

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 7 July 2009 at Globe House, Alcester

The Mayor asked for a minute's silence to remember Tim Wilks, who had worked for the council for over 20 years before his retirement, and also Joan Baylis's husband Tony.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Three members of the public were present.

Ursula Cowell gave a report on the work she and other residents of Chestnut Court had been doing with the agencies regarding flooding in the area. Insurance premiums had risen dramatically but they had now found an insurer with reasonable premiums. She had arranged a meeting for 10 July with the agencies and councillors were invited to attend. Cllr Gittus thanked her for all her hard work on this.

Mrs Weaver asked if there was anything to report on the closure of Birch Abbey and suggested that it should be made one-way, exiting on Evesham Street, to help the traffic flow. Cllr Gittus reported that draft proposals were due to be published from Warwickshire County Council and would be on display at Globe House.

Present

Cllr M Gittus (Chair), Cllr E Payne, Cllr J Bunting, Cllr P Crabtree, Cllr L Cumberbatch, Cllr R Leek, Cllr D Hancox, Cllr W Malin, Cllr Mrs Y Hine, Cllr P Carr, Cllr Mrs S Adams, Mr C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk).

Apologies - 01/07/09

Apologies were received and the reasons for absence approved from Cllr N Knapman (late), Cllr N Dearling, Cllr C Gough, Cllr M Graham.

Minutes of last meeting of 02/06/09 (circulated) - 02/07/09

Minutes of the last Council meeting held on 2 June 2009 had been circulated, and were proposed Cllr Hancox, seconded Cllr Malin, approved and signed.

Declarations of Interest - 03/07/09

Members were asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda.

Mayor's Report - 04/07/09

The Mayor's report was in councillors' packs but the highlight had been the Duck Race at Oversley Green, which had been a wonderful family event and raised £1600 for the Christmas lights.

Notes on Forum Meetings - 05/07/09

a) Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 8 June had been circulated and were approved and signed.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding & Drainage - 06/07/09

Cllr Gittus reported the following:

- He had received three reports of backflow problems in Colebrook Close and had reported it to Severn Trent, who had now fitted one-way valves to toilets.
- He had attended a CCTV inspection with Severn Trent in the town. The drains were generally in good condition in the Stratford Road/Gas House Lane area.
- The surveying work had been done re the pump positions.
- Cllr Payne reported that on 18 June he had attended the jetting of drains in the town and the drains from School Road went uphill to Henley Street. There was still one drain on High Street and one by the Cross Keys to be jetted. Cleaning of drains to be discussed at the next meeting.
- On 26 June after heavy rain raw sewage was again coming through the manhole covers on Gas House Lane. Cllr Payne had contacted Severn Trent who had sent a team to clean up. Pressure should continue to be put on Severn Trent regarding this.
- Cllr Cumberbatch had asked the Director of Public Health at the PCT to contact Severn Trent and Warwickshire County Council about the sewage problems at Gas House Lane.

Alcester Area Health Reforms - 07/07/09

- Hospital site - the decision by the PCT to close the hospital early and bring the project forward was not well received by staff and residents. Nursing and administration staff will be offered alternative employment or secondment but others will be placed with agencies close to Alcester.
- A project manager had been appointed and he had accepted the post.

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- A meeting was to be held on 17 July to look at the business case report to go forward later this month.
- The GPs had agreed what the building and contents should look like. The matter of shared resources was yet to be resolved. There would be more news after the meeting on 17 July, and councillors were welcome to attend.
- Cllr Knapman had concerns over Home Care Team working re staff, relatives visiting etc. and clarity was needed on an integrated team which should be in place as soon as possible. This should be fully raised on 17 July. Concerns over Warwickshire County Council's commitment and budgets to Home Care Teams. Any delays could leave the town with nothing.
- Beds could be provided by a private developer.

Youth Provision – 08/07/09

- Cllr Carr reported that there had been a good response to the booklet distributed to the senior schools re a Youth Council. Several volunteers had been found and a meeting was being held in September.
- A website and newsletter would be set up.
- There is a lot of youth provision in Alcester which just needs co-ordinating. Two part-time outreach youth workers are to be appointed and a youth worker from Kineton is to be moved to Alcester.

Planning Committee – 09/07/09

- Cllr Hancox reported that the minutes for the last two meetings were in councillors' packs. There were no planning applications of concern to bring to council.

Proposal to Council:

9b) To consider for approval the draft proposals for the Stratford Road site (previously circulated). Proposed Cllr Hancox, seconded Cllr Bunting and approved.

Amenities Committee – 10/07/09

- The Clerk reported that on the allotments some plots were not being worked and the tenants had been written to.
- Interest had been shown in forming an Allotment Association and proposals were being made.
- Cemetery old site – Councillors Dearling and Hine were drawing up plans re footpaths, benches and planting.
- Trees – a planning application had been submitted for work to 39 trees.
- A good job had been done on hedges at Westbury Park, and the footpath was to be re-done by T & G Construction.
- Good work had been done at the back of Malin Court and a natural area was to be created with bushes, bird boxes etc.
- A memorial stone had been reported lying at an angle, which was to be checked.

