

**ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
NEAR BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE
Chairman Pam Barker**

David Rawlinson

Tel. 07972040818

Email: clerk@alveleyandromsleyipc.org.uk

43 Church View Gardens

Kinver

Stourbridge

DY7 6EE

2nd February 2021

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7.45pm, preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm. This will be a 'Zoom' meeting in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

DRawlinson

David Rawlinson

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. OPEN FORUM
2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
3. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF ANY PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST.
4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF:
 - (i) THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2020.
 - (ii) THE ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH JANUARY 2021.
5. TO CONSIDER PARISH MATTERS [written reports to be provided in advance to the Clerk].
6. BYEWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOATs) – letter from Parish Clerk and papers from Shropshire Councillor attached.
7. SHROPSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION - report by Chairman of Planning Committee and briefing note Shropshire Councillor attached
8. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR
(Chairman to suspend Standing Orders).
9. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – to consider future timetable.

10. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS.

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council – to make recommendations or to note.

21/00214/FUL & 21/00219/HHE Erection of a single storey rear orangery to detached dwelling, dimensions 5.75 metres beyond rear wall, 4.00 metres maximum height, 2.70 metres high to eaves, High Barns Farm, Six Ashes WV15 6EP.

21/00055/TPO To fell stump 1No Alder (T1), and reduce size of lower branch of 1No Ash Tree (T2) protected by the Salop County Council (Alveley) TPO 1973, 42 Bridge Road, Alveley, WV15 6JU. (Consultation closes on 28th January).

2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed - Council to make recommendations to Shropshire Council.

3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council – to note

20/04318/FUL Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the siting of a static caravan, Royal Oak, Alveley, WV15 6LL.
Parish Council recommendation – approve with condition; Decision – approved

20/04571/TPO Works to crown reduce 1 No Ash Tree and wood to be removed back to healthy growth, protected by the Salop County Council (Alveley) TPO 1973, 48 Bridge Road, Alveley, WV15 6JU.
Parish Council recommendation – approve; Decision – approved

20/05150/FUL Erection of a single storey rear extension, The Granary, High Barns Farm, Six Ashes.
Parish Council recommendation – none; Decision – approved

4. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council since the Agenda closed
To note.

5. Other planning matters.

11. POINTLESS PLASTIC CAMPAIGN

12. TO RECEIVE A FINANCIAL REPORT – attached.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Action Plan for 2021/22

Annual Review of Risk Assessment

Footpaths and Rights of Way Officer

14. TO CONFIRM THE DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

The next monthly meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 commencing at 7.45pm preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm. This meeting

will be a 'Zoom' meeting in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

To: Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker (Chairman), Cllr. Mr. K. R. Stanton (Vice Chairman),
Cllr. Ms. A. Buffey, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble, Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter, Cllr.
Mr. B. A. Punchard, Cllr. Mr. J. R. Taylor and Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey

Cc: Cllr. Mrs. T. Woodward

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st December 2020, including an Open Forum, commencing at 7.30pm. This was a remote meeting using 'Zoom' software in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

082. PRESENT

Cllr. Mr. K. R. Stanton (Vice-chairman), Cllr. Ms. A. Buffey, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble, Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter, Cllr. Mr. J. R. Taylor and Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey

083. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D. H. Rawlinson (Clerk), Cllr. Mrs. T. Woodward (Shropshire Councillor).

084. OPEN FORUM

Cllr. Allan Wilson, the Chairman of Shropshire Climate Action Partnership, gave a short presentation on the work of the Partnership. He emphasised that the membership of the Partnership is county-wide and multi-disciplinary and that its sole purpose is to achieve zero carbon across Shropshire by 2030, by promoting action which benefits the community as well as the climate.

Cllr. Wilson highlighted the relationship between increasing levels of carbon in the atmosphere as a result of burning of oil and coal, and global warming. He pointed out that climate change has already destroyed half of the world's plant and animal species. He advised that the UK's statutory climate change target is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, but that Shropshire Council and the Climate Action Partnership have a more ambitious 'zero carbon' target date of 2030. He briefly outlined the pace of greenhouse gas reduction that is required nationally and locally, and highlighted the key sectors such as transport and domestic heating.

Finally, Cllr. Wilson gave examples of practical measures taken by local councils to reduce emissions, and the range of support/advice that is available to organisations and individual householders. In response to questions, he talked about the progress towards providing an adequate system of charging points for electric cars. He also confirmed that Parish Councils could sign up to the 'zero carbon' pledge. He was thanked for his presentation, and requested to forward copies of his slides to the Clerk for circulation to all Parish Councillors.

085. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It **was resolved** to accept apologies for absence from Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker (personal) and Cllr. Mrs. J. M. Hall (personal).

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086. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward declared a personal and pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.1 (Work to crown reduce 1 no Ash Tree).

087. MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2020.

Subject to the addition of Cllr. Noble's name to the attendance list the minutes were **agreed** as a true and accurate record.

088. URGENT PARISH MATTERS

Alveley Industrial Estate

The Clerk referred to a briefing note that he had circulated to all Councillors following a meeting with Steve Law of Shropshire Council regarding the future of Alveley Industrial Estate. He sought advice from Cllr. Mrs. Woodward on the classification of this information. The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Mrs. Woodward to speak and she advised that, in her opinion, the matter remained confidential; however, she agreed to confirm this with Steve Law.

Membership of Planning Committee

It was **confirmed** that the Committee would comprise:

Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey (Chairman)

Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble

Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter

Cllr. Mr. J. R. Taylor

Chairman and Vice-chairman of Council (ex-officio)

089. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Cllr. Voysey declared a personal interest in this item, and undertook not to participate in any financial discussions/decisions.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Adrian Voysey (Website host) to join the meeting and speak. The Clerk thanked Mr. Voysey for the work he had already done. He advised that the format and content of the Accessibility Statement were governed by statutory guidance. Discussion then focused on the areas of non-compliance and, especially, the need to replace the Fabrik software. After due consideration, the Parish Council **agreed** with the Chairman's proposal to authorise Mr. Voysey to carry out further work on this up to a value of £300.

090. PARISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PLAN 2021/22

The Clerk referred to his report and proposed that, in view of the continuing uncertainty regarding COVID-19 restrictions, the Parish Council should consider agreeing the detailed Plan at Appendix 3 of the report, as a basis for budget planning. The Chairman endorsed his advice that the draft Plan would need to be

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reviewed when the extent of restrictions and the composition of the new Parish Council were clearer after the start of the new financial year. The Parish Council **agreed** that the proposed development and training plan for 2021/22 should be agreed in principle as a basis for budget planning.

091. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS.

1. Planning Applications received from Shropshire Council –

20/04318/FUL Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the siting of a static caravan, Royal Oak, Alveley, WV15 6LL.

It was noted that this was a retrospective application, that the caravan has been on site for a number of years and that a Certificate of Lawful Occupation had been sought previously but not granted. After discussion, the Chairman **proposed** that the Parish Council should register no objection, subject to the caravan been used solely as temporary accommodation for staff working at the Royal Oak. This was **seconded** by Cllr. Voysey and carried **nem con**.

20/04334/FUL Erection of one residential dwelling for ancillary accommodation (following demolition of garage building), Paper Mill, 121 Alveley, WV15 6HE.

