

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.30PM**

CONFIRMED**Present:**

Cllr D Whatton (Chair), Cllr D Moss (Vice Chair), Cllr G Adams, Cllr E Lawler, Cllr M Lomas, Cllr R Stephenson, Cllr M Wilcox

In attendance: CCllr J Eagland, Sgt E Ford (Staffordshire Police), PCSO T Horton (Staffordshire Police), Ms K Powell (Clerk).

1 Mr Peter Coates

a Held: a Minute's Silence for the late Mr Peter Coates, a previous Parish Cllr.

2 Apologies

a Received and approved: apologies for absence from Cllr Reilly who had a family commitment, Cllr Keane – another meeting; Cllr M Wilcox for late arrival due to another meeting; District Cllr S Wilcox - health grounds.

b Noted: that the meeting was quorate.

3 Declaration of Members' new Interests

a Noted: that no new Interests were declared.

b Noted: that no new Dispensations were requested.

4 Minutes

a Approved: the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10 July 2023, without amendment (**APC/23-24/3/M**).

ACTION: Clerk

b Considered: the progress made on actions (**APC/23-24/4/1**). CCllr Eagland and her team were thanked for arranging for the vegetation on the A38 path to be cleared after a request from APC.

5 Police Update

a Welcomed: two members of the local police team to the meeting. A full report of recent issues had been circulated separately and the Police were pleased to report that few issues were causing any current concern in the village. There would be a Police attendance at the Parking Afternoon of Action on 15 September 2023 to give advice on safe parking.

6 Public Participation

a) **RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Orders.

b) Contribution from a members of the public - noted ongoing concerns about drivers travelling the wrong way along Micklehome Drive and the risk to other road users. Frustration was expressed that any actions taken had not stopped the problem. Noted: that a new reporting system had been put in place so that the Parking Enforcement Team could be quickly made aware of infringements. The link would be posted to the APC website. **ACTION: Clerk**

The resident requested that a mobile speed camera should attend the scene to act as a deterrent. She was thanked for her comments. The Police confirmed that the Community Safety Team had been asked to prioritise this issue. The Chair reminded the meeting that the drivers acting illegally were mainly local residents and it was hoped that all would consider the safety of others when using village roads. The Traffic Management Working Group would continue discussion with the Police on this issue. **ACTION: Traffic Management Working Group**

c) District Cllrs: NOTed:

LDC continues to work on the new Leisure Centre and planning permission would be sought at the next Planning Committee meeting.

The Planning Design Code is being developed.

Work on the draft Local Plan has been stopped and a new Plan will be developed giving more focus on creating new areas for development rather than infill in existing communities. The Chair noted that the proposed development on the Tarmac quarry site at Alrewas was a big concern for the community, especially if supporting infrastructure such as healthcare facilities were not in place before any developments commenced.

Arrangements for the pedestrianisation of Lichfield City Centre did allow disabled parking in the city centre on some days following complaints from disabled residents

A leisure greenway along the old railway line to Hammerwich was being developed

The Birmingham Road site agreements were being finalised

New or upgraded leisure facilities were being implemented in Lichfield and Burntwood.

d) County Cllr: Noted:

She continued to work on traffic issues and sent regular updates to Cllrs via the Clerk

Consultations were ongoing for a bus service to the NMA from Lichfield and Burton

She had arranged for SCC to undertake clearing of vegetation along the A38 footpath after concerns from the Parish Council

She would send the SCC e mail about RAAC in Schools to the Clerk for circulation **ACTION: CCllr Eagland/Clerk**

e) **RESOLVED:** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Matters for discussion/approval**7 Planning**

a Considered: a planning application from Lichfield District Council (**APC/23-24/4/2**):

23/00910/LBC Recommend approval noting that Conservation Officer is supportive. **ACTION: Clerk**

Endorsed: recommendations on planning applications made by circulation during August 2023:

23/00789/FUH Recommend approval

23/00821/FUL Recommend approval

23/00786/FUH Recommend approval

23/00821/FUL Alrewas Parish Council does not oppose this application but has concerns that it significantly reduces the amount of publicly available land by the Dark Lane development, which was part of the original planning application for the development. The Parish Council also has concerns, expressed when the application was first presented some years ago, that it could lead to further building development at the site if the owner requests housing and ancillary building linked to animal care.

