

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.30PM**

CONFIRMED**Present:**

Cllr D Whatton (Chair), Cllr D Moss (Vice Chair), Cllr J Reilly, Cllr G Adams (Minutes), Cllr E Lawler, Cllr M Lomas, Cllr R Stephenson, Cllr M Wilcox, Cllr S Keane.

In attendance: Cllr J Eagland, DCllr S Wilcox.

1 Apologies

- a Received and approved: apologies for absence from Parish Clerk who had a family commitment.
- b Noted: that the meeting was quorate.

2 Declaration of Members' new Interests

- a Noted: that no new Interests were declared.
- b Noted: that no new Dispensations were requested.

3 Minutes

- a Approved: the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11 Sep 2023, with one small amendment (see action sheet) (**APC/23-24/4/M**). **ACTION: Clerk**

4 Public Participation

- a) **RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Orders.
- b) District Cllrs: Noted:
 - Pedestrianisation in Lichfield centre will start soon for 6 months. Citizens' views will be collected before final decision. Taxis will collect by the old library.
 - Council will announce plans for the old Debenhams building before the end of the year.
 - Food waste will have to be collected weekly from March 2024. Plans are being developed
 - Emerging Local Plan is in development
 - Application for planning permission for Leisure Centre to be considered in December.
 - The area currently screened by hoardings opposite the City train station will be levelled to make a temporary car park. Building will follow. Plans being developed to move the bus station to the same side of the road as the train station. Multi storey car park will be demolished to open up the space. Display signs on City entry to show number of parking spaces available will be erected soon.
- c) County Cllr: Noted:
 - SCC officers would like to come and talk to the Parish Council about Cemex. Agreed officers to be invited. Chair to decide when. **ACTION: Chair & Clerk**
 - Councillor Eagland noted that there would be Voluntary and Community money available next year.
- d) Update from the Quarry Working Group was taken here to allow Mr Stuart Threlfall to speak. Cllr Eagland chaired recent meeting. HS2 Phase 1 has been slowed down and HS2 phase 2 cancelled. All works will stay. Environmental works will continue as will bridges and tunnels. Cemex at Orgreave is only now ready to start quarrying and so we expect activity in the next few weeks.
 - There will be an effect on Cemex of less demand from HS2 and we should expect planning applications from Cemex to alter their terms of working.
 - No plan for out of hours working despite planning agreement.

- Complaint regarding the visual appearance and colour used has been upheld.
New road signs have been requested to alert drivers to new road layout.
e) **RESOLVED:** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Matters for discussion/approval

5 Planning

a Considered: **23/01089/FUL** a planning application with regard to 16 Mill End Lane (**APC/23-24/5/2**):

There was general concern that this planning permission had been made with several consecutive changes. Concern regarding effect on the Church, drains and neighbours was expressed. The Chair agreed to write to LDC although the date for responses had passed.

ACTION: Chair

6 Financial matters

a. **Approved** the Accounts for September 2023 (**APC/23-24/5/3**)

b **Approved:** the Accounts for October 2023 (**APC/23-24/5/4**)

c **Approved:** the Cheques for Payment list for November 2023 (**APC/23-24/5/5**)

ACTION: Chair/Clerk/Vice Chair

d **Approved:** The completed AGAR (**APC/23-24/5/6**)

b. Budget for 2024/25

a **Noted:** Report of the budget setting working meeting 9 October 2023. (**APC/23-24/5/7**)

b **Approved:** the project spending discussed at the budget setting meeting in October 2023 following removal of the query on agreement of the £3,000 for Walkfield at Item 9.

(**APC/23-24/5/8**)

ACTION: Clerk

c Considered: the Precept to be requested from LDC for 2024-25 - This was discussed in detail and will be brought back to a future meeting for final resolution. (**APC/23-24/5/9**)

d **Approved:** The revised Grants procedure was agreed with an extra line allowing for the Chair to make an exception to the date grants are required in exceptional circumstances (**APC/23-24/5/10**)

ACTION: Cllr Adams

e A move to online banking was agreed. Cllr Moss will examine different account options and bring it back to a future meeting. (**APC/23-24/5/11**)

ACTION: Cllr Moss/Clerk/Accounts Officer

8 Dates of Parish Council Meetings for 2024

a The proposed dates of Parish Council meetings for 2024 were agreed. (**APC/23-24/5/12**)

9 Online Civility & Respect training

a **AGREED:** that this training was not needed. **ACTION: Clerk**

10 CCTV training and related issues

a Due to the absence of the Clerk, this was deferred until a later meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

11 Community Speedwatch proposal

a Cllr Wilcox explained that there were 5 volunteers for speedwatch and that training was being arranged. **Approved:** to purchase the equipment. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox/Clerk**

12 Overgrown vegetation

a Agreed to get the overgrown hedge on Micklehome cut back at a cost of £150 and in the George & Dragon alleyway - £80.

ACTION: Cllr Wilcox

13 Slow Ways

a Agreed to pass this on to John Pegg who may be interested

ACTION: Clerk

14 CPRE membership

a Agreed to pay for basic £36 CPRE membership

ACTION: Clerk.