The Clerk advised that there had been preliminary consideration of this application at the previous Parish Council meeting (minute 076.2 refers). It was also pointed out that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) report stated that the proposed development is in a functional flood plain, is therefore considered to be more vulnerable and should not be permitted. After discussion, Cllr Voysey **proposed** that the Parish Council should recommend rejection of the application because the proposed development is in the green belt, is vulnerable to flooding, and does not enhance the environment or provide any economic or community benefits. This was **seconded** by the Chairman and carried **nem con**.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward left the meeting.

20/04571/TPO Works to crown reduce 1 No Ash Tree and wood to be removed back to healthy growth, protected by the Salop County Council (Alveley) TPO 1973, 48 Bridge Road, Alveley, WV15 6JU.

It was **agreed** that, in line with normal practice, the Parish Council should recommend approval.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward rejoined the meeting.

2. Planning Applications received since the Agenda closed – none

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3. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council – to note

20/04009/TPO Carry out re-pollarding works to 1No. multi-stemmed Ash tree reducing height of the tallest stems to a point in line with the current height of the shortest pollard stem. All regrowth resulting from previous pollarding works to be removed to leave as a balanced finished pollard protected by The Salop County Council (Alveley) TPO 1973, Beech Trees , The Woodlands, Alveley, WV15 6LQ.

Parish Council recommendation – none; Decision – approved.

20/01889/FUL & 20/01890/LBC Conversion of existing attached barn to extend living accommodation and associated alterations; erection of detached 3 bay car-port, The Haybarn, Hall Close Farm, Alveley.

Parish Council recommendation - no strong objection on planning grounds, but concerns about scale of development and impact on neighbour's privacy.

Decision – approved, including condition that fixed windows with obscure glazing are used on one side of the building.

4. Planning Decisions received from Shropshire Council since the Agenda closed

20/04164/FUL Erection of first floor extension over existing ground floor rear extension, together with internal modifications to ground floor layout, Woodlands, The Woodlands, Alveley, WV15 6LQ.

Parish Council recommendation – approve; Decision – approved

5. Other planning matters - none.

092. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Cllr. Mrs. Woodward to speak.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward referred to the Local Plan Review. She advised that she would be raising questions at Shropshire Council's Cabinet in respect of the proposed new site in Tasley because of its likely effect on traffic along the A442. She also intended to request that the proposed appropriation of green belt land in Alveley be reviewed in the light of the Certificate of Lawful Development for the 'Butts' caravan site. This would lead to a significant increase in new homes, which could well reduce the need for housing development elsewhere in the Village. Cllr. Mrs. Woodward shared the Chairman's concern about the pace of future development.

Cllr. Mrs. Woodward advised of further COVID-19 grant funding for small businesses and undertook to provide details to the Clerk. Finally, she expressed the hope that the new tier system which was about to come into effect would be supported locally, notwithstanding the restrictions and difficulties it imposed on everyone.

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093. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Clerk gave a verbal update on progress in setting an achievable timetable for the next newsletter, given the Parish Council's previous decision to use the Royal Mail 'Door to Door' service for distribution. He advised that the key dates were –

18th December 2020 – Target date for articles to be submitted.

13th January 2021 – Target date for newsletter to be edited and printed.

Week commencing 25th January 2021 – newsletter to be distributed.

He sought agreement for this timetable but with discretion to delay publication until the week commencing 1st February, if necessary. He advised that Royal Mail would distribute the newsletter to all properties in the 'WV15 6' postcode area. Royal Mail advise that this takes in some 1,630 properties, a number of which are outside the Parish Council area.

The Clerk also sought authority to spend up to £350 on printing and circulating the newsletter. He proposed to seek quotes for printing the newsletter from Bridgnorth Print Services and Badger Print.

As editor of the newsletter, Cllr. Noble agreed that the timetable was tight but indicated that it was manageable for him.

There was brief discussion of the topics that might be covered in the newsletter, and all Councillors were invited to submit ideas and suggestions.

The Parish Council **resolved** –

- (i) To approve the above timetable, including the target date of 18th December for articles to be submitted;
- (ii) To authorise the Clerk to spend up to £350 on publication and circulation of the newsletter.

094. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk's report was received and:

1. Bank Reconciliation at 23rd November 2020

1.1 The Parish Council **agreed** to note.

2. Invoices for Approval and Cheques for Signature

2.1 A schedule of invoices/direct payments was appended to the report. The Parish Council **agreed** to approve the schedule and to authorise the Chairman and Vice-chairman to sign the cheques to be paid.

3. Internal Audit Arrangements for 2020/21

3.1 The Clerk reported that Mrs. Hackett of SDH Accountancy & Audit Services is available to carry on as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2020/21. He

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advised that Mrs Hackett has quoted £250 for this work, and noted that her bill for 2019/20 was £280.

3.2 The Parish Council **agreed** to appoint Mrs. Hackett of SDH Accounting as the Council's internal auditor for 2020/21

4. Street Lighting

4.1 The Clerk reported that Parish Council's electricity supply contract for street lighting expires on 31st January 2021. The contract is currently with SSE Business Energy. The Clerk indicated that he is having some difficulty in obtaining competitive quotes, and undertook to provide a written report to the next Parish Council meeting on 5th January 2021.

4.2 The Parish Council **agreed** to note the position.

095. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Parish Council newsletter
Footpaths and Rights of Way Officer
Parish Council Action Plan
Street lighting

096. FUTURE MEETINGS.

It was **confirmed** that the next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be the monthly Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

It was **noted** that the Annual Finance Meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be on Tuesday 19th January 2021, commencing at 7.30pm.

Both will be a 'Zoom' meeting in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting closed at 20.50.

The Vice-chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

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Minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.30pm. This was a remote meeting using 'Zoom' software in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

097. PRESENT

Cllr. Ms. P.M. Barker (Chairman), Cllr. Mr. K. R. Stanton (Vice-chairman), Cllr. Ms. A. Buffey, Cllr. Mr. R. J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble, Cllr. Mrs. S. L. Potter and Cllr. Mr. F. D. Voysey

098. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D. H. Rawlinson (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

099. COUNCILLOR MRS. J. M. HALL

The Chairman reported the death of Cllr. Mrs. Hall on Christmas Eve after a long illness. Her sadness and commiserations were shared by all those present.

100. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

101. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS ON ANY MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED

The Clerk confirmed, that, in accordance with Standing Order 13.e, all Councillors present who were Council Tax payers in the Parish of Alveley and Romsley had dispensation to speak and vote on items 4. and 5. on the agenda.

There were no other declarations of interest.

102. REQUEST FOR GRANT SUPPORT FROM SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK (SVCP)

Members gave careful consideration to the letter and management report provided by the Interim Head of Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnerships Team, which included a request for a grant support of £4,000 in 2021/22, compared with £1,500 in

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the current financial year. Members also noted that Highley Parish Council was contributing £4,000 in 2020/21, and recognised that this Council's financial reserves would be significantly higher than anticipated at the end of the current financial year.

