

Alderminster Parish Assembly

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 12th May 2025

Alderminster Village Hall 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr Jonh Melville

Cllr Mark Meadows

Cllr David Curtis

Laura Callow (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: 28 MOP

	<p>Cllr Curtis agreed to chair the meeting.</p>	
1	<p>Apologies: Apologies from Cllr Dominic Skinner</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of 2023 Annual Assembly: The minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were unanimously approved as an accurate record and were signed by Cllr Curtis.</p>	
3	<p>Report from the Parish Council: Cllr Curtis gave the update. He thanked Patricia Bailey for being involved with the parish council and due to unfortunate circumstances can no longer be a parish councillor. He spoke about the vacancies that the Pariah council currently have. Highlights of the year, we had a new noticeboard fitted and a new Jubilee bench. Thanked Mr Callow for the fitting of both. Thanks to clerk for all the work she has done throughout the last year. Great to see all different events happening within the village which are organised by local societies. Thanked</p>	
4	<p>Cllr Izzi Seccombe for all the work she has done for the village.</p> <p>Report from the County Councillor: Cllr Curtis gave a small update to say there's a lot going on at the moment, so the county elections were held Thursday, 10 days ago or so. The annual council at county meets on Friday. at the moment we have really because of the breakdown of numbers of councillors from the various different parties at the moment there is no sure outcome as to who will be in administration at county council. Friday could be a very very long meeting indeed.</p> <p>The devolution is very likely still to continue certainly at district council level and a large number of county councillors all feel very strongly that a south Warwickshire unitary would be for the best interests of residents in Stratford district and Warwick district councils. So, the devolution bill, there's a white paper published on the 18th December. The government wants going to press the head for devolution and for those who don't know, that will mean abolishing all the seconder authorities, all the district councils and borough councils. That is going to happen almost certainly and so we can't ignore it. We are working on the best solution. The two solutions that are most likely are a full Warwickshire unitary authority or a south Warwickshire and a north Warwickshire splitting into two unitary authorities. There's a</p>	

lot of uncertainty at the moment and no doubt you will hear more about it, but if you have views, its really important that you send those views to me as your County councillor.

Report from the District Councillor:

Cllr Skinner was unable to attend but did email a report. The full report is attached to these minutes. **Appendix A**

Reports from any Parish organisations:

We had reports given and read out from all local organisations/clubs/groups. All Reports are attached. **Appendix B**

Any matters raised by electors of the Parish present:

No matters we the reports are raised.

The meeting ended at 7.42 pm.

Appendix A

Report from District Councillor Dominic Skinner

Stratford on Avon DC Annual Report 2024/25 – Quinton Ward

Another busy year throughout the Ward and the District. I have included some highlights, which I hope will be of interest to you. Further detail and information about all may be found on the District Council’s website: www.stratford.gov.uk

April 2024

New Open Space Planning Guidance Adopted

In April, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Full Council formally adopted its revised Open Space Supplementary Planning Document. Under the new policy, all public open space, as part of new developments, will now be adopted by either the local Town/Parish Council or by the District Council. This was in response to the growing amount of public open space provided with new developments and concerns raised by residents about:

- Charges levied by the private management companies appointed by the developers to maintain the public open space which are not always made transparent at the time of purchase, can change every year and are unlimited.
- The quality of the maintenance work carried out. Also, where a Parish or Town Council decides not to take ownership of public open space, the District Council would generally take ownership of the land, with responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

The option of passing maintenance responsibilities onto private management companies will no longer be included in Section 106 agreements.

May 2024

CCTV upgrade

SDC’s Cabinet approves grant funding of £200,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to carry out vital work to upgrade CCTV infrastructure, software and equipment across the District. CCTV covers Stratford and the surrounding towns. From April 2023 to May 2024, SDC’s CCTV team assisted Warwickshire Police in stopping over 91 suspected drink and drug drivers leading to arrest and prosecution.

Community Climate Change Fund Phase 1

The successful projects from Phase 1 are announced. This fund will go some way in supporting important projects within the district to help tackle climate change (and improve community facilities and activities).

June 2024

D-Day Landings Commemoration

On 6 June there were many acts of commemoration across the District to remember the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day Landings with hundreds of beacons lit across the UK and the Commonwealth.

In 1944, Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world had ever witnessed; Operation Overlord, D-Day, saw over 5,000 ships and landing craft set down more than 150,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of northwest Europe from Nazi occupation. As the SDC Armed Forces Champion, veteran and serving reservist this was an event that held extreme importance for me and it was an honour to be involved in a national event to mark this occasion representing SDC and the RAF.

