ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 2026/11/09- 63
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING held at Hopwood Community Centre on Monday 9th November 2026.

PRESENT: *Cllrs: Worrall (Chairman), Cutress, Clarke, Easter, Edwards, Freeman, Godfrey, Lambert, Van der Plank & Wiseman.*
Also present: DCllr C Hotham.
4 x members of the public
In attendance: Mrs J Smailes - Clerk/Minute Taker.

1. **APOLOGIES**
Apologies were received and noted from Parish Cllr; Hornsby *(who was representing APC @ Parkside re. The Scheme of Planning Delegation briefing)* and PCllr Williams.

Apologies had also been received from; DCllr R Bailes and DCllr/CCllr A Bailes.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
None.

3. **DISPENSATION REQUESTS**
None received.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
Acceptance of the Full Council Meeting Minutes dates 12th October were **Proposed by Cllr Worrall. Unanimous.**

5. ***POLICE MATTERS***
The following written report had been received prior to the meeting and circulated to Members

SNT report wise, we are still operating on reduced staffing levels with only myself being on full active duty. However, we do now have PC Dave Gresswell who is on temporary re-assignment from Bromsgrove SNT and PCSO Inez Brzozowska from Rubery SNT who are now both covering the SNT area until Christmas – with the potential for an extension if required. Please be reassured that operationally, the area is still fully covered by response policing officers based out of Redditch Police Station.

In relation to the parish as a whole, crime levels in the area remain low in comparison to other neighbouring SNT areas. To obtain crime figures and other police data and statistics please visit: ***www.police.uk***

Alternatively, you can also visit the Worcestershire Insite website at:
https://insights.worcestershire.gov.uk/crime-and-community-safety/reports/

Alvechurch Parish Council has provided the SNT with the following 'Parish Priorities' which they have deemed to be causing the most harm within the community and would like the SNT to prioritise. We have been actively working to try to address these concerns.

They are:

1. ***Inconsiderate parking on the Birmingham Road service road at school start and finish times.***

Chairman …… ***Date ……***

DRAFT

As an SNT we have been conducting random patrols of the area when available. There are no 'on-street' parking restrictions per-say on the road in question, as such at present I have not identified any issues which have warranted police intervention.

2. ***More visible foot patrols in Alvechurch village centre.***
   As an SNT we have been actively trying to provide this.
3. ***Speeding along the A441 Birmingham Road, Hopwood,***
   As an SNT we have conducted a number of Road Safety Enforcement activities using the TruCam handheld speed device. At present there have been no vehicles exceeding the designated speed limit at the required threshold for further police action/prosecution. We will however continue to operate in this area when we are able to do so.

On a separate note, the issue which was preventing the SNT from conducting Road Safety Enforcement of the 20mph zone in Alvechurch Village centre has now been resolved, and we can now resume our Road Safety Activities at that location.

I am continuing to hold my police drop-in sessions in Alvechurch village centre on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month for anybody who would like to have a one-to-one chat and speak to me. The next two sessions in will be held at Café Morso on ***Tuesday 10th November****, and* ***Tuesday 24th November 2026****. Alternatively, if someone would like to have a chat with me but cannot attend one of my sessions, they still do so by emailing the Alvechurch and Wythall Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) at:* ***aw.snt@westmercia.police.uk*** *so we can then arrange a convenient time to come out and visit them in person.*

We would like to remind members of the public that due to the unpredictability of policing, drop-in sessions may be cancelled with little or no warning due to 'unforeseen' operational policing requirements. We would like to apologise in advance should this occur. To receive messages and updates information and notices from the SNT, please register online with our community messaging service 'Neighbourhood Matters' by visiting: ***www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk***

We would also like to remind people that you can now report crime online at:
www.westmercia.police.uk/report

Remember, in an emergency, and for crimes in progress call 999!

No Member queries were raised.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT *(DCllrs: A Bailes, R Bailes and C Hotham)*

The following joint report from the District and County Councillor had been received and circulated to all APC Members ahead of the meeting (Report is shown below in its entirety):

District Councillors Update

LGR

Procedurally the original Worcestershire LGR decision was withdrawn. However, the decision for our area is being re-made this week, and the Government is "minded to" proceed with two unitary councils (North and South Worcestershire) from April 2029.

