

Alderminster Parish Council
Minutes for
Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council
Held on
Monday 13th January 2025
Alderminster Village Hall 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr John Melville
Cllr Mark Meadows
Cllr David Curtis
Cllr Patricia Bailey
Mrs L Callow (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: 7 members of the public

1	Apologies: DC Dominic Skinner sent apologies.
2	Declaration of interests: none received.
3	Questions from the public: Members of the public used this time to ask questions and express their opinions. A member of the public reported there had been a restructure with Cora and Mathew Westwood is now the new managing Director and confirmed to residents there is a forth coming meeting with SDC and their Commercial Director.
4	Minutes of the previous meetings: The minutes from the previous meeting of the 11 th November 2024 were unanimously agreed and were signed by the Chairman. A member mentioned there were 4 not 2 MOP at the last meeting, this has been noted.
5	2025/2026 Precept: All councillors reviewed the final budget and unanimously agreed a Precept of £13,880. The precept will be submitted by the clerk by 24 th January 2025.
6	Councillors' reports: Chair spoke about the passing of local resident Gordon Forster. Chair has asked Clerk to email Cllr Dominic Skinner asking for a report that is more relevant to Alderminster Parish.
7	District and County Councillors' reports: DC Dominic Skinner emailed a report. This was read out by the chairman. It is also attached to the minutes. (Appendix A) WCC Izzi Seccombe spoke about the Governments Plans to devolve more powers to Regional Strategic Authorities in a white paper which was published on 16 th December 2024. Areas of two-tier councils will be merging to create a single tier new council. All councils were invited to join a first phase but to do this they will have to postpone the elections to the following year (2026). The leaders had decided by 10 th January 2025 to go ahead with phase one. There won't be any local consultations. Town and Parish councils won't be affected by this change.

8 **Planning applications:** the following planning applications were noted, and a NO REPRESENTATION response was submitted for both applications.

- I. 24/02450/FUL Cycles for cancer – No Representation was submitted by the clerk.
- II. 24/02727/FUL Hillside 64 New Road, Alderminster - The majority (3/4) of the Parish Council voted to support this application for the following planning reasons:
 - 1)the extension is designed to appear as an extension and is set back from the road with a subservient roof line.
 - 2) There are adequate separation distances to neighbouring properties.
 Additionally, this extension provides an improved family home, with minimal increased built-up area within the plot. The Parish Council also wishes to acknowledge the applicants for involving the parish council and seeking our support. Clerk will submit this response with comment by 31st January 2025.

9 **Accounts for payment and finance matters:**
 The following payments were approved and authorised:

- i. Clerks Salary November - £**
- ii. Village Voices Grant - £100
- iii. HMRC - £**
- iv. Bank charges - £8.00
- v. Reformation Ltd (bench) - £449.00
- vi. DCK Payroll November - £36.00
- vii. Clerks Salary December - £**
- viii. HMRC - £**
- ix. Lawns2mow - £240.00
- x. Bank Charges - £8.00
- xi. DCK Payroll - £36.00

The Chairman signed the supporting documentation.

10 **Correspondence:** South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred options consultation is now live for 8 weeks. There is an online consultation portal, and a poster will be put onto the Parish Council noticeboard. Details for the Police and crime commissioner survey for budget consultation has been put onto the PC noticeboard. SDC will shortly be considering making a Public Spaces Protection Order which will be effective across the whole District, to prohibit people from failing to pick up after their dogs. The last date for consultation responses is 24th January 2025 and can be found on the SDC website.

The bushes that have been planted behind the bus shelter do not have planning and the land is owned by WCC highways. They are currently investigating where they have come from and if they will be removed. The new Bench has now been fitted, and Cllr Meadows has kindly offered to dispose the old rotten bench.

11 **Items for future agenda:** Overgrown Hedges, representation for Village Hall Committee.

12 **Meeting closed at 9:10pm**

Next meeting Monday 10th March 2025

Signed.....

Appendix A

Q1 2025 District Councillor Report

Cllr Dominic Skinner – Quinton Ward

Domskinner4quinton@gmail.com – 07783 740520

District Council Performance and Parish Forum

LGA undertook a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) review in March 2024. Feedback received was very positive in that the CPC reported the Council is well run, recognises its challenges and is ambitious for the future of the District. There is much to be proud of in how the Council is delivering for the communities of this large and diverse area.

The CPC report led to an action plan for 10 specific recommendations. This action plan has periodic review and the progress is monitored by Cabinet. One recommendation was to strengthen the Citizen's Panel and develop a Parish Forum to engage more effectively with local people on a range of opportunities and challenges. This is the catalyst for the Parish Forum which is arranged on MS Teams on 30th January 2025. All Parish Council Clerks and Chairs have been invited to participate. The Council has allowed funding for a Parish Liaison Officer to support these efforts and the role is now being scoped out. A follow up review of the CPC will be held by the LGA on 21st January 2025.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The Preferred Options Consultation went live on 10th January and is open until 7th March. It is an opportunity for the Parish Council and Residents to 'have a say' in the development proposals for the area up to 2050. The Clifford Chambers Neighbourhood Plan was made on 12th July 2021 and runs to 2031. It is this document, which in conjunction with the District Core Strategy, provides policy for development within the Parish. It is important to keep a Neighbourhood Plan up to date and relevant and although there is no set guidance on the review period it is commonly accepted that plans should be reviewed every 5 years. Full details of the Preferred Options Consultation are available on the SWLP website.

Community Climate and Nature Fund Phase 2 (CCNF)

The District Council has provided a discretionary fund (c. £56000) for grants towards community projects which aim to tackle climate change either by direct action or adaptation to future climate change challenges. Details can be found on the District Council Website. Applications will open on 10th January 2025 and close on February 2025.

Devolution White Paper and Local Government Reorganisation

Government announced plans to devolve more powers to Regional Strategic Authorities in a White Paper published before Christmas. In addition, there are proposals to move to a single tier of local government which will mean District Councils in two tier authorities will be abolished and Unitary Authorities will be the structure for the future. There has been much coverage in the press and concerns expressed about the consultation process between authorities, the size of the Unitaries and the appropriate grouping into Strategic Authorities which are set to represent c. £1.5M residents. The Leader of Warwickshire County Council (Cllr Seccombe) has written to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution asking for consideration of a new Unitary Council for the County and the postponement of the County Council Elections which are currently scheduled for May 2025.