

ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/05/11-141

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING held via Zoom on Monday 11th May 2020 at 7.00 pm.

[The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020]

PRESENT: Councillor M Worrall (Chairman), Cllrs. Baxter, Cypher, Freeman, Helmore, Hornsby, Humphries, Lewis, Wise and Willetts.

Also present: Mr R Peach and Mrs C Mason (Assistant Clerk)

In attendance: Mrs J Smailes – Parish Clerk/Minute Taker

Housekeeping

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Humphries proposed that Cllr Worrall retained the Chairmanship of Alvechurch Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Freeman. **Unanimous.**

Cllr Worrall took the opportunity to thank fellow councillors and staff for their support over the last 12 month period; he spoke of the innovative approaches that were being adopted in order that the Parish Council were able to continue providing a service to the electorate during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cllr Humphries applauded Cllr Worrall for his approach and his Chairmanship over the past year which was echoed by all present.

2. SIGNING OF THE CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE

It was resolved that the Chairman's Declaration of Office documentation would be signed and scanned back to the Clerk at the Chairman's earliest opportunity.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Worrall proposed Cllr Humphries retain the position of Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Lewis. **Unanimous.**

Cllr Worrall emphasised that the success of the council was dependent on the 'team effort' demonstrated daily; Cllr Freeman asked that it be recorded the beneficial input by Cllrs Humphries and Cypher in relation to information / documentation distribution.

4. ADOPTION OF FORMAL DOCUMENTATION

a. **Members were asked to consider formally adopting and abiding by the following**

documents: *(Displayed on APC New Website – Members provided with access prior to ACM)*

- Standing Orders (Part 1) 2020v1 *(based on the 2018 "Model" Regulations)*
- Financial Regulations (Part 2) / Statement of Internal Control Policy *(Aug 2019 Model Regs)*
- Alvechurch Parish Council's Code of Conduct
- Scheme of Delegation *(Adopted Feb 2020)*
- Dispensation
- Complaints Procedure
- Meeting Schedule – Civic Year 2020/21

Chairman

Date

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Cllr Cypher stated that whilst he would not be voting against the suggestion to adopt various policies en-block, he wished it recorded that he was not a fan of such practice; preferring instead the time to read and digest and then adopt each policy signally which he felt afforded the council more control.

Cllr Wallis reiterated the same; saying he too was uncomfortable with the proposal to adopt documents en-block.

Cllr Freeman suggested maybe a number of documents should be adopted at a time.

Cllr Worrall stated that whilst not ideal, he was proposing the adoption of the policies en-block as he believed it to be important that the council established a strong foundation upon which it could then build.

Cllr Baxter also believed it was sensible to have adopted policies in place which could be amended as necessary, as it provided the council with a starting point rather than it being legally and financially exposed; stating that all documents would be reviewed at least annually.

Cllr Worrall repeated his proposal that the Governing Policies be adopted en-block, together with a proviso that two policies per council meeting be tabled for consideration/amendment (*if necessary*); Standing Orders/Financial Regs and the Scheme of Delegation being the first to be considered at the June Full Council Meeting. **Agreed.**

b. Members were asked to consider the amalgamation of a Remit of Committees document which also included consideration toward the setting-up of a Highways Committee.

Cllr Worrall state that he felt it would be beneficial to set-up a separate Highways Committee rather than combine such with the Planning Committee as he felt it important planning matters were considered fully and the meeting time allotted not diluted by further agenda items related to other matters.

Cllr Baxter reminded fellow Members of the council’s desire to further a Street Lighting Project which she felt would ‘sit’ under the remit of a Highways Committee and which would require considerable input by committee members.

Cllr Humphries questioned the requirement for an additional committee given the Community Action Working Groups?

The Clerk explained that there was a necessity to formalise and legalise the actions the council which to take forward in respect to highway matters. **Noted.**

Cllr Worrall explained that there had already been a number of ‘informal’ meeting which had resulted in the individual members being placed in an awkward position as they could not further such discussions without reporting back at each step to Full Council for its approval/sanction and that the formation of a Highways Committee would provide authority.

Cllr Humphries stated that if it was felt that there was a genuine need for a Highways Committee that he felt it should be amalgamated with the Planning Committee as per the Remit of Committee Document.

Chairman **Date**

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Cllr Chyper queried the merits of the Highways Committee having Sub-Committee status?