July 2024

General Election

A general election was held on Thursday 4 July 2024.

Public Safety - Operation Talkative

SDC supported a new policing initiative called Operation Talkative to encourage reporting of knife carrying. If you have information or concerns about someone carrying a knife, please report it to police by going to www.warwickshire.police.uk/report or call 101 and quote Operation Talkative.

Trees for Farmers

Applications opened for the free trees for farmers initiative again.

August 2024

South Warwickshire Local Plan

SDC and WDC's Joint Cabinet Committee, endorsed a study from the Advisory Group, on the number of dwellings to be delivered to meet the area's future housing needs in the next version of the emerging Local Plan for South Warwickshire. (Later, at the end of 2024 the government increased the requirement under the 'standard method' to a new figure of 2188 homes per year for south Warwickshire.)

September 2024

Climate Assembly

SDC holds its first Climate Assembly event to promote community engagement with action for climate and nature across the District, including schools, to provide a springboard for more action and to showcase local best practice.

Community Safety

SDC supports and funds new virtual reality to help educate young people on the realities of

carrying a knife. The project is being rolled out in schools across the District.

October 2024

Delivering Local Needs/Local Choice Rural Housing

The Cabinet agreed to continue the existing approach to deliver homes for local people in rural areas with the Rural Housing Enabler working with partners to enable local communities to deliver Local Needs/Local Choice rural housing schemes.

Winter Fuel Payments

SDC's Leader, Cllr Susan Juned, wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer about the Government's decision on winter fuel payments

November 2024

Armed Forces Covenant Pledge

SDC's Cabinet approved the District Council's Armed Forces Covenant Pledge and Cllr Juned attended the WCC Covenant signing ceremony. As the SDC Armed Forces champion I was extremely proud to be able to offer firsthand advice and support to council officers during the development of the councils offering to the covenant. After a lot of hard work from our officers SDC now offers increased support to our serving, veteran and reservist community and their families. This includes extra support when applying for social housing within the district and signposting to suitable council services. This was a project that I was extremely passionate about and I am very proud that SDC now offers far more services and support to our armed forces community than ever before. Below is a photo of myself, Cllr Susan Juned, Cllr Liz Coles and SDC Chief Exec David Buckland at the signing of the pledge event at Shire Hall, Warwick.

December 2024

Devolution and Local Government Review

On 16 December 2024, the government published the 'English Devolution White Paper' identifying the Government's intended approach to the devolution of powers from Westminster to more local "Strategic Authorities." The White Paper was clear that to achieve government objectives this will also require Local Government Review. This review would result in the abolition of the remaining two-tier local government (County and District) across the country and establishing unitary government in their place (plus parish and town councils in our area).

January 2025

South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation

The public consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan opened on 10 January.

Launch of the Parish Forum

On Thursday 30 January the District Council launched the Parish Forum, chaired by Natalie who is the Portfolio Holder for Law & Governance. The meeting was held on Teams and sixty six Town and Parish Chairs and Clerks attended from across the District to discuss Devolution and Local Government Review, the newly created Parish Liaison Officer role at the District Council and the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The next meeting is on Thursday 26 June.

Community Climate Change Fund – Phase 2 opens

Following the success of Phase 1 of the Community Climate Change Fund, Phase 2 was launched with £55,863 available for green projects.

February 2025

Council Tax

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors set the District element of the Council Tax. The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £169.12, an increase of £5. This is an increase of 3.1%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year. This means that all the services provided by the District Council cost £3.25 a week for a Band D household. This contributes to meeting the cost of providing a wide range of services including recycling and waste collection, planning, street cleaning, housing, housing benefits, leisure services and children's play areas. Stratford-on-Avon remains a low-taxing authority, 18th lowest out of 164 district councils across the country in 2024/25.

Anyone who thinks they could be struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact the District Council as soon as possible by calling 01789 260990 or email revenues@stratforddc.gov.uk, where the team will be able to advise what help is available.

