recent traffic survey would be helpful evidence for objectors. It was expected that the planning application would be considered at the SCC Planning Committee on 2 February 2021. The Parish Council and others would decide who would speak against the proposal and the content of their contributions. Mr Threlfall was thanked for his work on this issue.

**ACTION: Mr Threlfall, Cllr Whatton, CCllr England**

### d Proposed Whitemoor Garden Village development

Considered: the briefing paper from the Clerk (**APC/20-21/5/5**) and a verbal report from a local resident Mrs Servian. She made the following points:

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- the disjoint between this proposal and the LDC Local Plan and the APC Neighbourhood Plan was highlighted
- the proposal included 1500 houses on the eastern side of Alrewas
- The proposed railway built on the basis of 1500 houses and the NMA was very unlikely to be provided as it would not meet operator's costs due to the amount of work required
- Tarmac may not have been transparent when putting forward the recently approved planning application to SCC where it recorded that it planned to return the site to agricultural land at the end of quarry working, not residential use
- The amount of development around Alrewas, Fradley and Kings Bromley from housing developments, minerals extraction and HS2 was a major concern and should be stressed to planning authorities. An overview across all proposals was needed by the planning authorities and more involvement in decisions was requested by the Parish Council **ACTION: Clerk**
- Cllr Whatton noted that he had contacted Transport for Britain which was working on a proposal to create a railway station at Alrewas and would follow up with them. **ACTION: Cllr Whatton**

Mrs Servian was thanked for her considerable work on this issue and the quarry and cement factory. Cllr Wilcox would report further to the November 2020 APC meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**

Local parish councils would be contacted to ask about their concerns about this proposal and the amount of development in the area. **ACTION: Clerk**

### 7 Development group

#### a Green Acres at Alrewas

Considered: notes of a site meeting with representatives of Crest Nicholson (**APC/20-21/5/6**) and a verbal update from the Chair of the Development Working Group, Cllr Pegg, on the meeting with Crest Nicholson held on 18 September 2020. Key issues discussed included drainage problems, potential flooding in the village and the possible loss of the Beach. CN had stated that they preferred to work with their experts and were working to approved plans concerning drainage. Their representatives had suggested that APC should consult LDC as the planning authority. CN stated that they had only removed agreed hedgerows and trees and there would be reinstatement. They had agreed to a periodic liaison meeting with APC representatives. Concern was expressed that there had been no clear engagement by CN with APC concerns. As there was concern that LDC planners were not monitoring flooding issues a meeting had been requested to raise concerns and ask for action. A report would be made back to the November APC meeting. **ACTION: District Cllrs Cross and Michael Wilcox**

#### b Anson Road

Considered: a verbal update from the Chair of the Development Group, Cllr Pegg, on progress of the Anson Road development. Enabling works were likely to start during the week commencing 19 October 2020 and construction would continue until the spring of 2022.

#### c Bagnalls Lock

The Canals and Rivers Trust had confirmed that they considered the 18T weight limit to be safe. Cllr Eagland had asked SCC Highways to inspect the bridge and report back as soon as possible.

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### 8 Financial Statement

a **RESOLVED:** unanimously to approve the financial statement for September 2020 (**APC/20-21/5/7**).

b **RESOLVED:** to approve the cheques for payment list (**APC/20-21/5/8**).  
**ACTION: Chair, Vice Chair and Accounts Officer**

### 9 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2019-2020

a Considered: the completion letter from Mazars, the audited AGAR part 3 and Completion Notice published on the website as required. (**APC/20-21/5/9**). The Clerk and Accounts Officer were thanked for all their work on the return and for the positive outcome. One minor item had been raised for the Parish Council to check the accuracy of the statements submitted after a mistake in reporting the process of petty cash. This would be taken note of for the next Annual Return.  
**ACTION: Clerk and Accounts Officer**

### 10 Parish Council Strategic Plan

a **RESOLVED:** To reapprove the previously circulated Strategic Plan and operational plan 2020-2022 (**APC/20-21/5/10**).

b Possible funding plans would be discussed at the meeting of the Communications and External Funding Group. A recommendation to inform the next Budget would be made to the November 2020 meeting.  
**ACTION: Cllr Reilly**

### 11 Request for litter picking equipment

a **RESOLVED:** to buy litter picking equipment for use by residents (**APC/20-21/5/11**) at a cost of £549.28 + VAT.  
**ACTION: Clerk**

### 12 Update on planning applications

a Noted: updated decisions on planning applications since the last meeting (**APC/20-21/5/12**)

### 13 Residents' comments/correspondence received since the last meeting

a Noted: that correspondence included:

- Information from LDC on the re-opening of the Friary Grange Leisure Centre
- Information from LDC on the new Code of Conduct for Local Government
- Regular updates from Highways England concerning work on the A38
- Information from SCC and Edingale Parish Council on a Temporary Traffic Regulations Order for Croxall Road
- Information from LDC and SCC on Covid 19 requirements and support
- Request for a meeting from CRATUS about the proposed Whitemoor Garden Village (see agenda item 5d above)
- Copy of the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Safety Plan for 2020-2024 received
- Information on proposed local government pension scheme reforms
- Information from the LDC Parish Forum training session on the new LGA Model Code of Conduct for Cllrs
- Proposals to manage future recreational use of Cannock Chase

### 14 Police Smart Alerts (already circulated)

a Noted.

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### 15 Update from the Civic Society

Cllr Reilly reported that the Civic Society was concerned about the number of planning applications for infill buildings in gardens. The Clerk was asked to check the process for listing gardens. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Civic Society was asked to submit a full proposal for erecting a bench and planting trees near the school to the next meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Reilly**

### 16 Date of the next virtual (Zoom) Parish Council Meeting

- a Noted: that the November 2020 meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday **9 November 2020** at 7.30pm via Zoom
- b Noted that the deadline for agenda items is **Thursday 29 October 2020**
- c Noted: due to Covid 19 restrictions Parish Council meetings would continue to be held by Zoom until at least March 2021. **ACTION: Clerk**

Kathryn Powell, Clerk,  
Alrewas Parish Council,  
13 October 2020  
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