The Clerk explained that if combined, and there was no business warranting an agenda point relating to highway matters, there would be no affect on the Planning Committee and went on to suggest that Members needed to be mindful that if additional sub-committees were set-up/convened on different evenings to those currently scheduled, that this involved officer attendance and therefore would result in additional expense for council. **Noted.**

Having debated the merits of a separate committee or combining such with the Planning Committee, Cllr Worrall proposed the committee be combined as shown on the Remit Document with Cllr Humphries also joining the joint-committee. **Unanimous.**

Cllr Cypher called on the Clerk to explain the footnote concerning ‘Best Practice’ being that Chairman of council, whilst ex-officio of every council committee, should not ‘chair’ a further committee. The Clerk explained that this provided the individual with a voting monopoly as they had multiple ‘casting’ votes; she explained she was employed to ‘advise council’ on Best Practice/legalities but it was the council’s prerogative to ignore such advice and hers to minute the advice she had given. **Noted.**

Cllr Worrall suggested that common sense needed to prevail and as he had the expertise to chair the Planning Committee mooted that he was willing to continue as such if it found the agreement of council (*see agenda item 6*) and proposed that the footnote be removed. **Unanimous.**

Several changes to committee names were proposed and agreed unanimously:

Planning & Highways Committee

Youth, Sport & Recreation Committee (YSR)

Finance & Scrutiny Committee (F&S)

H/R Committee

- the Clerk was instructed to amend the committee titles accordingly. **Action - Clerk.**

The role of Finance and Scrutiny Committee Members was debated at length with the Clerk stressing the requirement for all Members to take an active and robust interest in the financial governance, risk assessments and insurance implications facing the council as well as policy content given every member remained accountable. **Noted.**

c. Members were asked to consider adopting, en-block, APC’s General Policies and Procedures (*As per the attached list/displayed on APC Website*).

Cllr Worrall explained that the former Clerk had been tasked with updating and standardising all policy documentation, however; it was evident that this task had not been completed.

Cllr Baxter spoke in support of adopting the policies as she reiterated it was not until something went wrong that council would discover it liabilities and that having a suite of documents provided a safety net; Cllr Baxter also stressed each policy would be reviewed at least annually by the F&S Committee.

Cllr Worrall stated that he believed 95% of the policy content would be acceptable to all Members and did not foresee any major changes being required in the content ‘tabled’ for adoption and repeated his motion that the General Policies (as per the Policy Index) be adopted en-block. **Agreed.**

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5. COUNCIL'S FUTURE STRATEGY

Action Plan 2020/21 (*Adopted as a 'Working Document' at the April Full Council meeting*)

Cllr Cypher referred to the Clerk's suggestion that this document be used to produce a Strategic Action Plan, spanning 3 – 5 years, and suggested for this to happen more work was required to understand and development a community plan of action.

Cllr Humphries suggested that the Action Plan as adopted, and which spans 12mths be reviewed at the start of each Quarter of the year; first review being at the July Full Council Meeting.

Cllr Cypher stressed the importance of this document being referenced as a 'working' document, with the most important result being the delivery of the items listed in a timely manner.

The Clerk suggested that she make the amendments outlined to the Remit of Committee Document and that she then issue such to Cllrs; Cypher and Humphries so that they could look to encompasses the Community Action Working Parties under the given committee remits so actions could be legally formalised. **Action - Clerk.**

(Note: Members of the public may be co-opted onto a number of council committees without a voting right, allowing CA Members to continue to play an active role).

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Worrall seized the opportunity to express his and the council's thanks and appreciation former councillor Natalie Wise who had recently stepped down due to family commitments.

Cllr Wallis expressed his desire for Mrs Wise to still play an active role in the organisation of Party In The Park, if her time allows.

Committee Members "Standing On"

Members were asked to consider "standing on" with the existing Committee Membership.