The Chairman suggested that Parish Council should consider matching Highley's current year contribution of £4,000. The Vice-chairman expressed support for an increase in grant but argued that a sum of £2,000 would be consistent with Highley's contribution, given the difference in Council Tax bases between the two Councils. He formally proposed a grant of £2,000 for 2021/22. This was seconded by Cllr. Voysey and also supported by Cllr. Mrs. Potter. Cllr. Ms. Buffey supported the Chairman's suggestion of a grant of £4,000, given the exceptional situation and the Country Park's contribution to the local community. She formally proposed this as an amendment to the original motion but the proposal was not seconded. After further discussion, Cllr. Narburgh suggested that the grant for 2021/22 should remain at £1,500 but that an additional once-off sum of £1,000 should be offered to help fund COVID-19 recovery work and loss of income which was highlighted in the Management Report. This was proposed as an amendment to the original motion, was seconded by the Chairman and was approved by six votes to one. It therefore became the substantive motion and:

It was **resolved** by six votes with one abstention that the Parish Council grant to the Severn Valley Country Park in 2021/22 should be £1,500 but that an additional once-off sum of £1,000 should be offered separately to fund COVID recovery work.

103. TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE ON A DRAFT BUDGET 2021 – 2022

The Clerk introduced the budget report. He advised that, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, spending in the current financial year will be significantly less than was budgeted for, and that the Parish Council's general reserve would therefore increase by more than £25,000 to over £70,000. He suggested that there was no justification to increase the precept in 2021/22, and that the precept should either remain the same or be reduced. He warned that a significant reduction in the precept at this stage might have to be reversed in future years. Cllr. Voysey reminded the meeting that the anticipated level of reserves would not attract audit criticism as it was less than twice the precept.

Councillors then considered the detailed budget planning document which included payments and receipts in 2019/20, payments and receipts in 2020/21 to Month 10, estimated payments and receipts by 31st March 2021 and estimated payments and receipts in 2021/22. Taking account of the increased grant of £2,500 approved for the Severn Valley Country Park, the budget plan gave a projected payments figure

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in 2021/22 of £58,067 and, after allowing for VAT reclaimed and other income, a net budget requirement of £55,467.

The Vice-chairman considered that the 2021/22 budget was well prepared, although he felt there should be some forward year provision for room hire. In response to a question, the Clerk explained the function of earmarked reserves, and the Vice-chairman and Chairman dealt with queries regarding street lighting and maintenance of the Closed Churchyard.

After further discussion, the Chairman **proposed** a payments budget of £58,067 for 2021/22. This was **seconded** by the Vice-chairman and **agreed unanimously**.

It was subsequently **noted** that:

1. Receipts for 2021/22 other than precept income were expected to be £2,600.
2. The approved payments budget for 2021/22 would therefore require £55,467 to be covered by the Precept or general reserves.
3. A reduction of £2,136 in general reserves in 2021/22 would generate a precept requirement of £53,331.

The approved budget is attached.

104. TO CONSIDER AND SET A PRECEPT FOR 2021/22

Councillors considered the Precept requirement for 2021/22. Taking account of:

- The effect of any increase in the Precept on the Band 'D' Council Tax bill;
- The estimated level of VAT receipts, and other income
- The planned reduction of £2,136 in general reserves;

and using the formula below:

Payments –	Receipts -	Contribution	=	Precept
	(inc VAT)	from Reserves		
£58,067	- £2,600	- £2,136	=	£53,331

it was **resolved** unanimously that the Precept for 2021/22 would be set at £53,331. This would result in a Band 'D' Parish precept of £62.50, equal to the precept in 2020/21.

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The Clerk was requested to inform the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance at Shropshire Council accordingly.

105. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the monthly Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7.45, preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm. This will be a 'Zoom' meeting in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting closed at 07.47pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

NEAR BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE

Chairman Pam Barker

Clerk to the Council:
David Rawlinson

Tel. 07972040818

Email clerk@alveleyandromsleyipc.org.uk43 Church View Gardens
Kinver
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY7 6EE13th January 2021Shropshire Council Outdoor Partnerships
Shirehall,
Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury,
SY2 6ND

Dear Colleagues

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL – DAMAGE TO BOATS

The Parish Council is very much aware of escalating concerns from residents regarding the increasing use of and damage to local BOATS and coach roads. In some cases, residents are reporting lanes becoming difficult to walk along given the churned-up surfaces and a perceived danger to pedestrians from vehicles which may be either travelling too fast for the conditions or being driven in what is felt to be an anti-social manner with disregard for other users.

As the Parish Council has no authority over highways and associated problems, it is greatly appreciated that Cllr. Mrs. Woodward and officers from Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency are taking these concerns seriously and trying to find a way forward.

As vehicles using the green lanes and associated roads are not acting illegally there is likely to be no case for downgrading BOATS or coach roads to byways but we would like you to consider some remedial work which could be designed and carried out to leave the lanes open and passable, but make them less vulnerable to the off-roading community. Also, would it be possible to place warning signs at various points to ensure drivers are aware that these are well used public 'roads'?

As fresh air and outdoor exercise are now even more important for physical and mental health, it may be that the Parish Council could help fund some sort of initiative to increase safety along the BOATS for everyone though it must be stressed that this is not a subject the Council has yet discussed.

Yours sincerely

*DRawlinson*David Rawlinson
Clerk to the Council

Alveley and Romsley Parish Council Meeting

February 2021

Parish Public Rights of Way Matters:

Most recent updates:

A Police Officer from Bridgnorth's Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team scheduled a Teams meeting with me last week (21/1/2021). Unfortunately, the Officer was unable to make the meeting due to a policing matter which took precedence. Subsequently the Officer has communicated that he will get back to me as soon as possible. I have outlined the local concerns regarding the BOATs and also potential speeding by a number of off road users on the lanes which connect the BOATs.

I have also highlighted to West Mercia Police concerns regarding the BOATs being used during this period of restricted movement as I know the BOATs in the Division are still attracting frequent visits by trail riders (off road motorcyclists). Whilst out for exercise I met two such groups on the Coach Lane and I had a chat with them. One rider suggested that they are entitled to continue to use the BOATs as it is recognised as exercise. I have raised this matter with the Police for clarification and also copied in our MP Philip Dunne. I also emailed the Police and Crime Commissioner. I personally do not view this as exercise. They were also travelling in groups and potentially they may have travelled from outside the area.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office has responded that this a local matter for the Police and they forwarded my concerns to the Police as it is viewed as potential breaches of Covid-19 guidelines. I am waiting to hear back from the Police.

From Shropshire Council's perspective: My understanding is Outdoor Recreation Officers are intending to make site visits (walk the route) to a number of BOATs in the Division, following receipt of emails and photographs from a number of local residents and I.

I have stressed that their site visits should take place as soon as possible and that Outdoor Recreation's decisions regarding what actions are required following their site visits be conveyed back to me and interested parties.

I have also asked once again that Outdoor Recreation Officers consider applying seasonal TROs prohibiting motorised vehicles during the winter months to the most badly affected BOATs.

Shropshire Council's Communities Overview Committee which met on 25/01/2021 of which I am a member, discussed Outdoor Partnerships Team, Public Rights of Way Update 2021. I have attached a copy of this Report for information as it highlights the challenges for the Team and for Shropshire Council. It became evident during the meeting that Shropshire Council is not the only Council experiencing difficulties with the increased usage of their local rights of way. I would add that it is not only issues with an element of off road

motorised vehicles users who are not treating the countryside with respect, there are a number of mountain bikers and horse riders straying from bridleways.

