

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9 November 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 CCllr Janet Eagland, District Cllr Derick Cross, Mr Stuart Threlfall (Chair of the Quarry Working Group), Ms Kathryn Powell, Clerk

The Chair welcomed all participants, including members of the public, representatives of the NMA, Cratus and Tarmac, to the meeting of the Alrewas Parish Council held by Zoom, and thanked everyone for their interest in the work of the Parish Council.

1 Apologies

a Noted and accepted: CCllr Eagland and District Cllrs Cross and Wilcox for late arrival due to a prior meeting at LDC.

2 Minutes

a Queried: whether Minute 7a relating to the Green Acres at Alrewas development was accurate. Cllr Pegg asked whether it should have stated that the meeting with LDC planners had been a joint ARG and APC meeting. The Chair noted that the meeting had been arranged after the September 2020 Parish Council meeting rather than the October 2020 meeting and was between APC and LDC Planners. A member of ARG had attended the meeting as a technical expert on drainage and flooding issues, but it had not been a joint meeting including ARG. The Chair noted that APC was keen to committed to working inclusively with all Alrewas residents and interested groups and welcomed the expertise members of ARG brought to technical discussions. However, it was important to keep lines of communication open with LDC and other bodies whose remit for discussions were with the Parish Council. **RESOLVED:** to approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 October 2020 without amendment, as a true record. **(APC/20-21/5/M)**. The Chair would sign the Minutes outside of the meeting due to social distancing requirements.

b Considered: the updated Action Sheet **(APC/20-21/6/1)**.

3 New Declarations of Interest

a Noted: Cllr Reilly declared an interest in agenda item 11, request to erect a swan sculpture.

4 Public Participation

a Village residents:

It was agreed that the contribution would be made under agenda item 7a.

b Report from District Cllrs:

DCllrs Cross and Wilcox reported that LDC was preparing its budget and a proposal would be available for consultation for the next month. Responses to the Planning White paper would be considered by central government and LDC Cllrs had lobbied local MPs. Residents would be informed that the brown bin collection would be suspended from 14 December 2020 until 1 February and the cost for residents would not be increased in 2021. LDC had received £2million from central government to help local businesses not supported by existing Covid 19 funding schemes.

c Report from County Councillor:

Regular updates from the CCllr had been circulated to Cllrs by the Clerk. Cllrs were reminded that applications for the SCC "doingourbit" fund would close at the end

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of November 2020. It was difficult to get information to residents who did not use IT, and options were being investigated.

5 Covid 19 update

Noted: that Staffordshire had been moved into Tier 2 restrictions before the national lockdown commenced on 5 November 2020. Infections rates were high in Staffordshire and rising. Regular updates had been provided by LDC and SCC and by the CClr. In the circumstances national advice was to continue to hold meetings by Zoom to at least March 2021.

It was noted that government support for free school meals had been extended and this was welcomed to support vulnerable children and families.

6 Planning Applications for consideration and ratification

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

RESOLVED:

20/01075/LBC Old Eaves, 158 Main Street Recommend **APPROVE** subject to Conservation Officer agreement

20/01517/FUH 51 Micklehome Drive Recommend **APPROVE**

20/01419/FUH 7 Taylor Close Recommend **APPROVE**

20/01478/FUH 34 Deepmoor Close Recommend **APPROVE**

ACTION: Clerk

b 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. Roadworks and archaeological excavations were underway in the locality of the proposed development and it was not clear if they were related to the proposal. SCC had received more documents from CEMEX which will be sent out to interested parties for a 30-day consultation period. The documentation had not been tracked changed so there was considerable work in identifying changes to the submission. APC members would help as required. **ACTION: Cllrs**

Noted: that CEMEX were putting pressure on SCC for a decision on the proposal.

A meeting of the Quarry working group would be called shortly.

ACTION: Mr Threlfall/Clerk

Mr Threlfall was thanked for his work.