Budget

Following Full Council approval on 24 February, provision was made within the 2025/26 budget to fund a number of items. This includes the following:

- £30,000 for Women's Aid Domestic Violence project support, training, community awareness and work with partners to ensure the availability of their services within the district.
- £50,000 Trees for Parish Councils scheme.
- £50,000 for a Business Conference, to stimulate the local economy, increase networking opportunities, showcase local talent, innovation and promote education and training for local businesses.
- £80,000 to fund a screening programme in partnership with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) which focuses on prostate cancer awareness and early detection. The dates for the screening are on the back page of your Council Tax booklet and we encourage residents to book onto a session.
- £100,000 to support Cycle Schemes aimed at promoting sustainable transportation.
- £250,000 to fund various projects with the aim of enhancing and improving community facilities, services, and overall infrastructure, thereby fostering a stronger and more vibrant local community.
- £520,000 for the Climate Change Fund ensuring the Council can continue its commitments to climate change for next year.
- £600,000 to be used to directly target cost-of-living hardship through selected partners.
- £2.5m for affordable and temporary housing to help reduce temporary accommodation costs.

The District Council may also introduce a second home premium from April 2026 and will be conducting a public consultation during 2025.

Parish Champions

The District Council decided to split the Parish Champion role, previously held by a single

District Councillor across the District, into two posts. There will be coverage on a geographical, east and west, basis.

Ukrainian Medical Charity

On 24 February, Stratford-on-Avon District Council was presented with a certificate of merit from the Order of St Pantalaimon in Ukraine in thanks for the ongoing support given to help Ukrainian Medical Charity with the war in Ukraine. Since September 2022, the District Council offices in Stratford-upon-Avon have been used as a donation point to help Ukrainian Medical Charity (previously known as Medical Aid Ukraine). The donations received are sorted and then sent to hospitals most in need in Ukraine. Donations for Ukrainian Medical Charity can be made at the Council offices from 9am to 5pm weekdays. Or if you are not likely to be going to Stratford, you can ask your friendly District Councillor to take it with them when they go! Medicines need to be in date; however, packaging can be missing or damaged and bandages can be out of date.

March 2025

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan closed on 7 March 2025. A total of 19,367 representations via the portal from 4,682 respondents. A further 1,402 submissions were received via email or letter, with a total of 6,084 responses received.

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils would like to thank residents, Parish Councils, landowners, businesses, developers and agents for taking the time to respond to the consultation. The team will be reviewing the responses in detail to help inform the next stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

A consultation summary statement will also be prepared later on in the year which will provide more information.

Devolution and Local Government Review

On Monday 17 March Full Council agreed to support the District Council's interim plan for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire. Two possible options are being considered, as part of the interim plan:

- A single unitary council for Warwickshire
- Two unitary Councils (one for North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby Boroughs; another for Warwick and Stratford Districts).

Cllr Susan Juned, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District said: "The Government has made it clear it wishes to see the end of two-tier working in Local Government. This will see the end of district and borough councils and county councils. In their place will be new unitary councils. This interim plan has been agreed by all five District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire as a starting place for the direction we want to take. There is a clear preference for a north and south unitary option, but we have to build the data and vision for the case we will put in our final submission in November." More work will be done to identify which structure will feature in the proposal submitted by 28 November 2025.

Best wishes,
Cllr Dominic Skinner

Appendix B

Reports from local organisations

Astronomical society

We are growing in size, we promote this group in the village voices. People come from all over the county to attend this group. Anyone is welcome to join. You don't need any knowledge as all you need to be able to do is look up into the sky. It's a very friendly group who are happy sharing knowledge with all.

Bell ringers

Have a couple of ringers from the villages and a group from holy Trinity in Stratford. Practices are on alternative Thursday evenings. We have been trying to ring for services on Sundays, one Sunday a month, hopefully not woken anyone up too early ringing for the 11 o'clock service. We entered a fell striking competition in snitterfield a couple of months ago and came 3rd out of 16, so very pleased with their performance on that. If anyone would like to join us, you're very welcome to come along and have a look at what's going on on Thursday evenings here, just drop an email. We have one of the guys from Stratford who's an expert ringing teacher who's able to teach people how to ring if anyone's interested.

MEGA Report

This report is on behalf of MEGA – or, to give it its full name, The Monday Evening Group of Alderminster. We are nothing whatsoever to do with making America great again !!! As can be deduced from our name, we meet monthly on Monday evenings, usually on the 4th Monday of the month, except where it coincides with a Bank Holiday. Our meetings are generally here in the Village Hall when we have guest speakers, entertainers, cookery or dance demonstrations and musicians. In the summer months we have trips out – for example on Wednesday of this week we have a day out by coach to Ludlow (there are still some spaces available if anyone is interested). We also have a joint visit with the Gardening Club in July to Winterbourne House in Edgbaston, then at the end of July we have our annual barbecue, courtesy of Bill and Rita Meadows in their garden in Halford. In August we are having a picnic at Hidcote Manor & Gardens (weather permitting).

