

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Alrewas Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 November 2021 at 7.30pm in Alrewas Village Hall

APC/21-22/7/M

CONFIRMED

- PRESENT** Cllrs Dave Whatton (Chair), Elizabeth Lawler, Donna Moss, Jessica Nicklin, Janette Potter, Jane Reilly, Stuart Threlfall, Denise Tolson, Michael Wilcox
- IN ATTENDANCE** CClr Janet Eagland, District Cllr Derick Cross, Ms Kathryn Powell, Clerk

The Chair welcomed all participants, including members of the public who were observing. Best wishes for a speedy return to health were sent to the Accounts Officer.

ACTION: Clerk

1. Apologies

- a Received and accepted: District Cllr Sonia Wilcox who was attending a meeting at another Parish Council
- b Noted: that the meeting was quorate.

2 New declarations of interest

- a Noted: that Cllr Potter declared an interest planning applications 21/01609/FUH and 21/01610/LBC.
- b Noted: that Cllr Nicklin declared an interest in planning applications 21/01790/LBC and 21/01789/FUH
- b Noted: that neither Cllr requested a dispensation to speak to the item.

3 Minutes

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Minutes of the October 2021 meeting without amendment. **(APC/21-22/6/M)**
- b Considered: the updated Action Sheet **(APC/21-22/7/1)**.

4 Public Participation

- a Noted: that there was no public participation.
- b District Cllrs:
Noted: that LDC is working on an action plan to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 and has adopted emergency powers to support this.
An assistant CEO with responsibility for planning and development will be appointed to oversee improvements in the service.
LDC is waiting for the national settlement before it decides on the new rate of Council Tax.
- c County Cllr
SCC is working on its Climate Change strategy and will provide information and support to local councils, businesses and residents to drive environmental improvements.

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5 Planning applications

a **RESOLVED:** to recommend (**APC/21-22/7/2**):

- 21/01758/PHN (prior notification)** Approval as it is in scale with similar existing development in the road
- 21/01609/FUH** Approval subject to the Conservations Officer's report as the Council will support the Conservation Officer's view. Most work will be internal. However, the Conservation Officer is asked to check on the historical significance of the outbuilding scheduled for demolition before approval is granted to demolish it.
- 21/1610/LBC** Approval subject to the Conservations Officer's report. The Council will support the Conservation Officer's view and notes that most work will be internal. However, the Conservation Officer is asked to check on the historical significance of the outbuilding scheduled for demolition before approval is granted to demolish it.
- 21/01789/FUH** Approval subject to the property not been allowed to be sold as a separate dwelling in future. The work should be undertaken in a style sympathetic to the main building. The roof lights overlooking another property should be reconsidered.
- 21/01790/LBC** Approval subject to the property not been allowed to be sold as a separate dwelling in future. The work should be undertaken in a style sympathetic to the main building. The roof lights overlooking another property should be reconsidered.
- 21/01874/FUH** Approval as the work will have no impact on the street scene

ACTION: Clerk

Noted: with concern, the number of applications for dwellings in gardens which could become separate properties. This could have a significant impact on housing density in the village.

ACTION: Clerk

6 Financial statements

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Accounts for October 2021 (**APC/21-22/7/3**).
- b **RESOLVED:** to approve the Cheques for Payment list for October 2021. They would be signed outside of the meeting (**APC/21-22/7/4**).
- ACTION: Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk**
- c **RESOLVED:** to give retrospective approval for the cost of painting the ornamental lock gates at the entrance to the village at a cost of £193.75. This had been authorised by a Cllr due to a misunderstanding over financial regulations.
- d **RESOLVED:** to confirm the grant to the Alrewas Arts Festival 2022, originally requested for the cancelled 2020 Arts Festival **APC/21-22/7/5**
- e Considered: an update on recommendations for a draft budget for 2021-2022 from the Clerk. **RESOLVED:** not to increase the Precept for 2022 and to allocate £1000 for a Platinum Jubilee event for the community. This project was referred to the Walkfield working group to develop a full proposal with costings.
- f Noted: the Chair's reminder that all Cllrs should follow the Financial Regulations in full. No expenditure should be undertaken without a Resolution in a full council meeting and the Clerk had to place all orders on behalf of the Council. The Clerk would circulate the Financial Regulations to all Cllrs as a reminder of requirements. **ACTION: Clerk**

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7 Christmas display by Knitwits

a **RESOLVED:** to approve a request from Knitwits to install a Christmas display by the War Memorial **APC/21-22/7/6.** **ACTION: Clerk**

8 Rural Services Group – Village network membership proposal

a Considered: a verbal update from the Clerk. It was not clear that the Parish Council would gain any extra benefit from membership. **RESOLVED:** Not to join the RSG Village Network.

9 Policies

a **RESOLVED:** to approve the following policies which the Clerk had identified as being required through her CILCA studies:

Scheme of delegation **APC/21-22/7/7**

Policies relating to human resources **APC/21-22/7/8**

- Equality and Diversity
- Homeworking
- Sickness and absence
- Flexible working
- Lone working
- Antbullying and Harassment
- Emergency/Dependants leave
- Expenses
- Performance Improvement
- Whistleblowing

Data Protection **APC/21-22/7/9**

ACTION: Clerk

The Clerk was asked to develop an Inclusion Policy and clarify whether Cllrs classed as volunteers in Council policies as they are not employees. **ACTION: Clerk**

10 Working groups

a Development working group

The Chair reported that a resident had lodged a formal complaint with LDC over their approach to planning conditions at the Greenacres site.

