

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON 13 JUNE 2023 AT 7.50 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present

Cllr Dave Whatton (Chair), Cllrs Lawler, Lomas, Moss, Reilly, M Wilcox,

In attendance: Cllr Eagland, Ms Powell, Clerk

1 Apologies

- a Considered and approved: Cllr Adams – on holiday; Cllr Eagland for late arrival due to another meeting, District Cllr S Wilcox, another commitment.
- b Noted: that the meeting was quorate.

2 Police Liaison

- a Noted: that the Smart Alerts had been circulated.

3 Declarations of Members' Interests

- a Noted: that Cllr Lomas declared an interest in relation to planning application 23/00235/COU.

4 Minutes

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2023 without amendment. **APC/23-24/AM/M**
- b **RESOLVED:** to approve the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15 May 2023 without amendment **APC/23-24/1/M**
- c Considered: the updated action sheet **APC/23-24/2/1**

5 Public Participation

- a **RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Orders
- b Publication Participation: Noted: that there were no contributions from members of the public.
- c District Cllr: Noted: District Cllr Cross had been appointed Chair of LDC for 12 months. District Cllr Wilcox now had responsibility for waste services, the environment and climate change. A cinema complex had been signed up for the old Debenhams site and was due to open in the Autumn 2023. The emerging local plan was being revisited and changes had been made in the LDC Planning department to enhance services. LDC may offer training to parish councils to improve understanding of planning issues.
- d Cllr: Work was continuing on A38 repairs and plans were in place to close the A38 slip roads at Alrewas during the school holidays. The Cllr would be asked to request the resurfacing of the footpath alongside the A38 between Alrewas and Streethay. **ACTION: Cllr Eagland**
The HS2 Social Value project was being discussed with the Drop in. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**
The SCC Community Fund was still open to bids which should be made through the Cllr.

Strong disappointment was expressed at SCC's decision to approve 24 hr/7 days a week working at the CEMEX quarry and the Clerk was asked to write to SCC with the Parish Council's views. **ACTION: Clerk**

The CClr was thanked for her efforts at the Planning Committee and the Parish Council would write to Mr Threlfall to express its gratitude for his work.

ACTION: Clerk

Discussions were ongoing about the possible pedestrian crossing on Main Street.

RESOLVED: to reinstate Standing Orders

6 Planning applications

a Considered: the planning applications received from LDC since the last meeting.

(APC/23-24/2/2)

Recommended the following:

23/00235/COU A strong objection as the planning permission granted after the previous appeal had specifically forbidden the property to become separate to the main dwelling. It was noted that LDC had not informed the Parish Council that the planning condition relating to the original decision had been rescinded.

ACTION: Clerk

23/00519/FUL A strong objection on the following grounds:

- The height of the proposed structure
- 24 hour lighting and the impact on neighbouring properties
- Traffic volumes
- Damage to verges due to large vehicles
- Works appears to be underway without permission
- Strong objections from neighbours will be supported by the Parish Council

ACTION: Clerk

District Cllr Wilcox was asked to call in the planning application for consideration by the Planning Committee

ACTION: Cllr Wilcox

23/00600/FUH Further information would be requested from LDC and a recommendation made virtually

ACTION: Clerk

7 Financial Matters

a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Accounts from May 2023 **(APC/23-24/2/3)**

b **RESOLVED:** to approve the Cheques for Payment list for June 2023

(APC/23-24/2/4)

8 Parish Council responsibilities

a Considered: a paper on what responsibilities the Parish Council should take on following requests from residents and local organisations **(APC/23-24/2/5)**.

Noted: that a number of the issues raised by residents and groups which were the responsibility of other organisation. Noted: that the County Council and District Council had resource issues and could not undertake all their duties. Requests were made to the Parish Council partly for this reason.