I am suggesting to residents that they raise their concerns directly with Shropshire Council outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk and if they are Policing matters they contact Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team. Residents can also copy me into their emails, if they wish to, which can be helpful.

I sent the below information by way of an update to The Parish Council Chairman for information. I have also provided the below information to interested parties:

Local Concerns

Byways Open To All Traffic (BOATS): I am receiving a number of concerns regarding the section of Dark Lane by the cricket ground through to Bell Orchard (Butter Cross Lane). Also the Allum Bridge to Quatt byway.

It's a mixed bag of concerns: generally people are meeting 4x4 vehicles and off-road motorbikes on the named routes which they don't feel is acceptable, as they feel that vehicles should not be using the lanes.

Potential speeding on BOATs and on the village roads as off roaders proceed to link the routes to enable longer journeys along the byways.

Inconsiderate and potentially dangerous 4x4 drivers and trail motorbike riders, who are viewed as not considering other users.

Potential for accidents to happen.

Environmental damage, particularly where routes travel along watercourses.

A number of residents would like to see the routes downgraded to Bridleways.

Reference Dark Lane:

My understanding from relevant Outdoor Recreation Officers and a Definitive Maps Officer regarding Dark Lane is that an Officer has confirmed that this route is correctly recorded as a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT). The legal definition of which is that it is a way where there is a right for vehicular and all other traffic, but the way is used mainly for the purposes for which footpaths and bridleways are used.

The Officer having researched the history of the route, indicated in their professional opinion that there are no grounds under the relevant provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to claim to have this route downgraded as its status has been formally tested and determined by way of a legal order.

This route was originally recorded on the Definitive Map as a Road Used as a Public Path (RUPP). As such the Council had a legal duty to reclassify it under the provisions of section 54 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This part of the legislation is no longer in force but back in 1993 an order was made to reclassify this route as a Byway Open to all Traffic due to the evidence available. At the same time a section of the route was amended as it was shown on an incorrect line.

As representations were made to this status and the line amendment the evidence was tested and an Independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State after hearing all the evidence confirmed the orders as made. Therefore usage of this route with vehicles is not illegal and it needs to remain open and available at all times.

The Officer involved will discuss the issues raised with colleagues to investigate what options are appropriate as clearly issues do arise with some BOATs and where possible the team have worked in partnership to try to alleviate or prevent issues occurring, through undertaking practical works, having seasonal prohibition orders etc.

Reference Allum Bridge to Quatt:

A concern was raised over the weekend due to 4x4s using this route, which is locally known as the coach road. I will seek more information as it is classified as a BOAT, so is open for motorised vehicles.

Prior to the above concerns being raised with me I have been in communication with SC Officers and most recently the local Police, as a number of the concerns raised are perceived speeding and anti-social use of the BOATs, also speeding in the village by a number of off roaders.

Following the first Covid-19 'Lockdown' in March, when travel restrictions were lifted there have been varying levels of concerns with BOATs in the Division. All of the above concerns have been raised with Outdoor Recreation Officers previously and also the Police, but they have come to the fore again.

I have continued to work with SC Officers, the police, other agencies and local landowners to try to address concerns where possible and appropriate to do so.

The Environment Agency have been in contact with me regarding the Dark Lane BOAT and I am waiting for clarification from them as I understood that a case was open but has been closed. There were environmental concerns raised and I have suggested that if the Agency finds them significant then they should discuss this with relevant Shropshire Council Officers.

Following the Christmas and New Year Break we now find ourselves in another period of restricted travel, 'Stay Home, Save Lives, Protect Our NHS'. An Officer from our Local Safer Neighbourhoods Police team has offered a Covid - 19 safe distancing meeting or an online meeting, the latter will be the only option and this will depend on the Police Officer's availability moving forward.

I have asked if Outdoor Recreation would consider investigating the options to introduce a Temporary Seasonal Traffic Regulation Order for the section of the Dark lane BOAT as the first section has a Seasonal TRO in place.

I have been regularly walking the first section of the Allum Bridge BOAT route and most recently met with two very considerate 4x4 off -roaders, who allowed me and my husband time to reach a safe section to allow them to pass. However I do appreciate this is not always the case and potentially dangerous driving and riding would be a Policing matter as I

understand it, I believe that all vehicles travelling on BOATs should be road legal in all respects.

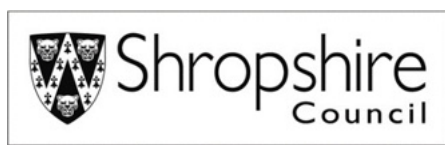
There is a balance which needs to be reached as the routes are basically highways maintained to a lower standard and all users must be aware of the needs of others who use the route.”

There were remedial works scheduled to take place on the Dark Lane BOAT last year to address the ‘muddy’ issues under the overhead pipework, however they could not take place due to the Pandemic and redeployment of staff, which was also Covid-19 related. Remedial works would usually take place in the spring/summer months on byways. At this point in time it is hard to say if they will progress this year!

I will keep the Parish Council updated when I am in a position to do so.

Kind regards

Cllr Tina Woodward


Committee and Date

**Communities Overview Committee
25 January 2021**

Item

Public

OUTDOOR PARTNERSHIPS TEAM - PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE 2021

Responsible Officers

Pete Banford/Shona Butter

e-mail: Shona.butter@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 255062

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Communities Overview Committee with an update on the management of the Public Rights of Way network and actions taken following reports to the Committee in March and September 2019.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 18 March 2019, the Communities Overview Committee received a report from the Outdoor Partnerships Team regarding their work to maintain public rights of way within the Shropshire Council area and on 16 September 2019 a follow up report was presented highlighting key service pressures.
- 2.2 The committee heard that Shropshire Council maintains a network of 5,600km of public rights of way, the third largest in the United Kingdom. It heard that the council has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to “protect and assert” the network, namely, to ensure that it remains open and accessible.
- 2.3 Like many services, the team’s funding has reduced in recent years, and the service has faced staffing pressures particularly within the Mapping & Enforcement Team due to the retirement of two of its most senior and longstanding officers.
- 2.4 This combination of funding and staffing pressures has reduced capacity to maintain the network and ensure it remains accessible, resulting in the percentage of the network that is easy to use dropping from 85% in 2009 to 66% in 2019. Surveys have not been undertaken since this date, but it is likely that this percentage has reduced further.
- 2.5 The team also highlighted the issues of maintaining bridges and other infrastructure along rights of way for which Shropshire Council has a statutory responsibility. The service estimates the costs of these repairs to be approximately £1 million, with a similar amount required should the council receive public notices of obstructions or required repairs, which the council is required to respond to within strict deadlines.

- 2.6 The service has made some effort to mitigate these cuts in funding, by growing its team of 340 volunteers through 64 Parish Paths Partnerships, which together provide unpaid work equivalent to 5.5 full-time officers. These groups carry out much of the maintenance work in their parishes, such as cutting back vegetation and repairing stiles. In doing this, they have slowed the rate of decline in the percentage of the network that remains open. Although these groups provide invaluable support, they still require professional support from Shropshire Council Officers to negotiate improvement works with landowners.
- 2.7 The Rights of Way, Maintenance and Mapping and Enforcement teams also generate income annually. This has increased steadily since 2015 when the Contracting arm of the Maintenance Team was initiated to make the most of the skills held by the team and to try to offset budget reductions particularly capital funding.