23/00855/FUH Alrewas Parish Council supports this application as it believes that it is more in keeping with the conservation area in which the building is located.

23/00856/LBC Alrewas Parish Council supports this application as it believes that it is more in keeping with the conservation area in which the building is located.

23/00746/FUH Previous concerns remain despite further information supplied as APC cannot determine the legal ownership of the land which is planned to build on and so cannot support the proposal. Noted: no trees have TPOs.

b Considered: a letter from another Parish Council concerning the use of Neighbourhood Plans in planning decisions (**APC/23-24/4/3**). The concerns of that Parish Council were noted and it was agreed that Neighbourhood Plans should be given greater weight when planning decisions and appeals were made. Concern was expressed that local wishes were not given more weight when large developments were proposed. The Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan would be reconsidered in due course when the Lichfield Local Plan was finalised. The Clerk would respond the parish council which had raised the issue about the use of Neighbourhood Plans. **ACTION: Clerk**

8 Financial matters

a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Accounts for July 2023 (**APC/23-24/4/4**)

b **RESOLVED:** to approve the Accounts for August 2023 (**APC/23-24/4/5**)

c **RESOLVED:** to approve the Cheques for Payment list for September 2023 (**APC/23-24/4/6**)

ACTION: Chair/Vice Chair/Clerk

d **RESOLVED:** to confirm the approval of the Cheques for payment list for August 2023 which was approved by circulation (**APC/23-24/4/7**)

9 Flooding in Alrewas

a Considered: ways in which to address the recent flooding issues following heavy rain in July 2023. It was noted that heavy rain events were becoming more common and urgent due to climate change. Seven Trent had informed District Cllr M Wilcox that the drains in the village were small gauge and so could not cope with excessive amounts of run off. The District Cllr had requested that the drains on the A38 slip road should be cleared as part of the upgrade of the road. A Parish Council working group, to be called the Water Management Working Group, would be set up to consider relevant issues. Membership would include Cllrs Moss, Lomas and Stephenson and invited local residents. **ACTION: Cllr Moss**

10 CCTV Policy

a **RESOLVED:** to approve the draft CCTV Use Policy with immediate effect which had been developed from national guidelines and good practice (**APC/23-24/4/8**). The Clerk would investigate training opportunities. **ACTION: Clerk**

11 Replacement dog waste bin on Micklehome Drive

a **RESOLVED:** to purchase a replacement 45 litre dog waste bin to replace the damaged one on Micklehome Drive and to approve the quotation of £400 + VAT from LDC to supply and install it, subject to consultation with the insurance company. **ACTION: Clerk**

12 Proposed Christmas Market

a Considered: a proposal to organise a Christmas Market on the first Sunday afternoon in December 2023 (**APC/23-24/4/9**). Cllr Wilcox had contacted an events company which charged to set up events. No Parish council budget was available this year to support the project. Noted: such an event might conflict with any Christmas Fair or school events already planned by local groups. **AGREED:** the Communications working group would discuss the proposed event with local organisations to see if a combined activity could be arranged. A progress report and any proposal for approval would be made to the November meeting. **ACTIONS: Communications Working Group**

13 Football Club lease

a Considered: the current lease (**APC/23-24/4/10**). **APPROVED:** the amendment that the summer break in using the pitch should be suspended on a trial basis until Autumn 2025 to see if the grass can cope with more use. **ACTION: Clerk**

14 Cllr development training

a Considered: whether to arrange a training session to support the Civility and Respect initiative which the Parish Council has signed up to (**APC/23-24/4/11**). The Clerk was asked to investigate e learning opportunities and report back to a future meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

15 Dark Lane traffic issue

a Noted: that issues had been resolved due to the installation of bollards.