We have been informed that the District elections will take place in May 2027.
If the Government's "minded to decision" is confirmed following a three-week period of representation, then implementing two unitary councils in Worcestershire will mean new unitary council elections to be held in May 2028 with a Vesting Day in 2029.

Chairman …… Date ……

At this stage we understand the Government will feedback following the representation period before Christmas to confirm if they will then formally proceed.

BDC remains committed to continuing to provide services to residents while focussing on delivering the best possible outcomes for our communities across Bromsgrove.

The National Scheme of Delegation for planning is now live.

This was detailed in our last update and should be noted by Highways and Planning Committee.

Pathways in Alvechurch
BDHT are responsible for the short cuts between the Guants and St Lawrence Close and the one that leads to Snake Lane. I would urge residents to take extra care if using as the surface is appalling and dangerous. I have met with the BDHT estates manager about this, and I am still waiting for dates and action. If anyone wants to complain please contact BDHT and let them know about your concern.

Consultation for Swans Walk Play Ground has taken place.

Cllr Edwards queried what the implications were likely to be re. the North/South proposed Local Government Review divisional 'split' given the concerns expressed in the Press that the costs for the North division were likely to be higher due to the social care financial pressures.

DCllr Hotham stated that within the next 6 – 12 months joint committees would be formed to discuss how best to address the North/South split; however, it was already recognised that social care costs in the Bromsgrove/Redditch area were higher than in the South, but how this issue was to be addressed would become clearer once the committees had been formed.

Cllr Wiseman asked whether District Council Elections would take place in May 2027 and how long elected District Councillors would serve given the LGR

DCllr Hotham explained that whilst District Elections would take place in May 2027, the newly elected District Councillors were likely to serve one year as normal with the second year served as a 'shadow' council; Unitary Elections would be held in May 2028.

Cllr Worrall asked how BDC's Local Plan was progressing and whether Planning Applications were now starting to be addressed under the new Scheme of Delegation.

Cllr Hotham advised that BDC's Planning Dept was fully staffed however he feared that as/when large development/significant Planning Applications are submitted for determination this may place the LPA under pressure, so much so that if they are unable to meet deadlines they could be placed in 'special' measures.

Cllr Hotham also stated that the Local Plan was likely to go out to Public Consultation next June and that in the meantime, issues remain apparent, namely;
The 5-year land supply and number of deliverable sites *(whilst work may have commenced on a site, the 'build out' in a year would not fulfil the 5-year land supply requirement, leaving Alvechurch vulnerable to other Planning Applications being submitted).*

Chairman …… ***Date ……***

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Cllr Worrall asked whether DCllr Hotham could give a quick overview as to how the National Scheme of Planning delegation worked.

Cllr Hotham advised that the main changes can be summarised as follows: -
All planning applications will be grouped into Schedule 1 applications and Schedule 2 applications.
Schedule 1 applications will only be able to be decided by officers under delegated powers and will not be subject to any of the previous trigger points that might have led to them being referred to planning committee.
The ability of members to call in applications in their wards will no longer apply.
Schedule 2 applications may be decided by officers or by committee but there is a presumption in favour of them being decided by officers under delegated powers. There are only 2 grounds on which a schedule 2 application may be referred to planning committee.
These are; **Ground A** – that the application raises one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area, or
Ground B - that the applications raises one or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material considerations.
The two grounds together are known as the Gateway Test.
The legislation sets out how the Gateway Test will be operated. Every Council must appoint a officer, usually the Head of Planning to be the nominated officer.
The Council must also appoint a member, usually the Chair of the Planning Committee, to be the nominated member.
The nominated officer and nominated member will meet regularly to review any new Schedule 2 applications where Grounds A and B might be relevant. They will be provided with a case summary by the case officer setting out the facts of the case and how Grounds A or B might apply.
The nominated member and nominated officer will consider the information and reach a view on whether the application should be referred to Planning Committee. Any application not referred will be decided by officers under delegated powers. The outcome of consideration of the Gateway Test must be recorded by officers and published. In the event a decision is not reached, the nominated officer will have the deciding vote.

Cllr Wiseman made the observation that is large development Planning Applications were submitted simultaneously it is possible that Alvechurch could end up with more than its anticipated housing quota. DCllr Hotham stated that this was correct, for until there is a Strategic Plan in place there is no fallback position which makes Alvechurch and surrounding parishes vulnerable.

7. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** ***- CCllr A Bailes***

No Report had been submitted.
Members were advised that the White Gates at Weatheroak were due to be installed on 7th December 2026.