The Clerk was asked to amend the Membership Document circulated prior to the meeting, to reflect additions to committee membership, to re-circulate the document and to display it on the website. **Action - Clerk.**

Election of Committee Chairman

i) *YSR Committee* - Cllr Worrall proposed Cllr Wallis, seconded by Cllr Humphries. **Unanimous.**

ii) *Finance & Scrutiny* - Cllr Worrall proposed Cllr Baxter, seconded by Cllr Wallis. **Unanimous.**

iii) *Planning & Highways Committee* - Cllr Freeman proposed Cllr Worrall 'stands-on', seconded by Cllr Cypher. **Unanimous.**

iv) *H/R Committee* - Cllr Worrall proposed Cllr Willetts 'stands-on', seconded by Cllr Humphries. **Unanimous.**
- **It was noted that Cllrs: Baxter and Freeman also wished to join this committee.**

Committee Vice Chairmen would be elected at the first relevant Committee meeting. **Noted.**

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7. ELECTION OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were again asked to consider “standing on”, as per the listing circulated (available via the website).

Cllr Worrall tasked the Clerk with establishing whether there was an obligation on the council to nominate a representative to sit on both the Village Hall and The Lounge Management Committees. **Action - Clerk.**

The Clerk pointed out that Members may wish to be actively party to decisions involving the The Lounge given the council heavily invest via its grant scheme each year in supporting this establishment. **Noted.**

Cllr Worrall inquired whether Cllr Cypher was willing to continue as the Rowney Green Association contact liaison to which he agreed and Cllr Hornsby was asked if he would consider acting as the councils nominated representative on The Lounge Committee - Cllr Hornsby to confirm his intentions at the next Full Council Meeting. **Action – Cllr Hornsby.**

Cllr Freeman was nominated the council’s CPRE representative.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS (SECTION A)

a Cheque Signatories

Members were asked to consider/approve the retain of Lloyds Bank and approve the continuation of the current cheque signatories, Cllrs; *Cypher, Helmore, Humphries, Wallis and the Clerk.* **Unanimous.**

b Electronic Payment

Members were asked to consider permitting the continuation of electronic payments (*in line with Payment Listings*) for all payments during the Covid-19 restrictions and a period of up to 6weeks thereafter with delegated powers bestowed upon the Clerk to action (*LGA 1972 S101*). **Unanimous.**

c Appointment of Independent Internal Auditor 2020/21

Members were asked to consider/approve the retention of the current Independent Internal Auditor in respect to 2020/21 End of Year. **Unanimous.**

The Clerk was instructed to request copies of all requisite qualifications etc in line with Financial Governance measurers. **Action - Clerk.**

d “In House” Audit Roster

Members noted the requirement for each to participate in the “In-house” Audit Roster for 2020/21, a copy of which would be circulated once Covid-19 restrictions permitted ‘office based’ working to be resumed. **Action - Clerk.**

9. DISPENSATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE “CORPORATE BODY”

Members resolved to “stand on” with its former resolution, delegating the power to grant dispensations to the Clerk. **Unanimous.**

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10. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Lambert and DCllrs Van der Plank, English and District/Cllr Hotham.

Noted.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

12. DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of the Full Council Meetings Minutes, held on 14th April 2020, were proposed by Cllr Worrall.

Unanimous.

14. OPEN FORUM

No requests to speak were received.

Cllr Humphries queried with Mr Peach when the Village Magazine would resume production, with Mr Peach advising they hoped to recommence printing in July 2020.

Cllr Cypher queried the wording that was shown in relation to the Open Forum, believing it did not coincide with the wording contained within Standing Orders, however; the Clerk explained it reflected the content of pg 13 of Standing Orders which the council was permitted to ‘tailor’ in part as long as the certain legislative elements contained within ‘Model Standing Orders’ remained. It was noted that as Standing Orders was one of the first documents to be reviewed in June any amendments felt necessary could be addressed at that time.

15. COMMUNICATIONS BY THE CHAIR

- a** An email had been received from a local resident in which she offered the council a large quantity of daffodil bulbs. It was noted that the resident had kindly agreed to store the bulbs until they could be collected/planted in the Autumn. **Action - Clerk.**
- b** Cllr Worrall reported that he had received several phone calls and emails over the weekend concerning the installation of G5 Poles in Withybed Green, he went on to advise that he has tasked the Clerk with contacting BDC and WCC Highways to ascertain whether permission had been granted or whether, given it was a utility company, they had the requisite permissions to address such works without providing notice. **Action - Clerk.**
- c** A fire at Rowney Green had also been reported, with multiple Fire Engines attending site. Cllr Worrall explained that he believed this to be connected to the unlawful erection of numerous sheds on green belt land and a lack of planning enforcement action by BDC (LPA) however given it was a neighbour dispute he declined to provide further comment.
- d** Following an exchange of emails with BDC, Cllr Worrall confirmed that the Parish Council did not qualify for Business Rate Relief as it was a ‘precepting’ authority who owned multiple buildings.
- e** To conclude his report, Cllr Worrall informed Members of a discussion he had been party to that day with a representative from Winyates Football Club.

