

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024 AT THE VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.30PM**

Present:

Cllr D Whatton (Chair), Cllr G Adams (Vice Chair), Cllr E Lawler, Cllr M Lomas, Cllr J Reilly, Cllr R Stephenson.

In attendance: Cllr J Eagland, Ms K Powell (Clerk).

1 Apologies

a Noted: Cllr S Keane (illness), Cllr M Wilcox (a meeting at LDC), District Cllr S Wilcox (another 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 12 February 2024 were approved without amendment (**APC/23-24/8/M**).

b Noted: the updated Action Sheet (**APC/23-24/9/1**).

4 Appointment of new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

a) Noted: That Mrs Donna Moss had been appointed for a period of twelve months to a newly created post of unpaid Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. She and the existing Clerk would work together during April to hand over responsibilities and the existing Clerk would retire on 30 April 2024. The existing Clerk was thanked for all her work during her appointment, especially her work on governance and setting up working groups.

5 Public Participation

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

b) Public Participation

A late request to speak about the Precept was not accepted but the precept would be an item on the agenda for the April 2024 meeting and the residents who wished to speak would be invited to do so at that meeting

ACTION: Clerk

A resident spoke about her concerns about planning application **24/00255/FUL**. She noted that the developer had said previously that only a single story development was planned.

She was concerned that the proposed location was against the fence of No 3. She also raised concerns about the amount of parking, road safety and the lack of usable public transport. She also expressed concern on the impact on two protected oak trees, on the danger from the high pressure gas main and the risk on the heritage area of Fradley Junction. She was thanked for her comments which were taken into account by Cllrs when the applications were considered.

c) District Cllrs: No report was made.

d) County Cllr: Noted: The Community Fund would be available shortly and local groups were encouraged to contact the Cllr for information. Work continued on providing a bus service to the NMA. A CEMEX Liaison meeting would be held soon, date to be confirmed. SCC was holding a Climate Change meeting in March. Security had been tightened at SCC offices due to recent disturbances at other local government premises. Work on repairing the

kerbstones on Main Street had been rescheduled and Cllr Eagland would inform the Clerk when a date for the work was confirmed. **ACTION: Cllr Eagland**

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

Matters for discussion/approval

6 Planning

a. a Considered: Planning Applications from LDC: (**APC/23-24/9/2**)

24/00255/FUL OBJECTION due to the following reasons:

- Support for the concerns raised by local residents
- The scale of the development is out of context and scale with the heritage location
- The large size of the development is a massing issue
- Vehicle access is inadequate and dangerous
- The speed limit on the A513 would require reduction to 30mph if the proposal is approved
- The proposed amount of car parking is inadequate as is the provision of bicycle racks
- Local bus services are inadequate and there are no local stops
- The development would have a detrimental visual impact on the entrance to the village
- Concern was expressed that there had been no response from SCC Highways given concerns about road safety
- Concern was expressed that there had been no comments on gas safety given the location of the high pressure pipeline
- Two oak trees near the proposed site had protection orders but concern was raised that they might be damaged

Cllr Wilcox was asked to call in the proposal for consideration by the LDC Planning Committee.

ACTION: Cllr Wilcox

24/00186/LBC and 24/00220/LBC OBJECTION due to the following:

- Neither application has comments from the Conservation Officer
- The Heritage Statement is not consistent with the application and is incomplete
- The veranda is not a like for like replacement

Cllr Wilcox was asked to call in the proposal for consideration by the LDC Planning Committee.

ACTION: Cllr Wilcox

7 Financial matters

a **Approved** the Accounts for February 2024 (**APC/23-24/9/3**)

b **Approved:** the Cheques for Payment list for March 2024 (**APC/23-24/9/4**)

ACTION: Chair/Clerk/Vice Chair

c Online banking: Considered: the paper from the Clerk (**APC/23-24/9/5**).

RESOLVED: in principle, to take up online banking with the recommended institution. Further information on costs and processes, including a plan for implementation, were requested for the April 2024 meeting and a final decision would be made at the May 2024 monthly meeting.

ACTION: Clerk/new Clerk

Noted: the Financial Regulations would have to be reapproved at the Annual Meeting but could be reviewed and reapproved once the proposal has been finalised.

8 Issues from the Drop in

a Considered: a verbal report on issues raised at the recent meeting at the Drop In. A useful discussion had been held and topics included:

the closure of the Post Office, a pedestrian crossing, barriers across footpaths and blocked drains. Residents were told about the "adopt a drain" initiative where residents would adopt a drain and help to keep it clear.