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

a Communications:

December newsletter will be finalised in the next 3 weeks

Alrewas Parish Council Facebook page is growing steadily

b Environment and Development Working Group

Trees are thriving. A working party cut the areas and sowed seed for wildflower areas.

Carnell's laid the ecogrid and donated topsoil and seed to cover it. Daffodils have been planted in the entrance area. Thank you letter to go to Carnells.

ACTION: Clerk

Plans for next year are benches, a sign and hedgerows.

Expenditure on seeds -£150, Stakes and timber for compost bin - £150, and weed suppressant - £21 was agreed.

ACTION: Cllrs Moss & Adams

d Quarry working group

A report was made under agenda item 4.

e Traffic Management working group

Meeting held with SCC officers and Cllr Eagland about feasibility study for a crossing.

The Parish Council has fed in concerns.

The request to undertake the feasibility study will be made to Amey this week although we are advised it could take a year. Cllr Eagland will try and move this forward more quickly.

Quote from Morgan & Bond Ltd accepted as long as it includes all requirements. **ACTION: Clerk**

f Walkfield working group

There are a few areas in the play area and MUGA that need resolving. The handyman will do those that do not affect the actual equipment

Issue regarding the football pitch is resolved. It does require aerating and seeding to keep it in a reasonable condition. Grant opportunity being looked at

ACTION: Cllr Moss

Walkfield meeting with Cricket Club, tennis club etc to take place this week

g Utilities working group

New name given to Water management working group

Cllrs Lomas & Stephenson have been given a map of areas of excess surface water and have walked key areas of the village with John Walton to test out whether the drains were blocked.

Some drains were silted up and these will be reported on the SCC website.

Villagers to be asked to 'adopt' the drain near their home and if silted up to report it to SCC.

Agreed: Utilities Working Group to meet with SCC officers to talk about regular drain maintenance Scheduling.

ACTION: Cllrs Stephenson & Lomas

16 Residents comments/correspondence

a Noted: that correspondence included:

- Further complaints about the barbed wire fence near Cotton Close have been taken forward by Cllr Wilcox and the Clerk
- Complaint about a fallen tree partly blocking the Trent and Mersey canal at lock 12 reported by the Clerk to the CRT
- Invitation sent to Cllrs to attend a Dementia Friendly event at the RBL on 25 October 2023
- Report of decaying wood on the Statfold Lane Bailey Bridge referred to SCC as it carries a public footpath
- Query from a resident about the hedging on Dark Lane referred to Cllrs Moss and Adams
- Concern from a resident about the dangerous state of the railings and Give Way sign at Kents Bridge referred by the Clerk to Staffordshire Highways and the CRT
- Report of a suspicious van in Alrewas October 2023 referred to Staffordshire Police and LDC's Environmental Support team who confirmed that this was not one of their vehicles

- Complaint about heavy construction lorries on Micklehome Drive referred to the Traffic Management Group
- Concern about a failed streetlight near the George and Dragon alleyway reported by the Clerk to SCC Highways
- Query from a residents about the planned kerbstone work by SCC referred to SCC for clarification which has been received

Matters for report

17 Update on Planning Applications

- a Noted: the update **APC/23-24/5/14**

18 Correspondence received since the last meeting

- a Noted: that correspondence included:

- Fire & Rescue Service regarding a change to procedure – attendance at house fires to include 3 officers only. Discussion. Agreed to write regarding dangerous practice. **ACTION: Chair**
- HS2 construction information including road closures
- Invitation to a public HS2 roadshow at Cappers Lane, Lichfield 23 October 2023
- Invitation from HS2 to webinars on funding opportunities
- 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 on road repairs including repair work on kerbstones on Main Street in January 2024
- Information from SCC on bus service changes
- Information from SCC on business support
- SCC Newsletter
- SCC briefing on Storm Babette 19 October 2023
- Information from SCC on schools affected by RAAC concrete
- 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
- Update from LDC on the Social Progress Index
- Information and updates from SPCA and SSLC
- Updates from the Rural Services Network
- Updates from CPRE

19 Police Liaison

- a Smart Alerts which had been circulated to Cllrs - noted.

20 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 - noted

21 Parish Council Diary

- a Past 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 attended
 Invitation from the Alrewas and District RBL Branch to the unveiling of a mural at the RBL Club, 30 September 2023 - Cllr Whatton attended
 Keep Alrewas Tidy litter pick 28 October 2023, organised by Cllr Wilcox
 Invitation from the NMA to the National Service of Remembrance 11 November 2023 and to the Armistice Day Service – Cllr Whatton attended

Service of Remembrance at Alrewas Church – APC represented by Cllr
Lawler who did a reading and laid a wreath

b Future dates: Cllrs' Surgery at the George and Dragon to take place 12 – 1 on Saturday 2nd
December. Cllr Lomas, Moss, Whatton & Wilcox to attend. Police to be invited. **ACTION: Clerk**

22 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

a To note that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 11 December 2023** at 7.30pm in the
Village Hall

b To note that the agenda deadline is **12 noon on Thursday 30 November 2023**

Cllr Gail Adams
15 November 2023.

Confirmed

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