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Mr Phillips was keen to secure the regular use of a football pitch and having visited both Rowney Green and Hopwood, his preference was to further discussion concerning the use of the Hopwood facilities and also explore how the Club, who may be entitled to a £5k grant, could ‘assist’ the council by improving the changing facilities and/or pitch area.

Cllr Wallis queried whether this would result in the junior side who currently used the Hopwood facility not being able to continue with their hirer of the pitch as the sizes/pitch requirement would differ?

Cllr Cypher inquired why Cllr Worrall was not instead promoting either the Wiggin or Rowney Green facilities given Hopwood already had a hirer?

Cllr Worrall stressed the need to capitalize on income revenue however this presented itself and felt that it would be possible to strike a happy medium which enabled teams to share the Hopwood ground with a bit of forethought and planning of home/away matches.

Cllr Worrall called on his fellow Members to support him in his attempt to further meaningful dialogue in relation to this matter and he gave an undertaking to report back to council the result of such discussions.

Action – Cllr Worrall.

16. CLERK’S REPORT

a The Clerk presented her monthly report, outlining the actions undertaken since the last meeting.

Cllr Cypher queried whether the current New Homes Bonus Grant Scheme should be actively pursued given the closing date was some weeks off? (*Closing date – 18th June 2020*)

No commitment by Members was forthcoming.

The Clerk explained that the report item referred to the sum of money held currently in ‘earmarked reserves’ for which a variation in grant terms had already been sanctioned by BDC and stressed she was therefore looking for instruction from the YSR Committee as to how this money should be spent.

Cllr Humphries advised that he still had a grant submission pending with Calor Gas and if successful he felt any sum received could be added to the ‘earmarked’ sum in order that the Wiggin bridge which provides access to the playing field could be strengthened.

Cllr Worrall confirmed his belief that the current ‘earmarked’ sum was for improvement work to the Wiggin.

Noted.

Cllr Chypher queried what was happening in respect to the *Causal Vacancy*, resulting from Mrs Wise’s resignation? The Clerk explained that the Casual Vacancy Notice had been ‘posted’ on the Notice Board and Facebook etc and a copy sent to BDC, and that the timeframe expired on the 15th May, however; she would be guided by BDC given Covid – 19 restrictions concerning co-option arrangements if no By-Election was called.

Noted.

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Members noted that the newly upgraded website was now ‘live’.

- b Consideration was given to approaching Mrs M Green to ascertain whether she would be willing to act as voluntary Parish Tree Officer. The Clerk was instructed to contact Mrs Green and seek her assistance given her extensive knowledge. **Action – Clerk.**

17. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a Members considered the content of the Independent Internal Auditors End of Year Report in respect to 2019/20. All comments were noted and, on balance, the report was considered fair. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Cllr Worrall. **Unanimous.**

b ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & AUDIT RETURN (AGAR) 2019/20

i Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Members were asked to consider/acknowledge that, as Members of Alvechurch Parish Council (*responsible for ensuring there is a sound system on internal control in place, which includes the preparation of accounting systems*) that to the best of their knowledge and belief that the answers shown in Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 were correct. Proposed by Cllr Worrall. **Unanimous.**

ii Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2019/20

Members were asked to consider/certify that for the year ending 31st March 2020, the accounting statements contained in the Annual Governance and Audit Return represented fairly the financial position of Alvechurch Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Worrall. **Unanimous.**

- c Cllr Worrall and the Clerk were instructed to sign the AGAR Sections, with the Clerk further instructed to submit the AGAR to the External Auditor and to arrange for the Public Right to Inspect to be implemented. Proposed by Cllr Humphries, seconded by Cllr Baxter. **Unanimous.**

i MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The monthly Payment Schedule, Reconciled Bank Statements and Budget Overview Report were accepted as confirmed as accurate. **Unanimous.**

ii

- iii Payment of the expenditure shown on Payment Listing (Mth 2) was proposed by Cllr Humphries, seconded by Cllr Worrall (*Grants approved 2019/20 taken from GRs Account, as shown*). **Unanimous.**

- iii Virements and the transfer between accounts reflecting monies paid by WCC in respect to the Lengthsman Scheme were duly noted.