Defibrillators: Noted: that these had been purchased mainly by public fundraising and later taken over, with funding, by the Surgery. They were now the responsibility of the Patients' Participation Group of the Surgery. This group had requested that the Parish Council take over financial and administrative responsibility for the equipment. Advice had been sought and given by the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association which had advised that it was not a duty on Parish Councils to take over such responsibilities.

Noted: that expertise and administrative time were required to maintain the equipment and liaise with the West Midlands Ambulance Service who

kept a listing of machines. This was not available in the Parish Council. The costs of maintenance and replacement were high and the Parish Council would have to balance these against other calls on its limited public funding.

Agreed: that it was not possible for the Parish Council to take on responsibility for the defibrillators. **ACTION: Clerk**

A recommended would be made to the PPG to make grant applications to contribute to costs, including to the Parish Council and the Alrewas and Fradley Combined Charities. **ACTION: Clerk**

- Footpath by Poppy Gardens – Cllr Eagland would ask SCC to clear the footpath as residents with buggies, mobility scooters and wheelchairs were having trouble travelling along the path **ACTION: Cllr Eagland**
- Willow wave – this had been created by the Arts Festival. APC had agreed to maintain it as a village feature and a specialist gardener would be asked to maintain it. The cost of £550 was agreed for 2023. An estimate of £120 per annum would be added to future budgets to cover the cost. Noted: that groups wishing to create features in the village in future would be expected to have a future maintenance programme as part of any application for permission.
- Planter in the George and Dragon alleyway – this was not the Parish Council's land and so responsibility would not be taken on by the Parish Council
- Dark Lane – dangerous driving. On safety grounds it was agreed to accept the LDC estimate for installing 2 heavy duty concrete bollards and a heavy duty dropdown bollard at a cost of £925 +VAT. **ACTION: Clerk**
Crest Nicolson would be asked for a contribution to the costs given that this problem had been caused by the Dark Lane housing development. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**
- The nuisance caused by children playing ball games on open land by The Flatts part of the Crest Nicholson development. The Parish Council had been asked to install a sign forbidding games. The matter would be referred to Crest Nicholson **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**
- Damage caused by Cadent on the corner of Fox Lane and Somerville Road. Cadent would be asked to make good the site. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from LDC to send to Cadent. **ACTION: Clerk**

9 Update on the installation of the permanent cricket pitch

- a Considered: an update from Cllr Moss. Noted: that a positive meeting had been held between concerned residents, Cllrs and the Cricket Club, which had assured all parties that the Club would cover any damage caused by their activities. It was accepted that unauthorized use of the pitch was less easy to control and that the pitch was intended as a community asset when not used by the Cricket Club. Use and any issues would be monitored over the cricket season and a future meeting held with residents if required. It was suggested that the Cricket Club might wish to purchase covers for the pitch to protect it when not in use during the winter months and minimize unauthorised use. **ACTION: Clerk**

Noted: that the Open Gardens had been given permission to use Walkfield as a car park and the Cricket Club would be asked to protect the new pitch and forbid use during that weekend. **ACTION: Clerk**

10 Dark Lane traffic issue

- a Considered: the issue of traffic on Dark Lane. Cllrs noted their concern about the

dangerous driving and hoped that the bollard installation agreed in agenda item 8 would solve the issue.

11 Speed Indicator devices

- a Considered: an update. Agreed: new quotations would be obtained and circulated for consideration. If the increase was small approval would be given by circulation and confirmed at the July 2023 meeting. If prices had risen more than by inflation then the matter would be considered at the July 2023 meeting. The Clerk and Cllr Moss would arrange for a letter to be sent to residents near the proposed locations. **ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Moss**

12 Damage on the corner of Fox Lane and Somerville Rd

- a Noted: that it was hoped that Cadent would make good the site – see agenda item 8 above

13 Working groups (Standing item – reports when required)

a Communications

Noted: that Parish Council surgeries would start in the George and Dragon before the end of June 2023 and be held every quarter. Others may be invited including the PCSO and Cllr.