3.0 Update on Actions

- 3.1 A capital bid was submitted for the maintenance of bridges and has resulted in £200k being secured for bridge works on the network and the allocation within the Mapping and Enforcement Teams budget for a grade 8 Bridges and Rights of Way Inspector Post. (Please note this post has yet to be recruited due to COVID-19).
- 3.2 A business case has been agreed by senior officers for the recruitment of 2 additional Rights of Way (Legal Orders and Enforcement Officers) within the Mapping & Enforcement Team, pending final approvals. This will reduce the risk of potential claims of maladministration against the Council and address the Legislative Reforms due to come into force under the Deregulation Act 2015, which intend to simplify, speed up and reduce costs and administrative burdens associated with rights of way procedures.
- 3.3 Additional temporary Officers have been recruited within the Maintenance Team to ensure income generation can be sustained through the Contracting Arm of the Team and statutory rights of way functions are maintained.
- 3.4 A report was due to be taken to Cabinet highlighting the issues identified by the Overview Committee however due to meetings being cancelled and the pandemic this did not take place.

4.0 Current Situation

- 4.1 As stated above officers have been unable, due to other work pressures to undertake the biannual condition survey to assess the accessibility of the network. It is likely that the percentage will have decreased.
- 4.2 Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the rights of way network and staff.
- There has been a 215% increase in the number of issues being logged on our Management System
 - A 187% increase in general issues being reported
 - Issues with being able to work from home due to IT provision and the requirement to have access to legal records and files. A business case is being drafted to highlight the IT requirements.
 - Volunteers have been unable to undertake works.
 - Legal Orders have not been progressed due to the inability to fulfil parts of the statutory function due to restrictions.

- 4.3 Despite these challenges the Team should be congratulated on the work they have been able to achieve, amidst the pressures of the pandemic. During the initial lockdown Outdoor Partnerships Staff were fundamental in delivering food boxes, supplies to food banks and Public Protection Equipment. The pandemic was also seen as an opportunity to focus on some of the large scale contracting works at schools and despite the unprecedented rise in issues being reported the team has maintained health and safety, and public access across the ROW network.
- 4.4 The pandemic has further highlighted the importance and value of the rights of way network to enable access to the countryside for recreation and people's health and wellbeing.

5.0 Future Pressures

- 5.1 These include the following:
- Additional Budget Cuts.
 - Loss of staff/insufficient staff to cope with demands.
 - Introduction of the Deregulation Act 2015 provisions relating to public rights of way.
 - Lack of ongoing Capital Investment for bridges and resurfacing on the network.
 - Inability to reinvest income from Contracting Works back into the Service.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 2020/21 has been an extremely difficult and challenging year for everyone. The on-going pandemic has seen unprecedented increases in members of the public accessing the Public Rights of Way network. Whilst this supports the position that outdoor access is beneficial for health and well-being, active travel, rural economies and social value, it also comes with an increased workload. The increase in access has generated more reports, heightened tensions between users and landowners/managers, and raised expectations about the management of the network. Thus, more than ever the rights of way statutory function needs to be adequately funded and resourced.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION

A. INTRODUCTION

The intention of this paper is to give a broad picture of the Review of the Local Plan which will have taken around five years to complete. It will also provide a detailed account of how the Plan proposals will affect development in Alveley. It is not meant to be an all-embracing account of the Plan.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Review is to update the current Local Plan, and among other matters consider the future housing and employment land development requirements. Also, where appropriate, to conduct a review of the Green Belt boundaries as part of the consideration of strategic opinions for delivery of new development. It covers the period from 2016 until 2038. To arrive at what and where development should take place during this time, a series of public consultations are undertaken.

C. PROCEDURE

- a) The final public stage of consultation of the Local Plan is under Regulation 19 - of The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations! - for the period 18th December 2020 to 26th February 2021. An entire draft of the Plan is out for further comment. The purpose of the Regulation is to seek views on the soundness of proposals. Unless there are exceptional circumstances containing new material evidence it is not the intention of Shropshire Council to make any further major changes.
- b) The previous period of consultation under Regulation 18 also produced a draft Plan, that sought views on its proposals, when all submissions from stakeholders, other bodies and the public in general, were taken into account. This resulted in a number of amendments, some of them significant.
- c) It is proposed to submit the draft Local Plan to the Government's Planning Inspectorate in April 2021. As it is anticipated that the Inspectorate will take up to 12 months to examine the Plan and hopefully approve without recommendations to consider major alterations that need further investigation, the Plan should be adopted in May 2022.

D. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a) Under the previous Regulation 18 consultation 2,500 consultees made comment. This resulted in a small number of significant sites allocated for development being removed or amended due to new material considerations.
- b) There are no amendments being made to the proposals for community hubs so it is intended that Alveley will remain as one.
- c) Shropshire Council's growth aspirations for its area for 2016 to 2038 is 30,800 new dwellings and 300 hectares of employment land.

- d) The revised Government housing methodology for calculating how many homes are needed nationally for the future where Shropshire will take its proportionate share is considered by many local authorities to be excessive. Consequently, due to the outcry from them the Government has reverted to the methodology it used in 2012.
- e) The Plan is said to have an urban focused approach giving specific strategies for the Shropshire network and market towns.
- f) Three strategic sites have been identified which are * the former Ironbridge Power Station, * Clive Barracks, Ternhill, and * RAF Cosford, which is to facilitate MOD use and associated activities.
- g) The Plan will involve the release of some Green Belt land for development. This includes at Alveley for leisure and housing development, where some safeguarded land has also been identified for potential development beyond the Plan period.
- h) Following representations and new material considerations of development within the Bridgnorth Place Plan mean that the initial proposal for a Garden Village at Stanmore has been dropped with the majority of the area to remain as designated Green Belt land. Instead, controversially, much of the previously proposed development at Stanmore will be transferred to Tasley.
- i) There are a number of strategic and development policies adopted to replace current development management policies in the Core Strategy.

E. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR ALVELEY

- a) The development proposals for Alveley published in late 2018, declared that over the period of the Plan, 99 more dwellings were needed to supplement existing committed sites already taken into account. These included the housing development underway at the site of the previous garage off the A442. Two sites in the Green Belt were proposed for development at Alveley, each to provide 35 homes with some recreational facilities at one of them. These together with an allowance of 29 dwellings by windfalls or exception site schemes was calculated to meet the requirements during the period of the Plan.
- b) In February 2019, Alveley & Romsley Parish Council responded to Regulation 18 consultation. Among comments the Council accepted the development proposals for housing and recreational facilities behind Maple Crescent in the field (ALV006/ALV007) that belongs to Alveley Sports & Social Club. However, it did not support the development of housing at Cleckars as there are ecological and hydrological issues with the site which the Council considered had not been adequately taken into account. A minority view on the Council was that also the housing forecast requirements were excessive for Alveley Parish as there would be sufficient windfalls and exceptional site schemes to meet need during the period of the Plan and it was unnecessary to use Green Belt land at Cleckars.