Business

18. INSURANCE

Members were asked to consider and approve the renewal of the Council insurance with BHIB (*Contract term applies*).

Cllr Cyhper suggest that there was still time to gain comparisons should the council chose not to continue with its current provider.

Chairman

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Cllr Worrall expressed his view that there were already numerous changes to practice and proposed that council remain with its current provider and look to gain comparisons the following year. **Unanimous.**

19. PEAR MAPPING

Prior to the meeting Members had been provided with a quote to ‘plot’ Street Lighting in the parish and a further quote which would allow via a subscription, the Council to digitally ‘plot’ all of its assets and a Tree Survey and future event Risk Assessment maps to be produced.

Cllr Worrall spoke in favour of accepting the initial element of the quote which allowed for the ‘plotting’ of the street/footway lighting as he believed this information was required if the council were to move forward with its proposed intention to replace/upgrade council owned street/footway lightening in the parish.

Cllr Baxter, responding to a query raised by Cllr Humphries, reported that Wythall PC are able to access WCC Highways maps which identify ownership but could not confirm whether such information would assist APC given there were two providers; APC and WCC Highways.

Cllr Humphries stressed he saw no advantage in securing the services of Pear Mapping.

Cllr Worrall reiterated that without such a map it would be extremely difficult to progress issues relating to footpath/street lighting improvement matters and called for the item to be deferred until the next meeting. **Action - Clerk.**

20. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT/CITIZENSHIP

Members considered the merits for including a regular agenda item that allows for pupils from each of the local schools in turn, to attend a Full Council Meeting to voice their concerns / raise community issues.

Cllr Worrall reminded Members of the recent email from a parent of a young resident from Alvechurch wishing to litter-pick to attain her Duke Of Edinburgh Award and expressed his desire that younger members of the community be encouraged to participate.

Cllr Cypher queried how such would be considered appropriate given the length of the agenda / meetings and Cllr Baxter reminded Members that the Chairman’s could use his discretion to alter the agenda running order.

Cllr Cypher mooted his desire for a member of The Lounge to be approached and asked if they will consider applying to fill the Casual Vacancy should there be the necessity to co-opt a member of the electorate. **Action - Clerk.**

Members also debated the requirement for an on-going discussion with Head Teachers to encourage attendance/participation and Cllr Worrall once again called for the item to be deferred until the next meeting. **Action - Clerk.**

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21. **PCC GRANT FUNDING** – *Cllr Humphries*

Cllr Humphries advised this would be discussed at the next Planning/Highways Committee Meeting as he needed ‘instruction’ re content change.

22. **ALVECHURCH CARES**

Cllr Worrall advised Alvechurch Cares had since secured their own insurance cover and were therefore no longer under the council’s insurance umbrella; allowing them to implement further initiatives without the council covering any liabilities.

Cllr Chyper felt there was necessity to include future agenda item which explored the best way to set up any future community organisations.

Cllr Worrall stated that there were numerous insurance implications involved and these were also now relevant to Party In The Park and as such called for an agenda item to be added to the June Full Council Agenda. **Action - Clerk.**

23. **FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE**

All formal correspondence had been distributed and addressed throughout the course of the month.

24. **COMMITTEE & OTHER REPORTS**

❖ **YSR COMMITTEE**

- Draft Minutes –available via the Website/Hard copy in Minute books (*publicly accessible*).

To consider donating the £500 Earmarked Reserves held in respect of PiTP 2015, to that of The Lounge. **Agenda item deferred to June Full Council.**

To consider/nominate a ‘lead’ councillor in respect to PiTP and discuss insurance implications. **Agenda item deferred to June Full Council.**

❖ **PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**– *Cllr Worrall*

- Draft Minutes –available via the Website/Hard copy in Minute books (*publicly accessible*).

Cllr Worrall provided Members with an overview of the decisions submitted by the Planning Committee to BDC (LPA)

❖ **FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** – *Cllr Baxter*

- Approved Minutes –available via the Website/Hard copy in Minute books (*publicly accessible*).