16 Report from the Drop in visit and Parish Council Surgery

a Considered: the issues raised by the sessions (**APC/23-24/4/12**):

- Both events had been positive and well attended
- Traffic in the village including the problems caused by the closure of the slip road and periodic closures of the A38 and other local roads
- Traffic speeding in the village. The police had attended the Surgery at the George and Dragon and obtained volunteers for a Speedwatch group. Cllr Wilcox would contact the local Community Speedwatch Co-Ordinator and bring a proposal to the November 2023 meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**

- Barriers on pathways making disabled access very difficult were a concern. While noting that they had been installed to stop cyclists and motorbike riders speeding along pathways the Parish Council would be happy for them to be removed to facilitate disabled access. As this is a matter for SCC Highways the Cllr volunteered to investigate possible solutions and report back to the November 2023 meeting. **ACTION: Cllr England**
- A request had been made for a dog waste bin to be installed in the George and Dragon alleyway due to the amount of mess there. The Communications Group would produce posters reminding residents to clean up after their dogs and put a message on the APC Facebook page. **ACTION: Communications Group.** The request from an extra dog waste bin would be put to the Budget setting meeting to see if the Parish Council could buy a new bin and pay for the ongoing clearance costs. **ACTION: Clerk**

17 Draft 2050 Lichfield District Strategy

- a Endorsed: a draft response to the proposed strategy, subject to adding in the need for shared housing and support for a higher proportion of affordable rental properties (**APC/23-24/4/13**). **ACTION: Clerk**

18 Council Working groups (Standing item – reports when required)

- a Noted: the updated working group membership listing, with the addition of the new Water Management Working Group, to be uploaded to the website (**APC/23-24/4/14**) **ACTION: Clerk**

b Communications

Endorsed: the approval by circulation of the printing of leaflets "Protect our kerbstones" at a cost of £35.

Noted: that engagement with the community was improving due to quarterly meeting at the Drop In and the quarterly surgeries, and the Parish Council Facebook Page which had increased its membership.

c Environment and Development Working Group

RESOLVED: To endorse the decision made by circulation to approve the quote of £3148.56 inc. VAT from ECOGRID Ltd for the installation of Ecogrid as the pathway surface at the Jubilee Garden. Half of the cost had been applied for from the TTTV grant. The rest would be taken from Parish Council reserves.

RESOLVED: to purchase two replacement fruit trees for the Jubilee Garden at a cost of £47.90 plus delivery charge (**APC/23-24/4/15**). **ACTION: Clerk**

Considered: a verbal report from Cllr Moss on a meeting held with the CPRE on the Hedgerows Heroes project. Discussions were ongoing about the CPRE supplying free bushes for the Jubilee Garden and Dark Lane, with APC finding volunteers to plant and water the bushes on a regular basis until established .

A revised grass cuttings schedule would be considered to enhance wildflower growth. This would be discussed at the budget meeting in November as the grass was cut by through the LDC maintenance contract. A proposal for changes would be made by the working group to the meeting in November, with budget details provided to the budget meeting in October. Consultation would be undertaken with the LDC Ecology Officer and Mr Brownridge.

ACTION: E&D working group

The Clerk was asked to enquire about progress on the pruning of the willow wave. **ACTION: Clerk**

d Quarry working group

Considered: a verbal update from Cllr Moss on the recent Tarmac Liaison meeting and CEMEX Open meeting. Orgreave Quarry is operational and the operator may apply for further put of hours working. The site visit had been positive and the site looked well managed. Another site visit would be requested. **ACTION: Cllr England**

Noted: that Mr Threlfall continued to monitor developments closely on behalf of the Parish Council.

e Traffic Management working group

Endorsed: the approval by circulation of the printing of dangerous parking leaflets at a cost of £35

Considered: an update from Cllr Adams on the planned Afternoon of Action against dangerous parking Friday 15 September 2023 3-5pm. Police would attend and the aim was to be informative. The Doctors' Surgery had been approached informally about opening their car park at weekends. Cllr Adams and the Clerk would make a formal request.

ACTION: Cllr Adams and Clerk

Considered: an update from Cllr Adams on the installation of the SIDs. The quotation received was rejected as it was too high and a further quote would be obtained. **ACTION: Clerk**

Noted: that the Parish Council had received a request from a resident to install a traffic mirror on the junction of Fox Lane and Main Street. SCC had been consulted and their response was that it would be illegal to put this on a public structure. The Traffic Management Group was asked to consider other options for the junction.