8. **OPEN FORUM**

Standing Orders – Suspended

Mr W Savage – Rowney Green Resident/ Chairman of the RGVHT

Mr Savage advised that he had been a RG resident for 33 years and had recently been elected Chair of the RGVHT (this would be his second term in office)

Chairman …… ***Date ……***

DRAFT

Mr Savage stated that the Trustees were now:
Gayle Stillwell
Louise Croxton
Anthony Wallis
Susan Stevens
Mr Savage went on to say that Mr Wallis was also the Chair of the Park Group of volunteers.

Mr Savage expressed his thanks to APC for its assistance and support in the 5 years the Lease Agreement had been in place as he stated the Lease Agreement had helped Trustees address improvements to the Park and Green Barn (Pavilion), Mr Savage also stated that Trustees were keen to continue to work with the Parish Council and discuss any/all further improvement works planned.

Mr Savage concluded by inviting interested parties to visit RG Park.

Cllr Worrall stated APC had worked hard to foster relations with RGVH Trustees which had resulted in the Lease Agreement which had been agreed some 5 years prior; Cllr Worrall commended the work of Mr Wallis and Mr Woodward and indeed all the Park volunteers and Trustees who continue to contribute to the ongoing improvements which are evident upon visiting RG Park.

Mr J Cypher – Rowney Green Resident/ Chairman of Rowney Green Association (RGA)
Speaking firstly as the Chair of the RGA; Mr Cypher expressed concern as to the length of time it was taking for the results of BDC's Parking Survey to be made public.
Mr Cypher referred Members to the loss of parking as a result of the change to 'arrangements' with the Alvechurch Inn, the poor layout of Tanyard Lane Car Park which had resulted in a loss of Parking Spaces when re-lined and the lack of parking for those visiting the GP surgery.

Cllr Worrall advised that the Assistant Clerk continues to chase for an update re. BDC's Parking Survey; APC are aware that DCllrs R and A Bailes have seen the Draft Report; however, both were not happy with its content and have therefore requested further information before the document is made public, for this reason it remains a P&H Agenda item.

[A short discussion took place on the GP surgery parking arrangements for those with mobility issues].

Mr Cypher then spoke as a resident and Working Group Member on the importance of Alvechurch's Neighbourhood Priority Statement which had recently been submitted to BDC, with copies also forwarded to potential developers. Mr Cypher queried the documents current status and whether it had been publicised sufficiently, stating that it was his understanding that until the document had been fully validated by BDC Planning Dept it held no 'weight', he suggested that it was therefore important to place pressure on BDC's planning dept to gain assurances that the NPS would be placed on the LPA's website, alongside Alvechurch's Neighbourhood Development Plan so it was visible to any/all developers/interested parties.

Mr Cypher also queried whether there was a requirement for a further Public Consultation to ensure the NPS is content is widely known and supported by more residents as he felt this would lend further weight to the document.
Standing Orders – Reinstated

Cllr Worrall invited Cllr Van der Plank, who had led the Working Group, to respond.

Chairman …… ***Date ……***

DRAFT

Cllr Van der Plank advised she had spoken with officers at BDC and this had resulted in a word amendment to the NPS, and whilst it was evident BDC wanted to try and manage APC's expectations she felt that the change in text if anything had strengthened the document.

Cllr Van der Plank also stated that BDC Planning Officers had agreed to continue dialogue with APC, agreeing to provide their rationale for certain planning decisions in order to assist APC in understanding how certain decisions were reached.

Cllr Van der Plank confirmed that the NPS had been issued to the Development Management Manager, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager and the Assistant Director for Planning, Leisure and Culture Services at BDC as well as Bloor Homes/Gatsby Estates.

9. COMMUNICATIONS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Worrall advised that he had recently attended BDC's Civic Service which had been held at St Johns on 18th October; APC were the only Parish/Town Council to be represented.

On the 28th October Cllr Worrall had attended the village meeting convened by DCllr R and DCllr/CCIr A Bailes, at which they spoke of the work they had been instrumental in facilitating in and around the Parish.

Cllr Worrall stated he had also represented APC at both the Rowney Green Remembrance Service (to commemorate the Canadian Airmen; *(Cllrs Hornsby and Easter were also present)*) and the Remembrance Service held at St Laurance Church held on 8th November, laying a wreath at both on behalf of APC.