❖ **H/R COMMITTEE** – *Cllr Willets*

- Approved Meeting Minutes, available via the Website/Hard copy in Minute books (*publicly accessible*).

❖ **APNP COMMUNITY ACTION**

❖ **EXTERNAL BODIES**

Chairman

Date

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25. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The following written report was submitted by DCllrs Van Der Plank and English.

Waste & Recycling:

There has been an increase in fly tipping during lockdown and unfortunately some of the worst cases we've seen. We're also getting increasing pressure from residents to re-open the tips and waste collection services.

Garden waste collection resumed on 4 May and 7 of the 11 Household Recycling Centres (HRC's) are opening from Monday 11 May. These are:

- * *Bromsgrove (Quantry Lane)*
- * *Malvern (Newlands)*
- * *Pershore (Hill & Moor)*
- * *Redditch (Crossgates)*
- * *Stourport (Bonemill)*
- * *Tenbury*
- * *Worcester (Bilford Road)*

Use of the HRC's is for essential use only. Essential means you must only visit if your waste or recycling cannot be stored at home safely or disposed of safely by other means. A number of additional safety and social distancing measures will be in place. Residents are advised to check the website for full details.

Bulky waste collections have also now resumed. These can be booked by phoning BDC

Planning:

BDC planning officers are still working. The old PO has now been given planning permission but the application of 14 The Square has been rejected again.

The council are going to trial a virtual Planning Committee meeting on May 13th so committee meetings should begin again soon.

Alvechurch Cares.

We are just about to launch the Youth at the Lounge Virtual Group on Tuesday and have nearly got everything in place to set up a virtual Friendship Matters group including an IT trainer who is going to try and help residents set up on Zoom. We're still working on the Mindfulness group and hope to introduce that over the next few weeks

Cycle & Pedestrian Routes

A £2 billion fund to improve cycle and pedestrian routes has just been launched by the government to ease pressure on public transport and to capitalise on the significant improvement in pollution levels we've seen during lockdown. We would like to see the parish become more cycle and pedestrian friendly so hope to work with APC as well as District and County on measures to address this including restricting the speed of cars through the village.

Bromsgrove Alliance

As we reach the end of our first year of this term of office, we've had elections in our independent group, the Bromsgrove Alliance. We are now the lead opposition group on council with two new councillors joining us this year. Our new leader is Steve Colella and Michael Thompson is deputy. Kate is the chair of the group. All committee places will continue as they are at this time, while most meetings are on hold.

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26. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The following written report was submitted by Cllr Hotham

Dear Members of Alvechurch Parish Council.

I am sorry that I can't attend tonight. As many of the more long standing members will recall that prior to my election over 5 years ago, it was rare for a District or County Councillor to attend your meetings or provide a report. Since then I have regularly attended often for the whole meeting, and felt that a useful working relationship had developed. However, I think it is unreasonable to expect me to sit through often 2.5 hours of your meeting to give a 5 minute report at the end. I do hope that moving forward the agenda can be adjusted accordingly.

WCC and BDC remain subject to all the lockdown restrictions as per my last report. Most staff are working from home. Please see both Council's websites for much information on the current situation.

Once again I would like to express my thanks the Alvechurch Cares and all the other volunteers in the Parish.

Some Highway work continues, and improvements have been made to the safety of the junction at Weatheroak Hill. Resurfacing work is due to commence in early June on the Old Birmingham Road. Most scheduled works are running about 2 months behind.

Both Councils are incurring very significant additional expense associated with the virus. Central government have undertaken to cover these costs but there is concern that this may not fully materialise.

As usual if you have questions or problems that you think I might be able to help with please contact me. *DCllr C Hotham.*

27. COUNCILLORS REPORTS (Around the Parish)

Cllr Cypher called for the District and County Councillor agenda item to be moved further up the agenda; Cllr Worrall advised whilst this had not been possible due to the legalities of the Annual Council Meeting format, the matter was 'in-hand' and he assured Cllr Cypher that he and the Clerk had discussed the composition of the agenda which remained the Clerk's responsibility, however; whilst advising on 'best practice' the Clerk had confirmed she had no issue with the respective items being moved closer to the start of each parish meeting.

28. PRESS RELEASE/PRESS STATEMENT

None.

29. MEETING DATES

As per meeting schedule.

30. CLOSE

Meeting closed @10.03pm

Chairman

Date