A meeting of the group would be held shortly to look at other developments in the village, with increased reference to the Neighbourhood Plan. Infill building in gardens was a particular concern. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**

b Environmental support and climate change working group

Considered: a verbal report from the Chair of the working group. She clarified that the proposed scheme for the land by Deepmoor Close and Inge Drive would be a planting project not a rewilding project. It would be a Jubilee Garden to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Council asked that a full proposal was brought to a future meeting before any work is undertaken, including a design, planting plan and full costings. The group was asked to talk to a garden designer as part of the project development. **ACTION: Working Group**

Other areas of the village could be enhanced by planting and the group would work with the Civic Society on proposals to bring back to a full Council meeting for approval before work commenced. **ACTION: Working Group**

The group asked Cllr Eagland to talk to SCC Highways about less frequent verge mowing schedule to improve wildlife habitat. **ACTION: CCllr Eagland**

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Agreed: that the group could undertake a tree survey, with external advice from local charities as required, to plot the location of special and vulnerable trees.

ACTION: Working Group

Hydro project on the River Trent Weir: The Chair of the working group was given permission to contact the Environment Agency concerning this proposal. She was asked to bring a scoping report back to a future meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Nicklin

Considered: the notes of the meeting held on 21/10/21 **APC/21-22/7/10**

c Neighbourhood Plan implementation working group

Considered: a verbal report from the Chair. A meeting would be held after the planned meeting of working group chairs to avoid overlap in the work of groups.

d Quarry working group

Considered: a verbal general report from the Chair. A local resident had not received a response from SCC to her request for a judicial review over the decision to approve the Orgreave quarry application. The Clerk was asked to write to SCC asking for a copy of documentation. The Parish Council might be asked to be a co-applicant in any Judicial Review but legal advice would be taken before any decision is made. **ACTION: Clerk**

Noted: that no Section 106 had been agreed for Orgreave Quarry. No land transfer to Cemex appeared to have taken place and it appeared that no lease on the land had been granted by the owners.

Agreed: the Clerk would write to SCC and ask them to remove the article 4 agreement in the light of the uncertainty over the HS2 Phase 2 b development. She would also ask for clarification on how planning conditions would be monitored and enforced, and would ask for the record of a meeting held 4 years ago between HS2 and SCC. **ACTION: Clerk**

e Traffic Management working group

Considered: a verbal report from the Chair. Actions are ongoing.

f Walkfield working group

Considered: a verbal report from the Chair. The Chair was hoping to contact representatives of the local sports club to reinstate the Sports Forum. A meeting would be held shortly to discuss the scope for the Jubilee event and costed proposals would be brought to a future meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Moss

Each working group was encouraged to hold a meeting in January 2022.

ACTION: Working group chairs

11 Residents' Comments

a Noted: comments which have included:

- Further concerns over the Greenacres drainage from a resident addressed to District Cllrs copied to the Parish Council
- Further request from a resident for the Parish Council to cut the verge near the allotments by the Churchyard referred back to the resident as this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council
- Notification by a resident that they have launched a complaint to SCC about their management of planning conditions relating to Alrewas quarry
- Request from the Patients' Participation Group for the Parish Council to host a map of the defibrillators in the village

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Matters for report

12 Update on planning applications

- a Noted: updates LDC decisions on planning applications since the last meeting (APC/21-22/7/11).

Agreed: The Clerk was asked to write to LDC to express concern over planning department protocols, including whether site visits were made to view application sites. District Cllrs had raised concerns and the correspondence would be copied to them.

ACTION: Clerk

13 To note correspondence received since the last meeting

- a To note that correspondence includes:
- Updates from LDC re Covid 19 issues and support available
 - Updates from SCC on Covid 19 issues and support available
 - Request from SCC to complete survey of experience of Covid
 - Update from SCC on local regeneration projects
 - Letter from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire on Platinum Jubilee celebration opportunities
 - Information on fire safety from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service regarding Halloween and Bonfire Night
 - Request for comment on Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service's proposed priorities
 - Information from Highways England on planned works on A38 and in Birmingham
 - Information from SCC on road repairs
 - Invitation from HS2 for a one to one meeting received
 - Questionnaire from Sustainability Matters Group, Stafford Borough, on roadside maintenance referred to ESCC working group
 - SCC Early years and childcare update received
 - SCC information on free aids from Eon
 - Updates from Staffordshire Archives, including on the new History Centre
 - Information on SCC and LDC on half term sports provision and qualification opportunities for school children
 - Information from Neighbourhood Watch on their "Say no to anti-social behaviour campaign"
 - LDC notification that they want residents to join a panel reviewing services
 - Information on the LDC green waste service and the charge for 2022
 - Information from Burton Library on free craft and social sessions
 - Updates from HS2 including their refreshed Community Engagement Strategy
 - Information from Staffordshire Healthwatch on their Community Outreach leads

15 Police Smart Alerts

- a Noted.

16 Update from the Civic Society

- a Noted: that the Civic Society was making a strong contribution to the Environmental Support & Climate Change working group.

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17 Parish Council Diary

a Past dates:

None

b Future dates

Armistice Day Service of Remembrance at the NMA 11 November 2021 to be attended by the Chair and Vice Chair

Communal wreath laying at the Village War Memorial Sunday 14 November 2021 – Cllr Whatton to represent the Parish Council

Wreath laying at Fradley Church Sunday 14 November 2021 – District Cllr Cross to represent the Parish Council

Community Litter Pick to be held on 20 November 2021 at 10am.

18 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

a Noted: that the next meeting will be held on 13 December 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

b Noted: that the agenda deadline is Thursday 2 December 2021

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

Kathryn Powell,

Clerk, Alrewas Parish Council,

11 November 2021, revised 15 November 2021, Confirmed