

**ALLESLEY PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held at 7:40pm  
12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, held at Corley Village Hall, Church Lane, Corley

**Present:** Councillor T Burton (Chairman) Councillor A Hobson (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs M Davies Councillor L Gilleran  
Councillor V Parry

**Ward Councillors:** Councillor Jandu

**Public:** 0

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Swann, Farrar and Grove.

**3. Chairman's report on the past year and future plans**

We began the year at last year's May meeting with a surprise visit by Rob Back, to the amazement of the Clerk and myself who had both had no response to emails in the preceding months. A most productive meeting followed where numerous issues were discussed and promises made, including a return visit to our July meeting for a presentation on S106. This was to be the last that any of us have ever heard from Rob Back.

It is depressing to read back the minutes from the past 12 months only to see issues recurring meeting after meeting with so little progress made. Communication with CCC has been the common factor in nearly all the problems we have.

The resident's attendance award goes to Mr Jackson again this year, while we have tried to resolve his issues CCC have continued to fail to cooperate.

The year began with Local Elections which saw Cllr Stephen Keogh lose his seat to Cllr Beatrice Christopher. As yet she has been as illusive as Cllr Keogh in his early years, although she has been spotted litter picking in the ward.

Cllr Birdi had been asked to extend his mayoral reign for a short time due to the delay of the election in one ward. We have however not seen him at all this year, neither have we seen Cllr Jandu since September.

The boundary commission caused us concerns by publishing it's final recommendations, these being to ignore all the previous proposals including those from the parish council and to split the parish between Bablake and Woodlands Wards including the Eastern Green development. The clerk and I met with the MP Taiwo Owatemi. However this meeting took place the day before parliament was dissolved for the general election so we were warned that nothing would happen until August. Good as her word letters were written to both the Boundary Commission and CCC and responses were provided which give us a roadmap to achieving our objective.

Having had little support from WALC we decided not to rejoin. This put the cat amongst the pigeons, prompting a visit to our June meeting by Ja'Neen and Rosie who talked through our issues and reasons for not joining and promised to help if we rejoined. Since then Ja'Neen has been most helpful and has been working on our behalf to resolve our issues with CCC. Starting to wonder whether we were expecting too much, it was reassuring to be told that WALC had not experienced such poor treatment of a Parish Council by it's principal authority.

We were horrified to learn that after all our hard work the new highways officer David Keaney had recommended that the proposed closure of Watery Lane be cancelled. With from help from WALC we wrote to request a deferment of the decision, and a delegation of us attended the Highways meeting at the council house. I was able to persuade the cabinet member to join us for a site visit, which took place in September. Having agreed to start a petition, which attracted over 400 signatures, the city council decided that only petitions raised on the council's own website will be considered. We obediently submitted another petition, but were unable to put the same amount of leg work in. We still await a response.

We had encountered the infamous oil spillage in April, but despite our best efforts no further works were carried out by the council, and the environment agency continued to ignore the situation.

June also brought the co-option of a new councillor in Liam Gilleran, who has proved himself to be a great asset to the parish council this year.

July saw a change in government.

In October Ja'Neen returned to our meeting to go through our ever growing list of issues with CCC. She had met with them the previous week but was awaiting a response. This we finally received at the beginning of January, and it was the poor sort of response we have come to expect from CCC. One point of particular interest was that when Julie Newman had been asked about the position on petitions the statement regarding only accepting CCC petitions was denied, but then it was confirmed in the written answer that this was indeed the case. Rules are certainly being made and changed to suit the council officers.

A delegation of public also attended the October meeting to ask for help with dangerous traffic and fly tipping on Hollyfast Lane. They were pleased to learn that we had already proposed a closure and are still pursuing this.

In December a few of us met with the new Highways officer Rob Little. Although the meeting was positive, in true Coventry fashion we have heard nothing since.

Following the announcement that Warwickshire wished to be one of the first group of principal authorities to move to a 'single tier administration' I wrote to leader Cllr Isobelle Seccombe to make our case for joining Warwickshire. I received a positive response advising that they were happy to enter discussions, but this would be at a later stage in proceedings.

In March Cllrs Gilleran and Davies joined me in another meeting with the MP. We raised a list of issues and asked for help. We were told by the MP that we are not forceful enough, we are too polite which is why we achieve nothing with CCC. We were also told that our assessment of Rob Back mirrored the MP's experience. We hope to work with the MP going forward to resolve outstanding issues.

Initialled

I'd like to thank all councillors and the clerk for their efforts through the year. We must now put our efforts into the boundary change, firstly to redraw our boundary within the city, and then to move our principal authority. We owe it to our residents to get away from this incompetent communist authority who have no interest in our rural parish unless it is to release building land to expand the city. Let's Make Allesley Great Again!

#### 4. Reports from Coventry City Councillors

##### Councillor Christopher

Councillor Christopher had provided a report ahead of the meeting. Many items covered the Bablake Ward and not specific to Allesley Parish.

##### Signage A45/Oak Lane Junction

I am pleased to say that I made sure officers installed some signage on the A45/ Oak Lane Junction over issues caused by large vehicles.

**ACTION:** Councillor Davies to liaise with Councillor Christopher

##### Meeting with Mayor of West Midlands

I am pleased to announce that I was able to have a short meeting with the Mayor of West Midlands Richard Parker last week. We discussed the public transport situation on Tamworth Road, Housing, help with Businesses, adequate education and GPs, and the overall future of Bablake in the ward.

I collaborated with Allesley Parish Council for their annual litter pick, which was a success.

I also collaborated closely with the Bablake Ward Rubbish Friends team and volunteers to carry out their very first litter pick on 13<sup>th</sup> April a successful litter pick at the Bike jump Coundon Wedge Drive resulting in the removal of over 15 bags of litter and lots of gas canisters. Due to this event's success, we have been litter picking regularly as individuals or as a group. Additionally, I regularly litter pick in random location including Tamworth Road, Waste Lane, Coundon Hall Park, Keresley road and around the ward.

Furthermore, I participated in a road safety awareness operation with the Police upon my request, aiming to enhance road safety awareness and reduce accidents. I have also requested for another one scheduled for this week on Bennetts Road.

I carried out observation on Brownhill Green Road through to Coventry Garden centre. I was solely responsible for the deployment of mobile VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) speed limit on Kelmscote Road.

This has been a productive year filled with various case work activities including issues such as fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, potholes, council tax, housing, speeding, mud and street flooding, many of which have been successfully resolved. I have also made about 30 home visits.

Our regular surgery will resume, venue to be announced.

I am grateful to serve my constituents.

**5. Open Forum discussion on: - Projects, suggestions and ideas for APC for 2025-26**

Meeting arrangements

**ACTION:** Clerk to look at the feasibility of moving the meeting night to a Wednesday.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm

DRAFT