ACTION: Traffic Management Working Group

f Walkfield working group

Approved: a request from the Civic Society to undertake planting on Walkfield (**APC/23-24/4/16**). **ACTION: Clerk**

Noted: that the group is considering the Risk Assessment report on Walkfield, including the MUGA, recently completed by LDC at the request of the Parish Council. A report will be made to a future meeting. **ACTION: Walkfield Working Group**

19 Residents comments/correspondence

- a Noted: that correspondence included:

- Several complaints about flooding after heavy rain July 2023 sent to Cllr England. Updates received from SCC and the Parish Council continues to press for a review of drainage in the village. Updates published on the Parish Council website and the Parish Facebook page
- Complaints about the impact of the road closure on the Rykneld Street slip road passed to contractors and National Highways
- A resident's concern over the condition of the basketball pitch on the MUGA reported to the Walkfield working group
- Offer of letters to an Alrewas Cllr in the 1950s from the recipients relative forwarded to the Alrewas Archive
- Grant application from the PPG to be considered after the autumn 2023 budget setting process
- More concerns over one way traffic violations on Micklehome Drive passed to the Police
- Dangerous tree on Mellor Drive reported to SCC and tree pruned on safety grounds by SCC July 2023
- Request from residents for an allocation of Bloodstock tickets forwarded to Bloodstock organisers by a Cllr
- Request from a resident that a traffic mirror is installed at the corner of Fox Lane and Main Street (see agenda item 18f above)
- Complaint about the state of the footpath from the A513 to the NMA made by a boating visitor to the village – referred to the Cllr and a response received which has been passed to the complainant. The complaint has also been forwarded to the NMA for their information.

Matters for report

20 Update on Planning Applications

- a Noted: the update **APC/23-24/4/17**

21 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
- Information from the organisers about the Bloodstock festival at Catton Hall 11-13 August 2023 posted on the APC website. The organisers were contacted to remind them of local road closures which could affect their traffic flows
- Further information from Highways England on planned works on the A38
- Further information from contractors on Rykneld Street Old Burton Road closure
- Information from SCC Highways on width restriction on Chetwynd Bridge
- Information from SCC on 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 from LDC on road closures for the Lichfield 10k event
- Information and updates from Staffordshire Association of Parish Councils (SPCA) and SSLC
- Introductory message from the new Chief Executive of SPCA
- Updates from the Rural Services Network
- Updates from CPRE
- CPRE State of the Green Belt 2023 report
- Invitation to the CPRE AGM and tour at Ingestre Orangery 31 August 2023
- Invitation from the Transforming the Trent Valley organisation to their Green Conversations event 26 July 2023 in Rugeley
- Invitation from the Transforming the Trent Valley organisation to their Celebration in the Park 9 September 2023
- Notification that the A513 would not be shut during August and September as originally planned
- Letter from the residents of Baldwins Gate, Staffordshire about the outcome of a planning decision and the wider implications for other communities – considered under agenda item 2 above
- Information on revised mental health services for the area
- Invitation to the SPCA Annual General Meeting 30 October 2023
- Invitation to the TTTV celebration in Derby
- Consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in Staffordshire from Local Government Boundary Commission for England

22 Police Liaison

- a Noted: the Smart Alerts which had been circulated to Cllrs.

- b Noted the crime report prepared by the PCSO (**APC/23-24/4/18**) which had been circulated separately to Cllrs.

23 Update from the Civic Society

Noted: that the Civic Society are working with the Jubilee Garden group on planting proposals. More bulbs had been purchased for planting around the village.

24 Parish Council Diary

- a Past dates: John Taylor High School Presentation evening 11 July 2023

Cllrs visit to the Drop In 24 July 2023 – Cllrs Adams and Wilcox attended

Parish Council Surgery at the George and Dragon – 2 September 2023 12 noon to 1pm

TTTV celebration event 6 September 2023 at the NMA – Cllr Moss represented the Parish Council

- b Future dates: Invitation from the Alrewas and District RBL Branch, to the Battle of Britain Commemorative Service at St Stephen's Church Fradley, 17 September 2023 – Cllr Whatton to attend

Invitation from the Alrewas and District RBL Branch to the unveiling of a mural 30 September 2023 - Cllr Whatton to attend

25 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

- a Noted: that the **October 2023** meeting has been **CANCELLED**.

- b Noted: that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 13 November 2023** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

- c Noted: that the agenda deadline is **12 noon on Thursday 2 November 2023**

Kathryn Powell,
Clerk, 12 September 2023.
Confirmed

Signature: _____
(Chair/Vice Chair)

Date: _____