

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL
MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2024 HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM**

Present:

Cllr D Whatton (Chair), Cllr G Adams (Vice Chair), Cllr S Keane, Cllr J Reilly, Cllr R Stephenson, Cllr M Wilcox.

In attendance:

Ms K Powell (Clerk), District Cllr S Wilcox.

1 Apologies

- a Received and approved: apologies for absence: Cllr Lawler, family commitment, Cllr M Lomas, another commitment; CCllr J Eagland, another commitment.
- b Noted: that the meeting was quorate.

2 Resignation of Vice Chair, Cllr Donna Moss

- a Noted: that the resignation of Cllr Moss had been accepted in principle at the January 2024 meeting, subject to obtaining some technical advice from Lichfield District Council which had been received. **RESOLVED:** to fully accept the resignation of Cllr Moss with effect from 15 January 2024. This would be reported to LDC.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllrs recognised the significant contribution made by Cllr Moss to the work of the Parish Council and thanks would be sent to her.

ACTION: Clerk

- b **RESOLVED:** to appoint Cllr Adams as Vice Chair. Cllr Adams made her Declaration of Acceptance Of Office which was accepted by Cllrs.

3 Declaration of Members' new Interests

- a Noted: that Cllr Adams declared an interest in agenda item 8 as an allotment holder.
- b Noted: that no Dispensations were requested or approved.

4 Minutes

- a Approved: the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15 January 2024 without amendment (**APC/23-24/7/M**)
- b Considered: the progress made on actions (**APC/23-24/8/1**)

5 Public Participation

- a) **RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Orders
- b) Members of the public – Noted: that a local resident raised serious concerns about parking on the corner of Exchange Road and Dark Lane, which was blocking drives and limiting visibility for other road users. **AGREED:** the concerns would be raised with CCllr Eagland for the attention of SCC Highways and Cllr Wilcox would contact Parking Enforcement officers to visit the area.

ACTION: Cllr Wilcox The Traffic Management Group would also leaflet parked cars in the vicinity to remind them of the need to park safely.

ACTION: Cllr Adams

Residents were reminded of the option of photographing dangerously parked cars and notifying the Police. The resident was thanked for bringing this issue to the attention of the Parish Council.

- c) District Cllrs: Noted: that LDC had now signed an agreement with a cinema operator and it was hoped that the new cinema would open early in 2025 along with food and beverage outlets in the old Debenhams site. LDC had also approved plans for the new leisure centre at Stychbrook Park. The LDC Design Code would be presented to the Secretary of State later in the year for approval.

A Climate Summit was being planned for the autumn 2024, to be held in the Cathedral. It was hoped that a No Mow May project would be more effective this year.

- d) CCllr: Information had been circulated from the CCllr and notes of a meeting with Cemex had been received.
- e) **RESOLVED:** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Matters for discussion/approval

6 Planning

- a Considered: planning applications from Lichfield District Council (**APC/23-24/8/2**)

Recommendations:

23/00821/FUL vary/modify S106 agreement: Strong opposition as the Parish Council wished to protect the remaining open space in the village. **ACTION: Clerk**

24/00171/FUH More information had been requested from LDC before a decision could be made.

7 Financial matters

- a **RESOLVED:** to approve the Accounts for January 2023 (**APC/23-24/8/3**).

- b **RESOLVED:** to approve the Cheques for Payment list for February 2024 (**APC/23-24/8/4**), **ACTION: Chair/Clerk**

- c Considered: an update and proposal about online banking (**APC/23-24/8/5**). Noted that several high street banks had systems in place which allowed signatories to an account to transfer money between personal accounts and business accounts without any authority or extra checks on actions. This had been discussed with the internal auditor who had noted one financial organisation which had stronger controls and a clear audit trail. The Internal Auditor was not able to make recommendations on suitable online banking organisations but did note that several parish councils which she worked with had used the organisation without any problems and had found the audit trail provided useful. Further information on the organisation and its processes was requested for an update to the March 2024 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

8 Allotment rental

- a Considered and **AGREED:** the proposal from the national RBL to increase the rental for the next 5 years of £380 per annum which the allotment holders had accepted (**APC/23-24/8/6**).

AGREED: to approve the request from the Allotment holders to undertake the grounds maintenance to trim the grass edges to the plot as required by the national RBL. **ACTION: Clerk**

AGREED: to amend the maintenance contract with LDC to remove the allotments from the maintenance contract as the allotment holders will do their own strimming of the grassed areas. **ACTION: Clerk**

Completion of the strimming work would be monitored by Cllr Adams to ensure that the allotment holders met the terms of the lease and the allotment holders would be notified of this by the Clerk. **ACTION: Clerk**

RESOLVED: to set the rate of £380 per annum for the next six year rental period and to notify the national RBL of acceptance of their terms. The Clerk would notify the allotment holders of the Parish Council's decision. **ACTION: Clerk**

9 Future development of land around Alrewas

a Considered: a proposal from Cllr Adams to set up a working group to monitor and address proposal for future development of land around Alrewas. It was suggested that representatives of other local councils and residents could be invited depending on the proposal being considered. Agreed: local councils would be invited to future meetings with SCC Officers. **ACTION: Clerk** The Clerk was asked to request a copy of the SCC's Gravel Minerals Plan from Cllr Janet Eagland **ACTION: Clerk**