F. RESPONDING TO REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION

- a) The Parish Council will need to review the issue again as it will be important to re-iterate any objections or comments previously submitted if they are still live, as the Planning Inspectorate will only consider correspondence from Regulation 19 consultation.
- b) It has been disappointing to the Parish Council that the proposal to build 35 dwellings in the Green Belt at the Cleckars has not been removed. Since the previous round of consultation there has been the permitted establishing of a substantial number of permanent mobile homes, possibly as many as 100, at The Butts, Little London, which replaces the temporary accommodation of holiday caravan lets. Although it may be Shropshire Council policy to exclude residential mobile homes in housing figures, it is considered reasonable and justifiable to modify this policy, as to do so when they are of a permanent nature, it will prevent unnecessary development of Green Belt land. Also, allowance should be made for further housing on the current Alveley Sports & Social Club site. It is understood that if approval is granted for development in its field opposite, the intention is to demolish the current Club House and erect a new one on its field, and use the remainder of the present site for housing development which is within the development boundary.
- c) The Parish Council should consider whether the changes mentioned in b) are major developments that justify a reduction in previously proposed housing in the Green Belt, and that those dwellings earmarked for the Cleckars are no longer required. In other respects, to continue supporting the proposed development on the Sports' Club's field and for planning purposes accept that Alveley will be a hub.

David Voysey
Planning Committee Chairman

21st January 2021

Alveley and Romsley Parish Council Meeting

February 2021

Shropshire Council Local Plan Review

Extract from the document relevant to Alveley, the whole document can be viewed online in association with the Regulation 19 Draft Pre-Submission of the Plan:

S3.2. Community Hubs: Bridgnorth Place Plan Area 1.

1. Within the Bridgnorth Place Plan Area, two Community Hub settlements have been identified. These settlements and their residential development guidelines are listed below:
Community Hub Settlements Residential Guideline Alveley Around 130 dwellings Ditton Priors Around 65 dwellings

2. Within these Community Hubs, new residential development will be delivered through any identified saved SAMDev residential allocations; identified Local Plan residential allocations; appropriate small-scale windfall residential development within the settlements development boundary, as shown on the Policies Map, where it is consistent with Community Hub Policy SP8 and other relevant policies of this Local Plan; and appropriate exception development where it is consistent with Community Hub Policy SP8 and other relevant policies of this Local Plan.

3. Within these Community Hubs, new employment development will be delivered through appropriate small-scale windfall employment development within the settlements development boundary, as shown on the Policies Map, where it is consistent with Community Hub Policy SP8 and other relevant policies of this Local Plan.

4. Saved SAMDev Plan site allocations within these Community Hubs are listed in Appendix 2 of this document and identified on the Policies Map. Local Plan site allocations within these Community Hubs are identified in Schedule S3.2(i) below and identified on the Policies Map. Development of site allocations should be in accordance with specified development guidelines and approximate site provision figures and all other relevant policies of this Local Plan. Regulation 19: Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan Page 189

5. Ditton Priors is partly located within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Development proposals must recognise the importance of conserving and where possible enhancing, the special qualities of the Shropshire Hills AONB as set out in the AONB Management Plan and should be in accordance with Policy DP24 and other relevant policies of this Local Plan. Particular care should be taken with the design and layout of development in accordance with Policy SP5.

6. Alveley is inset in Green Belt. Development proposals in the Green Belt and on safeguarded land must be in accordance with National Policy and Policy SP11 of this Local Plan, which specify the development types and the circumstances when development may be acceptable. They must also comply with all other relevant policies of this Local Plan.

7. To provide long-term locations for growth in Alveley, an area of land beyond the Alveley development boundary is safeguarded for Alveley's future development needs beyond the current Local Plan period. This land is set out in Schedule S3.2(ii) and identified on the Policies Map. Safeguarded land is not allocated for development at the present time, but has been safeguarded as a location which could meet future development need through allocation in a future Local Plan.

8. Development proposals will be expected to positively respond to policies and guidelines within any relevant community-led plans and local needs.

Schedule S3.2(i). Residential Site Allocations: Community Hubs in the Bridgnorth Place Plan Area Site Allocation Development, Guidelines, Provision

Alveley Community Hub Land north of Daddlebrook Road and west of A442, Alveley (ALV006 & ALV007) 35 dwellings.

The low housing guideline reflects allocation of the site for a mixed-use scheme with an element of market housing to enable community facility provision. The mix and layout of housing provided on the site should be informed by identified local needs.

It is expected that a scheme for the whole site, which currently has no formal community recreational use, will provide for a replacement club building and community sports and recreation facilities (with supporting infrastructure such as carparking) to replace and enhance the more limited provision that currently exists at Alveley Sports Club on the other side of Daddlebrook Road.

A high-quality layout and design recognising the Green Belt edge and village gateway location of the site is expected. Any site layout should provide for future access to the adjoining area which is identified as a safeguarded land.

Vehicular access should be onto Daddlebrook Road with a pedestrian crossing facility provided to the south side of Daddlebrook Road.

Relevant supporting studies should be undertaken including, ecology, tree and hedgerow surveys, flood risk and drainage with their recommendations clearly reflected in the proposed development scheme.

Design and layout of development should seek to retain mature and significant trees and hedgerows, and planting enhanced where possible, particularly at the northern and eastern boundaries with planting to contribute to the quality of the local environment, minimise visual encroachment, contribute to mitigation, including improving biodiversity, and reinforce Green Belt boundaries. Opportunities should be taken to link green infrastructure from the site to the wider Green Belt and scope for other improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility explored.

The site will incorporate appropriate sustainable drainage, informed by a sustainable drainage strategy. Any residual surface water flood risk will be managed by excluding development from the affected areas of the site, which will form part of the Green

Infrastructure network. Flood and water management measures must not displace water elsewhere.

Land Adjacent to The Cleckars, Alveley (ALV009) 35 dwellings

Design and layout of development should seek to retain protected and mature trees and hedgerows, safeguard ecological interest, including adjacent priority habitat, and provide additional planting to improve biodiversity and minimise and mitigate visual encroachment into Green Belt. Opportunities should be taken to link green infrastructure from the site to the wider Green Belt and to use planting to reinforce Green Belt boundaries.

A high-quality layout and design recognising the Green Belt edge and village gateway location of the site is expected. The mix and layout of housing provided on the site should be informed by identified local needs.

Relevant supporting studies should be undertaken including, ecology, tree and hedgerow surveys, with their recommendations clearly reflected in site capacity and the proposed development scheme.

The 30mph zone should be extended to reflect the extent of this site, together with appropriate traffic calming. A continuous footway should be provided along the site's road frontage and along the A442 to link with the unadopted road serving The Woodlands.

The public right of way which crosses the site would need to be taken into account in scheme design and an attractive pedestrian route should be provided through the site with the Public Right of Way across the site, which links to the existing rights of way network in Green Belt beyond the site, retained.