7 Development group

a Green Acres at Alrewas

Considered: a report from Cllr Pegg, Chair of the Development Group. The meeting with LDC planners on 5 November had been useful to identify issues for further attention. LDC were working on matters including landscaping, boundary treatment and drainage. They were consulting with the LLFA on drainage and with the Environmental Agency re proposed drainage to the Beach. APC's issues had been identified to include surface water and groundwater issues and the risk to the village if drainage systems were inadequate, the gas pipeline, landscaping and biodiversity and ongoing adoption and maintenance of the drainage system. This was an especial concern as it was planned to put drainage under the gas pipeline with ongoing risks caused by the need for regular maintenance of the drainage system. The meeting had been positive but further work was required on drainage and possible flooding issues. APC had reminded LDC that building work continued even though major issues remained and LDC planners were investigating whether

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to take planning enforcement action on the site. Cllr Wilcox would hold an urgent meeting with LDC planners to take the issues forward. **ACTION: Cllr M Wilcox**

It was noted that Crest Nicholson projections for drainage requirements were based on disputed data. **RESOLVED:** APC would commission its own readings as evidence for the LLFA and LDC Planners. Quotes would be obtained.

ACTION: Cllr Pegg/Clerk

b Proposed Whitemoor Garden Village development

Noted: that Tarmac/Cratus had offered to give a presentation to the December 2020 APC meeting and answer questions on the proposed development. Agreed: to invite them to the January 2021 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

Considered: a verbal update from Cllr Michael Wilcox. The development was not being included in the draft LDC Local Plan. Cllr England reported that she and the Leader of SCC had attended a meeting with the NMA and Tarmac/Cratus to discuss the proposal. They had explained that planning approval for this proposal was not a SCC decision and that APC should be included in discussions as a consultee local council. It was felt unlikely that any railway station would be approved as part of the proposed scheme although LDC would support the station proposal. Noted: the original plan to restore this land was for a wildlife area. Given the amount of flooding on this site Cllrs queried whether it could be built on.

Noted: that an area further south of Alrewas had been previously identified for housing development to meet Birmingham overspill housing numbers (the Twin Rivers proposal). This would not be included in the new LDC plan but may have to be considered in the period up to 2040

c Bagnalls Lock

Noted: that SCC Highways had confirmed that the bridge was the responsibility of the C&RT and so would not take action on the weight limit.

The Clerk had contacted the C&RT to ask them about imposing a width restriction for the bridge. The C&RT had confirmed that the bridge was 7ft wide but had not yet clarified the width restriction issue. Further concern would be reported to the C&RT if there was evidence of damage to the bridge from large vehicles.

8 **Financial Statement**

a **RESOLVED:** unanimously to approve the financial statement for October 2020 (**APC/20-21/6/3**).

b **RESOLVED:** to approve the cheques for payment list (**APC/20-21/6/4**).
ACTION: Chair, Vice Chair and Accounts Officer

c **RESOLVED:** to approve the revised Financial Regulations amended in response to comments by the Internal Auditor (**APC/20-21/6/5**) **ACTION: Clerk**

9 **Funding requests from local organisations**

a Considered: the funding recommendations of the Communications and External Funding Group including those to be included in the 2021 budget (**APC/20-21/6/6**.) Costings would be finalised as part of the budget process and funding would be drawn from reserves and CIL funding.

RESOLVED: to approve all the projects listed and the addition of welcome and information signs by the canal locks in the village. **ACTION: Clerk/Accounts Officer.**

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Noted: that the car park issue had been investigated with BT and at the moment this could not be progressed, but further discussions would be undertaken in due course.

ACTION: Cllr Reilly

RESOLVED: not to increase the Precept amount for 2021.

