

## ALLESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held at 7:45pm 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026, held at Corley Village Hall, Church Lane, Corley

**Present:** Councillor T Burton (Chairman) Councillor V Parry  
Councillor Mrs M Davies Councillor S Grove

**Ward Councillors:** 1 (Councillor Boyle)

**Public:** 1

#### 1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

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

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

I can hardly believe that this meeting marks 15 years since I, along with Cllr Parry, joined as councillors on Allesley Parish Council. I have also been reminded that this year also marks 9 years since our current Clerk, Jane Chatterton entered our employment.

As I look back at the past year, I see that last year's report began with a reference to the anniversary of Rob Back's one and only visit. Perhaps this meeting will become known as the Rob Back memorial meeting in honour of the last officer to have attended a meeting, and the last any of us ever heard of Rob who has now left.

The theme of the year once again centred around the lack of co-operation of CCC officers and an ever-growing list of outstanding issues. After much background work by the Clerk and Ja'Neen from WALC we finally secured a meeting with the Chief Executive, Julie Nugent, chaired by the MP Taiwo Owatemi. Despite raising our concerns, we were patronised and promises made of a follow up meeting. In true CCC style this was another false promise, and we still await a response from Ms Nugent.

Probably the most frustrating issue of the year once again has been the closure of Watery Lane. We have collectively spent hundreds of hours on this project which began six years ago in 2020. It is infuriating that despite promises of work beginning in April nothing has been done so far.

The hottest topic of the year has to be bonfires; one particular resident has been a persistent offender in spite of an order from the council prohibiting his activities. A special thanks to the Councillors who have monitored the site and have been quick to report fires both to the council and the fire brigade. Some staggering incompetence at the council left the Clerk very frustrated, I'm sure I saw steam coming out of the phone when she called me afterwards!

October brought the National Ploughing Finals to the parish, and despite an initial lack of communication the event ran smoothly and did not cause the massive disruption feared. The event was enjoyed by all who visited.

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November's meeting was one which none of those present will forget. The public forum was dominated by two angry young men representing the 'Coventry Citizen's Party'. I have never seen such aggressive, misogynistic behaviour at a council meeting, and never before have I had to ask a member of the public to leave a meeting.

One of these individuals, who is a resident on the southern side of the parish, has continued to harass the Clerk and myself. Their objective of moving the Parish boundary to exclude properties south of the A45 broadly matches our own ambition, but they have refused to co-operate with us. They have however saved us a lot of leg work by submitting the petition to CCC.

I must apologise to residents for the fact that as a direct result of the behaviour of these individuals and their continued threats towards the council, Councillors and the Clerk it has been necessary to significantly increase the precept this year, having kept increases to a minimum in recent times. I very much hope that this situation will be resolved in the near future.

We continue to aspire to both a logical boundary to the parish, and to move the parish into North Warwickshire. The petition has kick started the former, while discussions with the leader of WCC remain on hold pending the decision on the future of Warwickshire as a single tier authority.

A proposal arising from this meeting last year was to amend the meeting date to fit a regular pattern, avoiding Mondays because our Ward Councillors of both political persuasions were otherwise engaged on Monday evenings. We settled on 11 meetings a year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. I think this has worked relatively well, and the calls from fellow Councillors to ask when the next meeting seems to have died out. However, we have still not seen a Ward Councillor for some 2 years now.

May's elections marked the implementation of the City's new Ward map. Allesley Parish is now split between Bablake and Woodlands wards. We now therefore have 6 City Councillors to represent us, and I hope that we will be seeing a lot more of them than we did their predecessors.

I should like to thank Cllrs Birdi and Jandu who have been of help in times past, I never met or heard from Cllr Christopher. All stood in the recent election but were not elected.

I've had several complimentary comments on the standard of the verge mowing this year, which have been passed on to Rob at Heritage Contracting. This is one area where we used to receive a steady stream of complaints from residents before the parish council took on responsibility, I'm really pleased at how well this has worked out.

I've got to mention three Councillors who have worked extremely hard this year. Cllr Gilleran has really got on top of our planning applications and has done a great job of monitoring and logging. He has also set up the new email system providing us all with .gov addresses.

Cllr Parry has as ever kept a vigilant watch on the parish, along with Tyson, and is always my go to person for reporting fly tipping. She has surveyed all the road signs and has been invaluable in monitoring and reporting of fires.

Cllr Davies has continued to work tirelessly to solve our highways issues. She has become an expert on sewage and has Severn Trent on speed dial. I could mention the bus parking, tree felling, road closures, sign painting or an abandoned chemical toilet, she has always put the time in and got the results.

I'd like to thank everybody else who's worked hard throughout the year to make the parish a better place for our residents, and of course the Clerk.

Please keep up the good work, we will make Allesley great again!

**4. Reports from Coventry City Councillors**

Councillor Lisa Boyle, newly elected Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and introduced herself and provided a brief background to her previous working career.

It was confirmed that the newly elected Ward Councillors would attend the meetings on a rota basis so we would have some representation at each meeting. We look forward to a good working relationship for the betterment of Allesley Parish.

**5. Open Forum discussion on: - Projects, suggestions and ideas for APC for 2026-27**

Nothing further to discuss.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm

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