10 CCTV issues

a Considered: a verbal report from Cllr Wilcox. Noted: that a dedicated Parish Council laptop would be required and an officer trained to monitor CCTV and liaise with Police. It was possible that this task would be added to the Parish Clerk/RFO's job description, subject to workload and agreed hours for the role. **ACTION: Chair**

11 Remedial work on Walkfield

a Noted: that the quotation (**APC/23-24/8/7**) had not been received and the item would be considered at a future meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

12 Update on Bailey Bridge repairs

a Considered: a verbal update on discussions with SCC and the bridge's owner from the Clerk. Discussions had been held between the owner and SCC Officers several years ago and the owner had been advised that the bridge was not suitable for wheeled vehicles. Noted that APC has no legal interest in this project although a Cllr had made contact with HS2 to query funding opportunities which the bridge's owner could apply for. HS2 had undertaken support in kind by repairing parts of the bridge. The Parish Council agreed that no further action was required by the Parish Council.

13 Hedgehog Highway project

a Considered: a request that was being made to all Parish Councils and local government organisations from the Hedgehogs r Us Charity to support their work in encouraging everyone to help hedgehogs, by installing hedgehog highway gaps in garden fences (**APC/23-24/8/8**). **AGREED:** to support the project and purchase a support kit at a cost of £150, The contents would be made available for residents to collect from the Bank Coffee House. **ACTION: Clerk**

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

a Communications **AGREED:** The Parish Council would have an information stall at the Arts Festival Market in August

ACTION: Communications working group and Cllrs

b Development and Environment

Considered: a consultation request from SCC on the partial closure of public footpath 36. This involved a diversion around some properties and the Parish Council supported the proposal. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk was asked to send the consultation request to the local walking group

ACTION: Clerk

Noted: that a litter pick had been arranged for Saturday 23 March 2024 from 10am, meeting at the Surgery, with refreshments later courtesy of the Bank Coffee House.

ACTION: Clerk

c Quarry working group Noted: notes of a recent consultation meeting had been circulated

e Traffic Management Working Group

SIDS: the location of one post on Main Street remained to be finalised with SCC. The group wished to pursue the possibility of installing double yellow lines on the corner of William IV Road and Main Street. It would also increase information to residents on the problem, including by leafletting cars and putting parking guidance on the Parish Council's Facebook page. **ACTION: Cllr Adams**

The group had discussed requesting a 20mph zone across the village and were advised by Cllr Wilcox that SCC would not approve such zones except near schools. The bright night security lights from the car sales business on the A513 continued to worry residents. SCC Highways had visited the owner and asked him to change the angle of the light. Approval was given to write again on behalf of the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk

A resident had raised concerns about the speed of buses through the village.

Permission was given for a letter to be sent to the bus company. **ACTION: Clerk**

f Utilities working group

Noted: that a suggestion had been made for the working group to link with Barton Under Needwood Parish Council to address common concerns. Cllr Stephenson would send the message to the Clerk for circulation to Cllrs.

ACTION: Cllr Stephenson/Clerk

h Walkfield working group

Noted: that a new Chair of the working group would be appointed in due course.

ACTION: Chair

15 Residents comments/correspondence

a Noted: that correspondence included:

Request from the Drop In for Cllrs to attend a meeting: Agreed: Cllrs would visit the drop in on Monday 26 February 2024 at 2pm

ACTION: Cllrs Adams, Keane and Wilcox

Complaint about the speed of buses in the village addressed by the Traffic Management Group report

Concerns expressed by several residents about the proposed site of the SID post on Main Street addressed by the Traffic Management Group report.

Matters for report

16 Update on Planning Applications

- a Noted: the update (**APC/23-24/7/7**).

17 Correspondence received since the last meeting

- a Noted: that correspondence included:

- HS2 construction information including road closures
- Information from SCC on bus service changes
- Information from SCC on business support
- SCC consultation on adult health and social care provision
- 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 Christmas waste collection arrangements
- Updates from the Rural Services Network
- Updates from CPRE
- Information on the "Hedgehogs r us" Highways project circulated to Cllrs (see agenda item 13 above)
- Enquiry from LDC about holding a wellbeing/cost of living event in Alrewas in November 2024 responded to by the Clerk with suggestions for locations and an offer of support
- Information on the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board requesting closer liaison with Parish Councils circulated to Cllrs
- Information from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England consultation on further draft recommendations on ward boundaries in Lichfield circulated to Cllrs
- Information on the Best Kept Village competition to be considered at the March 2024 meeting **ACTION: Clerk**
- Information on new phone line for access to palliative care in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

18 Police Liaison

- a Noted: the Smart Alerts (already circulated).

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

- a Noted: that the Civic Society had replaced the broken top on a bench on Walkfield a plaque was being installed on a bench at the Mill Stream in commemoration of the late Mrs Margaret Stanhope, MBE.

The Civic Society was replacing the dog waste bin on the Canal as it was their responsibility. This would be taken off the Parish Council's action list.

ACTION: Clerk

The Civic Society were seeking financial support from the Canal and River Trust.

20 Parish Council Diary

- a Past dates: None.

- b Future dates: None.

21 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

a To note that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 11 March 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

b To note that the agenda deadline is **12 noon on Thursday 1 March 2024**

The Open Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Kathryn Powell,
Clerk,
12 February 2024,
Confirmed