Schedule S3.2(ii). Safeguarded Land: Community Hubs in the Bridgnorth Place Plan Area
Safeguarded Land Site Area (Ha) Land off Cooks Cross, Alveley 3.6ha

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
REPORT BY CLERK OF COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL 9TH FEBRUARY 2021
FINANCIAL REPORT

Agenda item 12

1. Purposes

To deal with the following matters:

- (a) Deposits and bank balances 2020/21 to 31st January 2021;
- (b) Bank reconciliation at 31st January 2021;
- (c) Closed Churchyard – Trees;
- (d) Street Lighting Electricity;
- (e) Invoices for approval and cheques for signature.
- (f) Severn Valley Country Park – flooding;

2. Deposits and bank balances 2020/21 to 31st January 2021

Deposits (1st April 2020 – 31st January 2021)

Shropshire Council Precept Payment	£53,765.00
Neighbourhood Fund (CIL)	£1,201.93
Refund of VAT	£7,499.88
Miscellaneous	£3.45
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund A/C/HSBC Bank Interest	£111.95
	<u>£62,582.21</u>

Bank Balances

HSBC Business Money Manager Account	£44,245.18
HSBC Community Account	£15,757.07
Charities Churches & Local Authorities (CCLA) Account	£35,000.00

2.2 The Parish Council is **requested** to note this information.

3. Bank Reconciliation at 31st January 2021

Balances as at 31.01.21 -

Bank	£
Business Money Manager Account	44,245.18
Community Account	15,757.07
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Account	35,000.00
	<u>95,002.25</u>
Less unrepresented cheques -	None
	<u>95,002.25</u>

Cash Book

		£
Opening balances as at	01/04/2020	61,348.70
Add receipts to	31/01/2021	62,582.21
Less payments to	31/01/2021	- 28,928.66
		<u>95,002.25</u>

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
REPORT BY CLERK OF COUNCIL

- 3.1 The Parish Council is **requested** to note this information.

4. **Closed Churchyard - Trees**

- 4.1 This issue was previously considered by the Parish Council on 3rd November 2020 (agenda item 8). At that time Members had accepted in principle that an annual tree survey by a professional arboriculturist is appropriate and had authorised the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to meet with a representative of Lewis Arborcare to:

- (a) Commission an immediate survey to assess whether immediate further work is required on health and safety grounds;
- (b) Arrange for an annual survey to be carried out thereafter.

On 17th December 2020, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk met at the Churchyard with Terry Merchant, a professional arboriculturist recommended by Lewis Arborcare. Mr. Merchant has subsequently quoted a fee of £375 to inspect and provide an annual condition report in diary format. An example of the format used is attached. Mr. Merchant also advised that a monthly visual inspection be carried out by a Parish Council representative with details of any findings being added to the diary record, and any concerns being reported to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is **requested** to authorise the Clerk to commission an immediate survey from Mr. Merchant and to commit in principle to an annual follow-up survey.

5. **Street Lighting Electricity**

- 5.1 The Parish Council's electricity supply contract for street lighting expires on 31st January 2021. At the Parish Council meeting on 1st December 2020, the Clerk reported that he was having some difficulty in obtaining quotes that would enable the Parish Council to achieve competitive terms for reletting the contract. He undertook to provide a further report to the January 2021 meeting, but this was not possible because of his sickness absence.
- 5.2 Since leaving hospital, the Clerk has continued negotiation with SSE Business Energy, the current suppliers. Their quotes are based on current wholesale prices which vary significantly, even in the short term. Their latest quote indicates an annual cost of £6,690 per annum for the next two years, which is equivalent to £558 per month. Following completion of the street lighting replacement programme, monthly bills are currently averaging under £300.
- 5.3 The Clerk has therefore entered negotiation with Shropshire Council with a view to joining their contract for street lighting electricity. This will allow the Parish Council to benefit from the stability and economies of scale which

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
REPORT BY CLERK OF COUNCIL

Shropshire Council can obtain. The Clerk has been advised that the current year's cost of supplying the Parish Council's requirements through the Shropshire Council contract would be £3,580 or £300 per month. A firm quote for 2021/22 is still awaited but the Clerk is confident that it will compare very favourably with the SSE quote.

- 5.4 The Clerk will provide a verbal update at or before the meeting, but is likely to recommend that the Parish Council terminates the contract with SSE on 31st January 2021, and agrees a contract with Shropshire Council for the next financial year.

7. **Invoices for Approval and Cheques for Signature**

- 7.1 A schedule of invoices/direct payments is attached.

Recommendation: The Council is **requested** to approve the schedule of invoices/direct payments and to authorise two Councillors to sign the cheques to be paid.

8. **Severn Valley Country Park**

- 8.1 Further to the management report that was considered on 26th January 2021, the Country Park has suffered significant flooding damage as a result of recent very wet weather. Two bridges have been washed away forcing the closure of a section of the riverside walk. Given the difficult financial position of SVCP, the Parish Council may wish to **consider** offering financial support in the current financial year to support the additional repair and remedial work that is now required.

Forester & Arborist Services Ltd, Company No 7037426
Registered Office: 19 Arrow Road, Shawburch, Telford TF5 0LF
07747017979

More with Lydham Glebe

Inspection of trees

More Shropshire SY9 5HH

Record of Remedial Work Proposed and Completed



Terry Merchant Chartered Forester M.Arbor.A
terry@foresterandarborist.com

Inspection date 16.3.2020

for Lewis Arborcare Ltd

Forester & Arborist Services Ltd, Company No.7037426
Registered Office: 19 Arrow Road, Shawburch, Telford TF5 0LF
07747017979

Contents

- 1.0 Remit
- 2.0 Report Limitations
- 2.1 Statutory Obligations
- 2.2 Individual Tree Condition Survey

Appendix 1 Photo Detail: Tree condition illustration ref. Sect 2.2

Appendix 2: Tree location image

Appendix 3: Glossary of Arboricultural Terms

1.0 Remit:

- 1) Inspect and produce a tree condition report in diary format with recommendations for remedial work as directed by owner

2.0 Report limitations:

The tree condition conclusion and recommendations in this report are valid for a period of one year, or a lesser period where indicated in the report. All trees are susceptible to exceptional weather events or deterioration resulting from other environmental changes in close proximity to the tree. The evaluation is based upon Visual Tree Assessment (Mattheck & Breloer 2001). Observations have been made from ground level with the aid of binoculars. Note the inspection does not cover engineering specification or condition of equipment attached to the trees.

2.1 Statutory Obligations

Bats and the Law (Woodland Management for Bats 2005)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence to disturb, damage or destroy bats or their roosts. The Act applies in both England & Wales and requires consultation with the appropriate SNCO before carrying out activities which might harm or disturb bats or their roosts. The Act is amended by the CROW Act 2000. This adds *recklessness* to the offence of damaging or destroying a place a bat uses for shelter, or disturbing a bat while using a roost.

The Conservation (Natural Habitats Regulations 1994) implements the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 1992, amended August 2007 & Oct 2010. Under the regulations, damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place is an absolute offence, regardless of whether the act of doing so may be regarded as reckless, deliberate or incidental.

Forester & Arborist Services Ltd, Company No.7037426
Registered Office: 19 Arrow Road, Shawburch, Telford TF5 0LF
07747017979

2.2 Tree Condition Survey

Inspection method: Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) from ground level.

Location: More Shropshire SY9 5HH NGR:SO34349161

Date: 8.7.2019. **Protection Status:** South Shropshire TPO?