Cllr Worrall spoke of how well received/organised both services had been. Cllr Worrall requested the Clerk write to Mr Shephard and Rev'd.G Rogers to express APC's thanks/appreciation. **Action: Clerk.**

10. CLERK'S REPORT

a. The Clerk had provided her monthly report ahead of the Meeting, no further queries were raised. The Clerk advised Members that the Parish Office would be closed the following day due to the Independent Internal Auditors visit. **Noted.**

It was noted that arrangements were now in place for the Christmas Light Switch-on Event which was due to take place on Saturday 28th November. Cllr Lambert requested Members volunteer to act as marshals for the event; Cllrs Clarke, Van der Plank, Edwards, Wiseman and Worrall all agreed to attend/assist with marshalling the event.
Action: Assistant Clerk to issue High – Vis jackets ahead of the event and keep a 'volunteer record' for R/A purposes.

b. TRAINING

No training requests had been received.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Monthly Bank Reconciliation (for period end of Oct) and Orange Balance Sheet had been circulated to Members ahead of the meeting.

Chairman …… Date ……

DRAFT

Cllr Worrall Proposed that the reconciliation was accurate and that it be accepted. Unanimous.

The Payment Listing for November *(which included any Delegated Payments)* had also been circulated prior to the meeting; **Proposed by Cllr Worrall that all payments be duly authorised**. **Unanimous.**

The Clerk advised Members of the following use of the Debit Card:

- ***£122.78 Civic Christmas Cards re competition***.

The Clerk requested delegated powers be bestowed (LGA 1972 s101) in order that the Clerk and two Members could action late payments and address all December Payments, given Annual Leave/Christmas Office Closure period. **Proposed by Cllr Worrall that delegated powers be bestowed. Unanimous.**

Cllr Worrall invited Cllr Edwards to speak of the 'Cost Pressures' facing the council currently. Cllr Edwards advised Members that APC were facing a number of non-budgetary pressures which had resulted in a total sum of £19,880.50 having been taken from General Reserves this financial year *(Legal Fees, Replacement Defib Pads, Alvechurch Youth Voice, Removal of trees at Hopwood, Emergency Tree works at The Wiggin, Plumbing maintenance at Hopwood etc)*, there were also a number of known budgetary increases totalling a further £45, 768 which would place further strain on APC's 2027/28 Budget *(Election Costs, Banking charges, Painting of play equipment/match-funding requirement, Caretaker services, replacement of lighting column, tree works, emptying of bins by BDC)*. Cllr Edwards felt it important to highlight these additional pressures, and for the Council to keep a running total of such costs in order APC could ensure residents and Full Council aware of the additional pressures facing APC. **Noted.**

11b Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF)

It was unanimously resolved that Cllr Edwards would seek to submit a further CIF Grant Application (Round 2 submission) in respect to the refurbishment/painting of the play equipment at The Wiggin.

It was noted that funding in respect of Community Building Energy Support Grants was now clearer and this grant was only available to LPG/Oil consumers; therefore, APC would not meet the funding criteria.

Cllr Van der Plank spoke of a Community Energy initiative she was keen to work with BDC to help facilitate and suggested that a presentation be given to members ahead of the December Full Council Meeting.

Cllr Worrall Proposed that Delegated Powers be bestowed to Cllr Edwards and Cllr Van der Plank (and one other Member and an Officer) in order that both funding initiatives may be pursued. Unanimous.

Action: Cllr Van der Plank to invite the BDC Officer to December Full Council Meeting in order he may give a Presentation.

Chairman ……. Date …….

DRAFT

12. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) POLICY** - *Deferred to February FC Meeting*
[The Clerk was asked to provide Members with sample AI Policies adopted by other Councils ahead of the February Full Council Meeting] **Action: Clerk**

13. **EMERGENCY PLAN V5**

Cllr Edwards spoke of the recent amendments he/the Assistant Clerk had made to the document (version 5), i.e. the inclusion of contact details for *The Canal and River Trust and National Grid, the priority service register, how residents can request/access Sandbag supplies from BDC's Depot and an updated Defib Map to show the inclusion of Bleed Kits etc.*

Cllr Edwards advised that the document remained a 'live' working policy and that there were likely to be further subsequent amendments e.g. *Inclusion of wild fire information/guidance and land management advice*; Cllr Edwards went on to state that the policy would be formally reviewed again by Members in May 2027, as part of the *Policy Review* process by the newly elected Council.