We have some interesting talks coming up in September, and November and in October we have a musical group called the Harvesters who play music from the Appalachian Mountains in the USA.

Also in November, MEGA is co-ordinating the Christmas Fayre here in the Village Hall on Saturday 29th, and, like last year, we will undertake the refreshments (Tea, Coffee, Cake, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies etc). Invitations have been extended to all Village Organisations in order to make this a real community event. All have responded positively to being involved and a Meeting will be called in early September for further planning. Each individual group to

retain the profits for their funds. The possibility of having a Father Christmas has been explored and we are pleased to confirm that we have a willing volunteer.

In December we are hoping to visit to the Bear Pit Theatre again, this time to see the "Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" but the tickets not yet on general release.

In January there will be a Quiz Night and our AGM is on 23rd February 2026. As this will be the 25th Anniversary of the formation of MEGA we are proposing a special Celebratory lunch on 22nd March to mark the Club's Silver Anniversary

We are a friendly, outgoing and sociable group of people, mostly (but not all) retired and we like to have fun. We would love to have new members join us, and you would be made most welcome. Our membership is a mere £15 per person per annum, and this includes tea/coffee and biscuits at our meetings – and sometimes wine. If anyone would like to come along to a specific meeting or event, there is a Visitor's charge of £5 per person, and, again, you would be most welcome. Please contact either our Secretary, Rita Meadows on 01789 748084 or our Treasurer, Pauline Stokes on 01780450350 if you would like to join us.

Alderminster Amblers Group

Alderminster amblers meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall to go for a morning walk. We aim for approximately 4 miles within 30 minutes' drive, each walk has a leader who does a trial run before the day to check for any issues/obstacles and find an appropriate coffee stop. We finish before lunch and amblers sometimes arrange a pub lunch during the walk on the day. During the past year we have enjoyed walks around Ilmington,Blockley,Oversley Wood,Long Compton and Combrook.

Alderminster gardening Club

The club normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday in the month, in the evening at the Village hall. This year is the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Club, with two of the original committee still in place, namely Angela Meadows and myself. The Club has approx. 25 members and a full program booked until November 2025; if no-one comes forward to take over the secretary/chairman role, the AGM in January 2026 will be the last meeting of the organisation. The Club will have a stall at the Village Fete due in August and we welcome visitors to our outings in May , June and July, just contact Gill on 01789 621053.

Alderminster History Group

Alderminster History Group has been in existence for just over 2 years and is going from strength to strength. We now have 24 enthusiastic members (we started off with 8!). Thanks to a generous grant from the Parish council, we have been able to set up a website which we are adding information to all the time. The grant also allowed us to purchase a storage cupboard for our ever growing archive which is situated in the Village Hall.

We hold regular Member's meetings and host a Public Event with a speaker every other month. The topics covered so far include: The Stratford to Moreton Tramway, the Roman Coin Hoard found at Edgehill and the development of The Lockheed Factory in Leamington Spa. Our next event on 27th May, to coincide with the VE Day

anniversary, is a talk by Martin Harrison BEM about "The Building of the Burma Railway" during WW2. Further talks are also planned for the rest of the year. We held our second Open Day in March which proved very worthwhile and attracted folk from far and wide. Our displays featured : The history of the Church, an index and map of the graveyard, details of the Alscot Estate sale in 1920, a journey through the Census, residents memories of growing up in the village a slideshow of old postcards and much more besides...

We have forged links with several other local history groups together with Warwick County Record's Office, all of whom have been very helpful and supportive. So, all in all, it has been a very interesting and successful year and we would like to encourage the whole community to get involved and see what we can discover together about the history all around us.

For more information: **website** alderminsterhistorygroup.org.uk
e-mail info@alderminsterhistorygroup.org.uk

Church

We have just had our electoral roll renew, which we must do every 5/6 years. And they've actually grown, there's now 32 currently. Services are every Sunday. Just had their annual church meeting. The major project of restoring the Tower of the church. project is conceived as a community project not just a church project.

Village voices

It's a facility that's grown within the village over a couple of decades now. Next months might be the last one they do as they don't have the volunteers with the skills, since members that have been doing it for 10-20 years are now retiring from it and no one is coming forward to volunteer/take over. A couple of key roles are needing filling. They are trying everything they can to find ways to keep the magazine going.

Alderminster Bells

We are a group of ladies that meet up on the first Monday evening of the month at The Bell. All ladies are welcome, it's a great chance to meet other woman locally for a social chat and drink.