Recreation Committee – 11/07/09

- Cllr Bunting reported that the minutes of the last meeting were in councillors' packs.
- Vision for Alcester had held their AGM and projects were progressing.
- Conway Fields – a meeting was to be arranged with the Football Club.
- The pods had been moved and the fence partly taken down.
- Alcohol Restricted Zone signs were to be provided.
- A meeting of the Play Area Sub Committee was to be held soon. Chris Fennell of SDC will attend a future meeting.
- There had been a great improvement in litter clearing.
- New services are to be installed in the pods at a cost of approx £800.
- Cllr Bunting had attended a sports and play seminar in Coventry and one at the NEC was coming up. Saltex was on 8 and 9 September.
- Cllr Malin reported that the moved pod had been broken into; the guard and two windows broken. The Police had been informed. There was now nowhere to house the contents.

Proposals to Council:

11a) The painting of the fascia boards and the purchasing of the anti climb apparatus at the Pavilion – proposed Cllr Bunting, seconded Cllr Knapman and approved.

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Community Committee – 12/07/09

- Cllr Payne reported that minutes of the last meeting were in councillors' packs.
 - There had been an increase in youths 12 to 19 drinking on the Recreation Ground. The signs for Alcohol Restricted Zones had been put up but were not being enforced. Regular drug dealing was going on from cars along the Old Stratford Road at Oversley Green. Cllr Payne had received complaints about youths on motorcycles swearing and drinking on the Recreation Ground and Gas House Lane. Cllr Gittus had also received three complaints. Orbit should be asked to consider security measures for their residents and to attend Council meetings. A request to be made to the Police for regular monthly updates from a senior officer on incidents, with particular reference to the parks.
 - ACT.com AGM was to be held at Globe House on 8 July.
 - Most of the 'gurus' letters had been delivered.
 - There was to be an Italian Market in the High Street on 3 October.
 - The Scouts and Guides were to arrange a litter pick.
 - The Court Leet had cleared the river bank around Gunnings Bridge and found a cast iron bollard which was rescued.
 - The Emergency Parish Box – Warwickshire County Council had advised speaking to the Fire Station.
- b) Communication Sub Committee
- The next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 11 July, 10-12 at Church House
 - The newsletter had been sent out and had been well received
 - The Publicity Officer was getting a good number of articles published in the press
 - The next meeting was to be held on Friday 14 August at 11.30am

Scrutiny Committee – 13/07/09

Membership of the Scrutiny Committee is to be considered.

Presidium - 14/07/09

The next Presidium is to be held on 16 July at 2.00pm.

Complaints & Community Forum Requests – 15/07/09

- Grass cutting at Eclipse Road/Minerva Mews – Cllr Payne is to speak to Streetscene at Stratford District Council. The Clerk is to find out who the true owners of the land are.
- Items from the Surgery of 6 June have been dealt with.

Payment of Accounts – 16/07/09

The Payment of Accounts was proposed by Cllr Malin, seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and agreed.

Correspondence – 17/07/09

- a) Letter from A Morgan – the Clerk was to write thanking Alan Morgan for his services to the Council. Stratford District Council would also be informed.
- b) Letter from Matt Austin – noted
- c) Letter from Mr S G Weaver – the Clerk had acknowledged the letter. NALC and SDC had been contacted and responses were awaited.
- d) Community Orchard – the project was good for all ages especially the younger ones. Sustainability has been addressed. To be passed to the Recreation Committee and letter to be copied for members.
- e) Letter from Wythall Wives – Clerk to reply.
- f) Bus shelter – to be passed to the Community Committee.
- g) Transport survey – noted.

District and County Councillors' Reports – 18/07/09

Cllr Payne reported the following:

- Attended the Alcester Ladies Choir farewell concert which raised £1500 for Church House
- Awards event at GreenMech
- West Area Committee re St Benedict's 6th Form application.
- Alcester & Bidford Community Forum
- The British Legion Armed Forces Day Parade

Cllr Adams reported that:

- Attended two meetings on the Local Development Framework – the Core Strategy document has been updated and a copy is to be sent to the Town Council.

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- A Chairman had been found for the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the next meeting is on 22 September at the Alcester Members Club.

Cllr Gittus reported that:

- Warwickshire County Council Highways – road surface work was currently being done in the town, and the new area surveyor has been inspecting it.
- Chris Fossey is to visit the town and surrounding villages re a speed review and provision of governance.
- The 6th Form proposals at St Benedict's had received Cabinet approval.
- The Fire Service Review was being published at the end of July. All councils are facing a difficult financial period and difficult decisions will have to be made over the next 5 years.

Notification of Future Visitors – 19/07/09

Forum meeting 13 July – will be an informal meeting for councillors to bring issues they wish to be discussed.

Forum meeting 10 August – Dr Jacky Lawrence, Warwickshire County Council on Climate Change

Notification of any further business for future meetings – 20/07/09

Council agenda items should be received no later than 7 days prior to the next meeting.

Dates of future meetings – 21/07/09

Please note the dates of the next meetings:

*Forum Meeting Monday 13 July at 7.30pm
Community Committee Monday 27 July at 8.00pm
Recreation Committee Monday 20 July at 7.00pm
Amenities Committee Monday 20 July at 8.00pm
Planning Committee Mon 13 July at 6.30pm & Mon 27 July at 7.00pm
Presidium Meeting Thursday 16 July at 2.00pm
Scrutiny Committee to be arranged*

All the above meetings at Globe House