Cllr Van der Plank Proposed that the contact details contained within the Emergency Plan be shown as an appendix, and that delegated powers be bestowed to an officer and two Members in order that any future change to contact details may be readily addressed without the requirement to seek council approval; Seconded Cllr Worrall. Unanimous.

14. **ALVECHURCH YOUTH VOICE**

Cllr Edwards reported that the interest and following of *Alvechurch Youth Voice* continues to grow, with further Workshops planned; the current project funding, provided by APC, was to last until April 2027, after which time it was hoped that a sum of £3,600 would be secured via the WCC Wellbeing Fund to supplement the budget. There were currently 4 'influencers' and workshops were continuing.

Members of the working group had recently attended a 'virtual' meeting, hosted by Worc CALC – *Engaging with Children and Young People*, where details of APC's approach had been shared.

Cllr Edwards stated that having sought advice from numerous sources, *(including Worc Calc and the Council's Insurer)*, advice since gained from an Essex ex councilor/solicitor has provided a possible way forward and the Working Group were now looking into setting up a Community Interest Company (CIC), with the Application having already been submitted by Mrs Kilbride; it was felt that a CIC approach would give the project more flexibility.

Cllr Wiseman spoke of the lack of career opportunities for 18 – 24 year olds; he felt an important aspect of the project could be to host 'career days' and to this end he had already enquired of *Creative Careers Directive* about the possibility of further funding totaling £4k.

Cllr Van der Plank commended the Working Group on the prospect of setting up a CIC as she felt it was a transparent and sustainable project route.

Chairman …… ***Date ……***

DRAFT

15. CRICKET WICKET

No update had as yet been received from the Cricket Club/PiTP Team as to the date of the Opening Ceremony.

Cllr Worrall advised there was still some remedial work needed to address a hairline crack and the cement also required 'polishing' and he gave an undertaking to speak with the Contractor/Cricket Club. **Action: Cllr Worrall**

16. EXTREME CLIMATE RESPONSE – *Deferred to the January FC Meeting*

17. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Wiseman spoke of the necessity for the Council to engage more readily with residents, stating that it was all very good having 'engagement' policies but implementation of such was key; he advised 40% of residents in Alvechurch are over 65 years in age and for this reason APC needed to look for new/better communication channels for he felt the Council Website in its current form, and APC's Facebook page were not enough and instead APC should be considering the use of; LinkedIn, Instagram and even TikTok in order to reach a wider audience. Cllr Wiseman also cited a number of neighbouring Parish Council websites which he felt were easier to navigate and which provided regular community event updates, information on planning applications etc saying that he felt this was also an avenue that needed exploring.

Cllr Wiseman went on to say that he felt Council's decision not to host a stall at PITP was wrong, and that Council missed a 'golden opportunity' to engage with residents at what is a very well attended community event.

Cllr Easter felt APC's website would benefit from a better Search Engine button, making it easier to locate documents etc. However, she felt APC should continue to use its Facebook page but also look at other strategies to increase public engagement; likewise, she felt APC's Noticeboards remained an important means of communication for many. She also suggested holding a workshop to brainstorm other avenues of communication.

Cllr Edwards also felt APC should continue using its Facebook page, saying that there was no 'easy fix' to the issue. He suggested that instead of a 'workshop approach' that there would be merit in the Council setting up a Working Group who could bring forward communication/engagement policy/procedural recommendations to Full Council for future consideration/implementation May onward for he reminded his fellow Members that it was only appropriate that such be considered/adopted by the newly elected Council Members following the May Elections.

Cllr Van der Plank felt APC should spend more time listening to its residents and work collaboratively with other community organisations to provide a better customer service.

Cllr Lambert felt that APC should seek the views of its residents, possibly via a survey, as to how best they wish to be contacted and what communication tools they prefer to use.

Cllr Edwards felt APC could always do more; however, it was important to recognise APC was not like other community organisations as it was required to work within legal constraints and this needed to be recognised.

Chairman …… ***Date ……***

Cllrs Clarke and Wiseman both felt that talking to the schools and engaging parents and the use of frequent APC newsletters, rather than relying on the quarterly insert in the Village Magazine would improve communication channels.