Remit: Produce tree condition report in diary format with recommendation for remedial work where required.
Limitations: The tree condition assessment and recommendations are valid for a period of one year. No detection or wood boring equipment has been used other than a sounding hammer and metal probe. All trees are at risk of failure through exceptional weather conditions. Climbing inspections as required.
Priority: **Level 1** = Immediate, work to be completed within 7 days where possible. **Level 2** = Work to be completed within 3 months where possible.
Level 3 = Pre-emptive works where required completed within 12 months. **Level 4** = Refer to inspection date.
Key: T1 = Tree 1 – refer to location plan appended

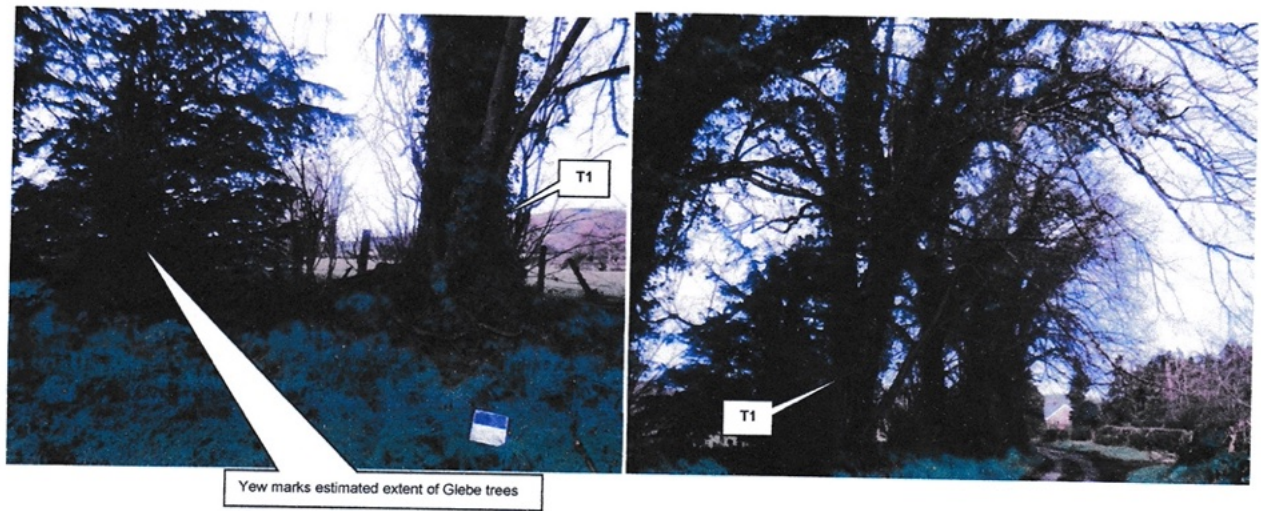
Tree No.	Species	Growth stage	Condition	Date inspected	Action required	Priority level	Date completed
T1	Common lime <i>Tilia x europaea</i> L.	Mature	Root: No evidence of soil movement or fungi fruiting bodies, where visible Stem: buttressing obscured by sucker growth and accumulation of leaf litter. Stem partly obscured by ivy growth. No evidence of bark bleeds where visible. Multiple bark inclusions obscured by ivy growth. Crown: No evidence of recent breakouts or significant dieback. Major deadwood section overhanging road, lower crown. Evaluation: Adequate annual shoot extension, bud size and density are indicative of the tree maintaining vitality for growth in current conditions. Risk Assessment: close inspection obscured by basal sucker and ivy growth. Non-durable deadwood over road	16.3.20	Remove major deadwood over road Sever ivy growth Remove basal suckers and inspect for perennial fungi fruiting bodies around buttressing Inspection within 3 years or following named storms See photo detail	3	

Forester & Arborist Services Ltd, Company No.7037426
Registered Office: 19 Arrow Road, Shawburch, Telford TF5 0LF
07747017979

Tree No.	Species	Growth stage	Condition	Date inspected	Action required	Priority level	Date completed
T2	Common lime <i>Tilia x europaea</i> L.	Mature	<p>Root: No evidence of soil movement or fungi fruiting bodies, where visible</p> <p>Stem: buttressing obscured by sucker growth and accumulation of leaf litter. Stem partly obscured by ivy growth. No evidence of bark bleeds where visible. Multiple bark inclusions obscured by ivy growth.</p> <p>Crown: No evidence of recent breakouts or significant dieback. Minor deadwood characteristic of species</p> <p>Evaluation: Adequate annual shoot extension, bud size and density are indicative of the tree maintaining vitality for growth in current conditions.</p> <p>Risk Assessment: close inspection obscured by basal sucker and ivy growth.</p>	16.3.20	<p>Sever ivy growth Remove basal suckers and inspect for perennial fungi fruiting bodies around buttressing</p> <p>Inspection within 3 years or following named storms</p> <p>See photo detail</p>	3	
T3	Common lime <i>Tilia x europaea</i> L.	Mature	<p>Root: No evidence of soil movement or fungi fruiting bodies, where visible</p> <p>Stem: buttressing obscured by sucker growth and accumulation of leaf litter. Stem obscured by ivy growth. No evidence of bark bleeds where visible. Multiple bark inclusions obscured by ivy growth.</p> <p>Crown: <u>recent failure of leading stem/upper crown</u>. Limb junctions obscured by ivy growth. No evidence of significant dieback. Minor deadwood characteristic of species</p> <p>Evaluation: Adequate annual shoot extension, bud size and density are indicative of the tree maintaining vitality for growth in current conditions.</p> <p>Risk Assessment: close inspection obscured by basal sucker and ivy growth at failure point.</p>	16.3.20	<p>Sever ivy growth Remove basal suckers and inspect for perennial fungi fruiting bodies around buttressing. Climbing inspection of failure point for evidence of decay. Reduce longest limbs below failure point by c.2m to improve crown profile</p> <p>Inspection within 3 years or following named storms.</p> <p>See photo detail</p>	3	

Forester & Arborist Services Ltd, Company No.7037426
Registered Office: 19 Arrow Road, Shawburch, Telford TF5 0LF
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Photo Detail 2020



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ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
9TH FEBRUARY 2021

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND CHEQUES TO BE APPROVED AND SIGNED

CHEQUE	PAYEE		NET	VAT	TOTAL	ITEM	COUNCIL POWER
D.D.	Southern Electricity		273.05	51.70	324.75	Street Lighting electriciy November 2020	Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3
S.O.	Payroll		645.70		645.70	December payroll	L.G.A. 1972 s. 112
	HMRC	256	171.76		171.76	PAYE and National Insurance	
	Ditton Services	257	727.00	145.00	872.00	Grass cutting, Alveley Recreation Ground	L.G. (Misc. Prov) Act 1976 s.19
D.D.	Southern Electricity		319.31	60.53	379.84	Street Lighting electriciy December 2020	Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3
S.O.	Payroll		645.70		645.70	January payroll	L.G.A. 1972 s. 112
	HMRC	258	171.76		171.76	PAYE and National Insurance	
						Modifications to website to meet	Local Audit & Acctblty. Act 2014
	ALVC Ltd	259	225.00	45.00	270.00	Accessibility Regulations	Minute 089 1st December 2020
			3,179.28	302.23	3,481.51		

Signed

D Rawlinson

D.H. RAWLINSON
Clerk/R.F.O.

Chairman