Cllrs were asked about the provision of a community wheelchair. It was confirmed that one was available at the Bank Coffee House. **ACTION: Clerk**

A suggestion to install speed bumps and chicanes on Main Street had been referred to the Traffic Management Working Group

A report of Himalayan Balsam growing along the canal had been made. Cllrs Adams and Lomas would investigate. **ACTION: Cllrs Adams/Lomas**

10 Membership of Parish Council working groups

a Noted: the vacancies, including where new Chairs were required (**APC/23-24/5/6**). Cllr Whatton would join the Walkfield working group and Cllr Adams would remain a member of the Traffic Management Group but would not be the Chair. Working groups were asked to meet to elect Chairs and report back to the April meeting. **ACTION: Working Groups**
Cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to take up any of the vacancies on external groups. A full membership list would be reported at the Annual Meeting. **ACTION: all Cllrs**

11 Christmas Market proposal

a Considered: This was deferred to the April meeting as Cllr Wilcox was not present. **ACTION: Cllr Wilcox**

12 Footpath barriers

a Considered: the issues raised by a local resident. The Parish Council supported the removal of the barriers and the Clerk was asked to contact the SCC officer to request removal of the barriers. **ACTION: Clerk**

13 Remedial work on Walkfield

a **RESOLVED:** to approve the quotation of £800 from LDC to undertake the recommended remedial safety work on the play area **ACTION: Clerk**

14 Request from Knit wits to decorate the War Memorial/Village Green

a Approved: the request from Knit Wits to decorate the war memorial/village green at Easter and for the Open Gardens weekend **ACTION: Clerk**

15 Best Kept Village Competition

a Agreed: that ~~in~~ an application would not be made for 2024 but that local groups would be encouraged to participate in 2025. This would be highlighted at the Parish Assembly and a report made to the November 2024 meeting. The Environment and Development Group would co-ordinate the project. **ACTION: Clerk/Environment and Development Group**

16 Parish Council Grants

a Noted: That the deadline for applications is 31 March 2024
b Noted: that several applications have been received to date
c Noted: that a reminder of the deadline had been publicised
d Agreed: The Communications Group was tasked with making recommendation on grants to be approved by Cllrs at the April 2024 meeting **ACTION: Communications working group**

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

a Communications:

b Environment and Development Working Group

Noted: that LDC had been asked not to mow until after the end of May to help wildflowers.

Information would be provided so that residents did not think that the land was being neglected.

ACTION: Cllr Adams

d Quarry working group

e Traffic Management working group

f Walkfield working group

Approved: a request by the Arts Festival to use Walkfield during the Arts Festival **ACTION: Clerk**

g Utilities working group

18 Residents comments/correspondence

a Noted: that correspondence included:

- a suggestion concerning the barriers across footpaths, with a suggestion that they are replaced by gates with RADAR keys

Matters for report

19 Update on Planning Applications

a Noted: the update (**APC/23-24/9/7**)

- Request from the Civic Society to check on the ownership of a damaged bench

20 Correspondence received since the last meeting

a To note that correspondence includes:

- Request from Catton Estates to join other local councils at a meeting on 4 March 2024 re arrangements for planned summer events – Cllr Adams had attended and reported that the meeting had been positive. Organisers of events had processes in place to deal with issues and would keep local councils involved with developments. The organisers would undertake work to see the impact and benefits on local businesses and communities. Noted: Concerns about the impact of heavy lorries on the Chetwynd Bridge and organisers would have enforcement on the bridge to turn away vehicles which do not meet the weight limit.
- 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
- Notification from SCC on planning decision re Chetwynd Bridge
- 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
- Updates from the Rural Services Network
- Updates from CPRE
- Request from an individual about our climate change/biodiversity documentation. Approved statement sent to him by the Clerk
- Invitation to Stoke on Trent Celebration of the Possible conference and other events circulated to Cllrs

21 Police Liaison

a Smart Alerts which had been circulated to Cllrs were noted. The Clerk was asked to request that the PCSO attended meetings on a regular basis, perhaps quarterly. **ACTION: Clerk**

22 Update from the Civic Society

Noted: no update.

23 Parish Council Diary

a Past dates: None

b Future dates: Invitation to John Taylor High School Presentation Evening 16 July 2024 at 6pm.
Cllrs Lawler and Lomas were asked to confirm their attendance to the Clerk

ACTION: Cllr Lawler/ Cllr Lomas/Clerk

AGREED: To give the usual donation of £75 as a prize to be added to the cheques for payment list at the April meeting

ACTION: Clerk

AGREED: To set out dates for future Cllr Surgeries and Cllr attendance at Drop In.

ACTION: Cllr Adams

24 Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

a To note that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 15 April 2024** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

b To note that the agenda deadline is **12 noon on Thursday 4 April 2024**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Kathryn Powell
Clerk
12 March 2024.
Confirmed