Cllr Freeman stated that he did not think the communication/engagement issue was from the lack of trying on APC's part; citing Councillor Surgeries and APC's idea to 'tour' the parish with the Full Council Monthly meetings which had not drawn any greater audience.

Cllr Worrall felt that whilst it was important that APC sought additional ways to engage with residents, he did not think there was a need to 'reinvent the wheel' as APC's website could be revamped as considered necessary following further discussion/council agreement.

Standing Orders – Suspended by the Chairman in order a resident could interject
Mr Humphries – Alvechurch Village
Mr Humphries commended Cllr Wiseman on his comments and enquired was Communication/Council Engagement not discussed as part of the Council's 'awayday'?
Mr Humphries stated APC's focus should be on people (its residents) rather than on procedure/process; the Annual Parish Meeting he felt was an example of when APC needs to fully engage with residents by adopting a more 'open' meeting format.
Mr Humphries also felt that Facebook posts concerning events in the village should be monitored and responded to in a timely manner; and that APC should conduct more 'public consultations' in order to gain residents views on important community topics.
Standing Orders – Reinstated

Cllr Worrall Proposed that a Working Group be formed in order to formulate communication/engagement improvement recommendations which may be considered/implemented by the newly elected council in May 2027. Unanimous.

Working Group to consist of Cllrs Clarke, Van der Plank, Easter and Wiseman.

Action Clerk: Future agenda item – May 2027 *(or Working Group to advise accordingly if sooner).*

18. HEALTH PROVISION

Cllr Wiseman advised there had been a reduction in complaints received concerning the GP surgery; currently CCllr Bailes was also seeking to find a solution which would address the waiting time at the pharmacy for medications and cross border provisions.

19. FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE

- *Members noted that a FOIR had been received from a resident concerning the Play Equipment at Rowney Green/the Report that had been commissioned by BDC.*

The Clerk advised that all relevant information had been duly collated and was to be forwarded to the resident. **Noted.**

- *An email had also been received requesting access to 'parish' owned land for metal detecting purposes.*

Following a short debate, it was resolved that the Clerk contact the applicant to make them aware of the land available under APC ownership, and to ascertain if these areas were of interest and, if so, what agreement the applicant was proposing. **Action: Clerk.**

Chairman ……. Date …….

ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 2026/11/09- 73

20. COMMITTEE MINUTES

a. YSR (AMENITIES), FINANCE AND SCRUTINY, PERSONNEL and PLANNING & HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

All Draft Minutes are available via the website/hard copy Minutes Books *(publicly accessible).*

P&H

(Submission of the NPS covered earlier in the meeting).

YSR

Cllr Godfrey advised that she wished to withdraw her former requested to join the YSR Committee at this time. **Noted.**

OTHER REPORTS - EXTERNAL BODIES

b.

- ***Alvechurch Almshouse Trust***

Nothing to report.

- ***Alvechurch Education Trust***

Cllr Worrall Proposed that Cllr Lambert be nominated as a Council representative, taking Cllr Hornsby's place following his recent resignation from the Trust. Unanimous.

- ***Alvechurch Village Society***

Cllr Cutress reported that the Christmas Party arrangements were well underway with tickets selling out fast.
The annual village quiz was due take place on 23rd January and this too was already well subscribed; Cllr Cutress called on his fellow Councillors to attend the event as he felt it provided an ideal opportunity to engage with residents in a social, rather than formal, setting.

- ***Alvechurch Station***

Members spoke of their delight in seeing the Art Work that was currently displayed on the bridge and they requested an email thanking the Friends of Alvechurch Station be sent.
Action: Clerk.

- ***Alvechurch Community Larder***

Cllr Wiseman reported that the Larder continues to be as busy as ever and advised the Larder had since become a Community Interest Company (CIC).

Cllr Wiseman also stated that during the half-term school holidays a free community event was hosted by the Larder which was very well received/attended; so much so that the Larder intended giving a donation to The Lounge.

- ***Alvechurch Residents Association***

Cllr Van der Plank advised that the ARA AGM, attended by B Thomas MP, had taken place and that a Newsletter would be available shortly summarising the content of the meeting.

- ***Remembrance Arrangements / Christmas Light Switch-on)***

Cllr Lambert reported on how well the Remembrance Service had gone and how well the formal civic event had been received by those in attendance; with it noted that numbers had increased from the year prior.

Chairman …… Date ……

DRAFT

- ***The Lounge***

Cllr Lambert spoke of the success of the recent Scarecrow Trial which had been visited by both residents, and visitors from outside of the parish.