ACTION: Clerk/Accounts Officer

10 Request for parking restrictions by the Village hall

a Considered: a request from the Village Hall Committee for "No Parking" restrictions to be implemented at the village hall to minimise disruption and nuisance for local residents. Noted: residents could be encouraged to walk to the village hall to minimise traffic congestion. **RESOLVED:** to ask SCC to paint white lines across the driveway to the adjacent bungalows to stop their drives being blocked but bot to request double yellow lines by the Village Hall.

ACTION: Clerk

11 Request to install a Swan sculpture on a temporary basis by the war memorial

a Considered: a request from the Coltech Foundation to install on a temporary basis a swan sculpture by the War Memorial, prior to it being permanently installed on Alrewas Island. **RESOLVED:** not to approve the request as it was not felt to be in keeping with the war memorial location.

ACTION: Cllr Reilly

12 Pest control on Walkfield

a **RESOLVED:** to approve a proposal from the Pest Company that visits are increased by two per year due to an increase in damage caused by moles, at a cost of £255 + VAT. The Clerk was asked to get quotes from alternative providers when the contract came up for renewal.

ACTION: Clerk

A Cllr reported that horses had been ridden on Walkfield and the Clerk was asked to check if this was allowed in the deeds.

ACTION: Clerk

13 LDC draft policy on events and festivals policy and procedure

a Approved: the Council's draft response **APC/20-21/6/7**

ACTION: Clerk

14 Government consultation on pavement parking

a Approved: the Council's draft response (**APC/20-21/6/8**)

ACTION: Clerk

15 Request from Civic Society for permission to erect a bench and plant trees near the village school

a Considered: that the requested paper from the Civic Society had not been received (**APC/20-21/6/9**). Cllrs asked for written confirmation that SCC Highways and local residents had been consulted the proposal was approved by a majority vote.

ACTION: Cllr Reilly/Clerk

16 Parish Council Annual Newsletter

a Noted: that the Annual Parish Council Newsletter will be issued shortly.

ACTION: Cllr Reilly

17 Update on planning applications

a Noted: updated decisions by LDC on planning applications since the last meeting (**APC/20-21/6/10**)

18 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 [Now closed under the national lockdown restrictions]
- Regular updates from Highways England concerning work on the A38

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- 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 available
- Invitation for the Chair of the Parish Council to attend the Remembrance Day service at the NMA [Cllr Michael Wilcox attended]
- Invitation to attend the Alrewas Remembrance Service [Cllr David Butcher attended]
- Invitation to lay a wreath at the Fradley Airfield memorial [Cllr Michael Wilcox participated]
- Information on an HS2 busines consultation session
- Information on temporary traffic orders for the Green Acres development and Fox Lane
- Complaint about litter on the MUGA referred to LDC Street Scene staff for attention
- Update from Tarmac on personnel changes and actions to avoid carry out on to roads at Alrewas Quarry
- Complaints from resident about antisocial behaviour by play area on Walkfield. **RESOLVED:** to approve the installation of fencing by LDC away from residents' properties at the play area to reduce the opportunity for antisocial behaviour. The fencing would be the same height at existing play area fencing. **ACTION: Clerk.** The vandalism to the play area fence was regretted and would be repaired by LDC. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllrs Butcher and Wilcox were thanked for their participation in the Remembrance activities at the NMA, Alrewas and Fradley.

While appreciating the support of local residents who had carried out minor repairs to the play area in the past, the Parish Council had been reminded that there were public liability issues relating to such repairs. LDC undertook authorised repairs for the Parish Council. Residents would be asked not to undertake repairs themselves but to report any issues to the Clerk. **ACTION: Clerk**

19 Police Smart Alerts (already circulated)

a Noted.

20 Update from the Civic Society

Noted: Cllr Reilly reported that the Civic Society bench installed by the shops on Main Street had been well received by residents.

21 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 14 December 2020** via Zoom

b To note that the deadline for agenda items is **Thursday 3 December 2020**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Kathryn Powell, Clerk,
Alrewas Parish Council, 10 November 2020
Unconfirmed