

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 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, CLlr E Lawler, CLlr M Lomas, CLlr R Stephenson, CLlr M Wilcox

In attendance: Ms Kathryn Powell, Clerk.

1 Apologies

- a Received and approved: CLlr S Keane (illness), DCllr S Wilcox (another commitment), CCllr J Eagland (illness).
- b Noted: that the meeting was quorate.

2 Declaration of Members' new Interests

- a Noted: that no new Interests were declared. CLlr Moss noted that she had no interest in the planning application for Selwyn Close as this did not impact on her property
- b Noted: that no new Dispensations were requested.

3 Minutes

- a Approved: the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 13 November 2023. (**APC/23-24/5/M**).
- b Considered: the updated Action Sheet. (**APC/23-24/6/1**)

4 Public Participation

- a) **RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Orders.
- b) Residents: No comments were received.
- c) District Cllrs: Noted: LDC were making progress with signing up businesses for the old Debenhams site. The cinema will be owned by LDC who is appointing an operator. A planning application for the new leisure centre for Curborough will be made in January 2024. The multistorey car park will be demolished in 2024 and temporary car parking would be provided. The funding allocation from central government would be announced on 18 December 2023. LDC will appoint a new Chairman shortly. LDC had asked parish councils to respond to a survey on spending priorities.
- d) County Cllr: Noted: CCllr Eagland had circulated regular updates from SCC. SCC Planning had ordered CEMEX to meet outstanding planning application conditions. CCllr Eagland had asked for a response to the SCC survey and a draft would be prepared for approval at the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**
The Police and Fire Commissioner had asked for a response to his survey on spending priorities. The Clerk would give the Parish Council's response as:
"The Parish Council was unclear as to the purpose of giving options to members of the public and stakeholder organisations when the impact of such spending on services was not clear. It therefore felt unable to complete the actual survey. The Parish Council was very concerned about the health and safety impact for Fire Service crews and for the public of the proposal to have fire tenders crewed by only three individuals. It strongly recommended that this proposal be withdrawn."

ACTION: Clerk

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

Matters for discussion/approval

5 Planning

- a Considered: Planning applications received since the last meeting (**APC/23-24/6/2**)
- 23/01311/FUH** Homestead Farm, The Cottage, Croxall Rd: The Parish Council supported the application but requested that all precautions were taken to stop the egress of silt and other building materials onto the road and into drains and gullies to minimise the risk of flooding in the village.
 - 23/01243/FUH** 5 Selwyn Close: The Parish Council supported the application but requested that all precautions were taken to stop the egress of silt and other building materials onto the road and into drains and gullies to minimise the risk of flooding in the village.
- ACTION: Clerk**

6 Financial matters

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Accounts for November 2023 (**APC/23-24/6/3**)
- b **RESOLVED:** to approve the Cheques for Payment list for December 2023 (**APC/23-24/6/4**)
- ACTION: Chair/Clerk/Vice Chair**
- c Considered: a verbal update from Cllr Moss on online banking. Cllr Moss had consulted the Village Hall Treasurer about their experience and was aware that they had experienced some inflexibility in their provider's system. The Clerk and Accounts Officer were asked to contact Lloyds Bank and Nat West to see what facilities they could provide.
- ACTION: Clerk/Accounts Officer**

7 Revised Grants Procedure

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the revised Grants Application procedure for immediate implementation (**APC/23-24/6/5**). The Clerk noted that the newly included exceptional use of Chair's Action should not mean that the approved total budget for the grants should be exceeded.

ACTION: Clerk

8 Cllrs Surgery 2 December 2023

- a Considered: a verbal report of issues raised at the Surgery. There had been a good turn out from residents and a range of issues covered. The PCSO had attended. Concerns raised included:
- A bright light box in the window of the chemist which caused light pollution at night. The Clerk was asked to contact the chemist and ask for the light to be dimmed or turned off at night.
- ACTION: Clerk**
- Speeding traffic remained a concern and residents had been informed of the speed watch initiative
 - The lack of road markings near the Green Acres estate entrance had been reported to SCC Highways and the markings would be instated when work on the estate was completed
 - It was reported that fewer vehicles are travelling the wrong way along Micklehome Drive, As CCTV cameras have been installed in the area signs were required to advise people travelling in the area that recording was taking place. The Speed Watch co-ordinator would be asked to provide a quote for approval at a future APC meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**
 - The online system for reporting traffic violations was not working and this had been reported to the PCSO. Cllr Adams would consult the PCSO on the most effective way to report bad parking **ACTION: Cllr Adams**
 - The Crest Nicholson signs by the petrol station needed replacement. Cllr Wilcox would contact Crest Nicholson. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**
 - A resident had reported that a driver was regularly parking his lorry on Daisy Lane over the A513. It was noted that this was not illegal and the Parish Council could take no action.