- ***CALC /WALC Executive Committee***

Cllr Edwards reported that a bid-writer had been engaged by Worc CALCc and that whilst there were no 'upfront fees' for the service, a 5% fee was payable only if funding was secured. Members felt it appropriate that any requests made to Worc CALC to utilise this service be made via the F&S Committee, following careful consideration of which projects the Council wishes to take forward. **Noted.**

Cllr Worrall advised he would be attending the Worc Calc Meeting on 25th November.

- ***Bittell Reservoir***

Nothing to report.

- ***Alvechurch Village Hall***

Nothing to report.

- ***Community Speed Warch***

Cllr Clarke had recently emailed the Police and Crime Commissioner to inquire after funding to provide training to CSW 'lead' volunteers as it was felt that the delay in training provided by the Road Safety Team led to frustration amongst volunteers. A response was awaited.

- ***CPRE***

Cllr Worrall asked Cllr Clarke to contact the CPRE to ascertain what their criteria was to support Member Council's in defending their stance against inappropriate development.
Action: Cllr Clarke.

- ***Rowney Green Association***

Cllr Easter reported that RGA had extended their thanks to Mrs D Snaddon for all of her years of advice and advocacy as a founder member of the RGA; the RGA wished her well in her new home.
Cllr Easter also advised that Mr Watkins *(Central Reserves Officer for Worcestershire Wildlife Trust)* has been asked to give a WWT update talk to the village.
Both the Footpath and the Bridle Path Projects were progressing well.
Cllr Easter advised RGA were to approach APC about siting a Planter at RG.
Cllr Easter had received a number of concerns from parents re traffic speed given their children walked for the bus or were out on their bikes; there was also concern expressed about horse safety on what are blind bends.
Cllr Easter advised there had been a productive meeting held with Bordesley Manor Chief Technical Officer.
During a recent RGA meeting Alvechurch Youth Voice had requested topics from the young people residing in RG; the RGA had also made a donation at its meeting to RG Chapel.
Finally, Cllr Easter reported that there had been a further three incidents of fly-tipping in Storage Lane which had since been reported.

- ***PiTP***

Nothing to report

Chairman …… Date ……

DRAFT

- ***Hopwood Village Hall***

Nothing to report

21. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Alvechurch Village Ward

Cllr Van der Plank spoke to the slides re. The Community Energy Scheme she had asked be circulated prior to the meeting. After a short discussion it was agreed that Cllr Van der Plank would invite Mr Matthew Eccles, the Climate Change Manager at BDC to attend the December FC Meeting. **Action: Cllr Van der Plank/Assistant Clerk to add to December FC agenda.**

Cllr Lambert advised that the play equipment at Swans Length was to be repaired/replaced as necessary by BDC.

Bordesley/Rowney Green Ward

Cllr Easter reported that there was a loose drain cover, (*thought to be Severn Trent's responsibility)* located the Birmingham Road as you drive through Bordesley; CCllr A Bailes was addressing the issue.

Hopwood

Cllr Clarke expressed concern that it appeared a further section of hedge row had been removed by the site entrance to the new development.

Cllr Edwards advised the smells from Mayfield Farm had return and such had been reported to Environmental Health.
Cllr Edwards also stated that speeding along the Birmingham Road/through Hopwood continues to be an issue; there had been a further number of accidents.
Cllr Edwards also reported that one APC's Footway Columns had been hit and was soon to be replaced at APC's expense as the police could not help in identifying the driver of the vehicle.
Cllr Edwards also advised that the Solar Farm at Weatheroak application had been withdrawn.
Cllr Worrall Proposed Standing Orders be suspended in order Council could continue past 10pm. Unanimous.
[Cllr Wiseman left the meeting – 10.02pm]

22. PRESS RELEASE/PRESS STATEMENT

None at this time.

23. MEETING DATES.

16th Nov – F&S Committee Meeting (Parish Office)
14th Dec – P&H Committee (5.30pm) / Full Council (7pm) Hopwood

CLOSED SESSION

24. TENDERS

Cllr Worrall explained that quotes were still awaited and that it was hoped that such could be considered at the December Full Council Meeting; he therefore **Proposed deferring the Agenda item. Unanimous.**

Meeting closed @ 10.15pm
Chairman ……. Date …….

DRAFT