ACTION: Cllrs Whatton and Wilcox

A date was being sought for another visit to the Drop In.

b Environment and Development Working Group

Considered: the Jubilee Garden report: Noted that the installation of a water supply by Soth Staffordshire water was underway so the spend of £200 agreed for a bowser was cancelled.

ACTION: Clerk

The Jubilee Garden group had asked that a resident who was supplying water from his house until the water supply was installed was paid £200 from the TTTV grant.

AGREED: to pay £200 from the TTTV grant to a local resident for a water supply. Cllr Moss would provide contact details to the Clerk.

ACTION: Cllr Moss and Clerk

A request to purchase ECO grid to form an accessible path would be made to the July 2023 meeting with full estimates provided.

ACTION: Cllrs Adams and Moss

Mr Coates would be asked to trim a branch at the Jubilee Garden.

ACTION: Cllr Moss

LDC would be asked to install the dog waste bin in store at LDC at the Jubilee

Garden **ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk was asked to consult LDC about a damaged bin on Micklehome Drive to ensure it is a Parish Council responsibility **ACTION: Clerk**

c Quarry working group

Noted: that a new Chair will be appointed shortly

d Traffic Management working group

Noted: that the PCSO has been asked for guidance on how to get dangerous drivers prosecuted.

Noted: that the notes of the recent meeting had been circulated to Cllrs.

e Walkfield working group

Noted: that the annual safety review for the Play area, trim trail and MUGA has been booked with LDC and a full risk assessment of Walkfield will be undertaken by LDC shortly.

14 Residents comments/correspondence

- a Noted: that residents' correspondence included:
- several complaints from residents about non consultation over the installation of the new cricket pitch and the risk to local properties being addressed by Vice Chair (see agenda item 10)
 - complaint about the noise from the Bearded Theory Festival copied to County and District Cllrs for attention. A response had been received from the organiser saying that all legal requirements were followed and monitored independently.
 - Suggestion from a resident that the Willow Wave is cut down
 - A complaint about the state of footpaths between Rykneld Street and Poppy Gardens and the difficulties it causes for residents with buggies and mobility scooters was considered under agenda item 8

Matters for report

15 Update on Planning Applications

- a Noted: the update **APC/23-24/2/6**

16 Correspondence received since the last meeting

- a Noted: that correspondence included:
- HS2 construction information including road closures
 - Invitation from HS2 to webinars on funding opportunities
 - Further information from Highways England on planned works on the A38
 - Information from SCC on road repairs
 - Information from SCC on the Ironman event
 - SCC information on Croxall Road repairs
 - Information from SCC on bus service changes
 - Information from SCC on business support
 - SCC Newsletter
 - Updates from Staffordshire Libraries and Archives
 - Information from SCC on funding opportunities
 - Training information for Cllrs and Officers from SPCA and SLCC circulated
 - Information from LDC on business support
 - Information and updates from Staffordshire Association of Parish Councils (SPCA) and SSLC
 - Updates from the Rural Services Network
 - Updates from CPRE

17 Update from the Civic Society (Standing item – report if required)

- a Noted: that no report was made.

18 Parish Council Diary

a Past dates: None

b Future dates: John Taylor High School Presentation evening 11 July 2023 – Cllr Moss to attend
Celebration of the Transforming the Trent Valley Project at the NMA 6 September 2023

19 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

a Noted: that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 10 July 2023 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall

b Noted: that the agenda deadline is **12 noon on Thursday 29 June 2023**

Kathryn Powell,
Clerk,
14 June 2023.
Confirmed

CLOSED SESSION

All non-Parish Cllrs left the meeting at this point.

20 Co-option of two Cllrs

a **RESOLVED:** unanimously, to co-opt Mr Richard Stephenson and Ms Sharon Keane as Cllrs to fill the vacancies and bring the Parish Council up to full strength.

ACTION: Clerk

Kathryn Powell,
Clerk,
14 June 2023.

Confirmed