9 CCTV Training update

a Noted: that the Clerk reported that most commercial training was aimed at security professionals and was not suited to volunteers. The Clerk had enquired of SPCA if any training was available for parish councils and community groups and would report to a future meeting. Noted: it might be necessary for the Parish Council to obtain a licence if the local security business was unable to monitor the APC system in future. The personal safety of the operator was raised as a possible concern. The PCSO would be asked to advise on CCTV good practice and be invited to the January APC meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

10 HS2 update

a Considered: a verbal report from Cllr Moss on the recent meeting between representatives of HS2 and local parish councils. There was no new information from that reported to a previous meeting. HS2 had been asked to help to repair the bailey bridge on behalf of the owner as the bridge is not the responsibility of SCC or APC, and a response was awaited.

11 Speed Watch Training

a Considered: a verbal report from Cllrs Wilcox and Stephenson. 7 volunteers had been trained and they were thanks for their involvement. Suitable locations on Kings Bromley Road and Fox Lane had been agreed with the Police and the Speed Watch co-ordinator. It was hoped to start using the equipment soon. A further report would be made to the January 2024 meeting. A report would be provided for the APC website and the APC Facebook page.

ACTION: Cllrs Wilcox and Stephenson

The Clerk was asked to write to the George and Dragon landlord to thank him for his hospitality in hosting events.

ACTION: Clerk

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

a Communications:

Noted: that the Newsletter is being delivered. The APC Facebook page now has over 370 followers.

b Environment and Development Working Group

No report

c Quarry working group

No report

d Traffic Management working group

Noted: that Cllr Adams had agreed amended locations for the SIDS with SCC and would contact residents in the vicinity. **Action: Cllr Adams**

The Clerk would now order the SIDS and posts and ask the agreed contractor to install the devices

Action: Clerk

f Walkfield working group

Noted: that the Sport Forum met on 15 November 2023. Notes from the meeting had been circulated to Cllrs and were presented to the meeting as an extra paper. It was reported that moles were active on the playing field. The Clerk was asked to investigate a different pest service contract. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Tennis Club had thanked the Parish Council for its financial support earlier in the year.

The Colts reported that interest in playing had increased. The Football Club had been advised to apply for external sports grants to improve the pitch if they wished to do so above the usual APC maintenance programme.

g Utilities working group

A good meeting had been held. Notes would be forwarded to the Clerk for circulation to Cllrs.

ACTION: Cllr Lomas

A gully survey had been undertaken and feedback from SCC highways was awaited. Cllr Lomas would contact CCllr England to see if any update is available. **ACTION: Clerk**

A query had been raised about how reports of blocked drains and gullies impacted on insurance

and property searches. This would be investigated with SCC. **ACTION: Cllr Lomas**
Cllr Wilcox was asked to request litter pickers to check for blocked drains and gullies.

ACTION: Cllr Wilcox

SCC officers would be asked to attend the February 2024 meeting to provide an update on utilities issues **ACTION: Clerk**

13 Residents comments/correspondence

a Noted: that correspondence included:

- A further complaint about the barbed wire fence on Statfold Lane had referred to the Cotton Close residents' committee and confirmation has been received that the wire has been removed.
- Noted: Concerns over aggregate lorries travelling through the village was raised with CEMEX, but the lorries were not visiting their site
- Other concerns have been raised about non aggregate heavy lorries travelling along Main Street, especially early in the morning. The complaint has been forwarded to Staffordshire Police
- Update from the PPG on defibrillators and a suggestion to hold a public event on first aid in 2024

Matters for report

14 Update on Planning Applications

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

15 Weekend Parking

a Noted: that the Surgery has not been able to agree to the Parish Council's request to allow residents to use their car park at weekends due to insurance and public liability issues.

16 Correspondence received since the last meeting

a Noted that correspondence includes:

- HS2 construction information including road closures
- Notification of local government services pay agreement for 2023
- Information from SCC on bus service changes
- Information from SCC on business support
- SCC Newsletter
- SCC information on road gritting
- SCC Communities consultation November 2023
- Updates from Staffordshire Libraries and Archives
- Information from SCC on funding opportunities
- Information from LDC on business support
- Information from LDC on revised vehicular access to central Lichfield
- information on LDC car parking fees and charges review provided by Cllr Eagland
- Information and updates from SPCA and SSLC including on training opportunities
- Updates from the Rural Services Network
- Updates from CPRE
- Update from the East Midlands Airport Airspace Change Stage 2 project
- A request from the Knit Wits to decorate the village green for Christmas was approved.

ACTION: Clerk

17 Police Liaison

a Noted: the Smart Alerts (already circulated)

b Noted: that PCSO Horton provided a written report in November 2023 which was circulated to Parish Cllrs

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

a Noted: that three fruit trees had been planted on Walkfield as previously agreed with the Parish Council.

19 Parish Council Diary

Noted:

a Past dates: Cllrs' Surgery at the George and Dragon 2 December 2023

b Future dates: None reported

20 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

a Noted: that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 15 January 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

b Noted: that the agenda deadline is **12 noon on Thursday 4 January 2024**

The Chair wished all attendees a Happy Christmas and thanked everyone for attending.

Kathryn Powell
Clerk
12 December 2023

Confirmed