

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 August 2009 at Globe House, Alcester

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Three members of the public present.

Mr Weaver thanked the Council for forwarding the replies to his question on parking from Stratford on Avon District Council and the National Association of Local Councils.

Mr Weaver also raised concerns on the news that Warwickshire Police would be issued with tasers. Mrs Hill said that she was willing to back up her statement at a previous meeting and would visit schools to see if they would grow the plants for the town displays. Cllr Payne had reported this to the Alcester in Bloom Committee and they would get in touch with Mrs Hill.

Present

Cllr M Gittus (Chair), Cllr C Gough, 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 M Graham, Mr C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk).

Apologies - 01/08/09

Apologies were received and the reasons for absence approved from Cllr N Knapman, Cllr N Dearling, Cllr P Carr, Cllr S Adams.

Minutes of last meeting of 07/07/09 (circulated) - 02/08/09

Minutes of the last Council meeting held on 7 July 2009 had been circulated, and were proposed Cllr Malin, seconded Cllr Hancox, approved and signed.

Declarations of Interest – 03/08/09

Members were asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda – none received.

Mayor's Report – 04/08/09

The Mayor reported that he attended the following events:

- A charity dinner at Honington Hall
- Alcester Male Voice Choir Concert
- Alcester High School Memorial Wall with Cllr Bunting, and presented prizes for the Art Exhibition.
- Charity event for Alcester Twinning Association
- The Deputy Mayor had attended Warwick Civic Service
- Di Gittus and Cllr Adams had attended a reception at Ragley Hall

The Alcester High School Memorial Wall was a project including photos, music etc. from around 60 years ago done on boards which were portable. Older residents had attended and reminisced, and the project was funded with a grant from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Notes on Forum Meetings – 05/08/09

a) Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 8 June had been approved and signed at the last council meeting. An informal Forum meeting was held on 13 July which had been very positive. Cllr Malin had completed 36 years service which should not go unrecognised.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding & Drainage – 06/08/09

Cllr Gittus reported the following:

- Flooding – lots of raw sewage had been floating around again after some recent heavy rainfall. Councillors had been helping out and thanks were given for that.
- Severn Trent had been contacted about the way forward. No decision had been made yet about funding or implementation. This was due in November when a decision will be made on presentations by OFWAT. A mail drop to residents was suggested informing them that volume of letters to OFWAT was very important to make their concerns known. Paperwork was to be submitted by 10 September.
- The flooding meeting held on 10 July – minutes were in councillors' packs. Ursula Cowell had organised the meeting which was an opportunity for asking questions of the agencies. It had been a good meeting, and thanks went to Cllr Juned on preparing an environmental file on legal matters, and Ursula for organising the meeting.
- There had been a joint meeting on 31 July with the Environment Agency, Stratford District Council etc. but the agencies were not working together.

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 August 2009 at Globe House, Alcester

- The pumps project was moving forward. The surveys for locations had been done and the project was on target. A start was expected within this financial year. Preparation work had been done by the Environment Agency.
- The bund at the rear of Malin Court was being re-surveyed.
- Silt at Gunnings Bridge – some was to be removed.
- Oversley Weir – the Environment Agency was looking at stabilising the river bank.
- Newport Drive complaint – there was maybe a defect and work was to be done.
- A culvert was to be installed at School Road. Other work had been completed and the drains were running.

Alcester Area Health Reforms – 07/08/09

Cllr Cumberbatch reported that:

- The outline business case was with the Strategic Health Authority and a response would be in 7-10 days.
- Concern about the day hospital being closed very suddenly because staff were needed to deal with swine flu cases in Stratford. No alternative arrangements were made for patients. The day hospital was due to re-open at the end of August, but this may not happen because it would close again at the end of September anyway. A statement from the PCT has been asked for regarding the people and carers who attend.
- There will be a lot of work to do once the response is received from the Strategic Health Authority. Work on the design, contract and developer will need to be done quickly.
- Cllr Crabtree asked how solid the business case was this time. Cllr Cumberbatch responded that this time the costings were more clearly defined and the business case has been brought forward which was a good sign. It also had the support of the Department for Health and our local MP.

Youth Provision – 08/08/09

The Clerk reported that:

- Meetings had been held with the football teams. There were 23 teams and 423 members, and they were looking for more pitches.
- Funding had been received from ORBIT for the MUGA at the Pavilion site. A meeting was being held on 6 August.
- A response was awaited from Warwickshire County Council about the youth workers and funding.
- Youth Council – a meeting was to be arranged in September, hopefully working together with Bill Bayley.

Planning Committee – 09/08/09

- Cllr Graham reported that planning permission had been received for work to the trees in the cemetery.
- A consultation paper had been received from Stratford District Council on Local Development Framework housing growth. Larger numbers of dwellings had to be accommodated in our district and three options were given. This would be discussed at the Planning Committee on 10 August, after which recommendations would be put together and circulated to councillors for discussion at the next Council meeting. The recommendations would be circulated before the end of the month.

Amenities Committee – 10/08/09

- Cllr Hine reported that Sibcas containers had been looked at for the proposals on the old cemetery site.
- Positive responses had been received to letters re the upkeep of allotments.
- The allotments would be inspected this month and awards would be presented at the Alcester Horticulture Show in September.
- A proposal would be made to next Council meeting that a full time grave digger be employed to ensure a satisfactory standard in the cemetery.

Recreation Committee – 11/08/09

- Cllr Bunting reported that planning permission for the MUGA had been received today. The MUGA money had to be spent by 1 April.
- The football club had written to ask permission to use the weir field. The weeds need cutting right back to make more room.
- The pods were not in the right place.

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 August 2009 at Globe House, Alcester

- Vision for Alcester: Riverside Walk will be progressing soon. Topsoil would be available September time for the Stratford Road site.
- Conway Fields: a special meeting of the Recreation Committee would be called.
- Play Area Sub Committee: money was only available from Stratford District Council for 'wild play'. Suggested a meeting on Monday 10 August at 9.00am at the Pavilion.
- Cllr Malin reported that he would inspect work to the pods on Monday.
- People had been climbing on the pavilion roof again and another concrete post had been knocked down.
- The anti-climb equipment for the roof had been ordered.

Community Committee – 12/08/09

Cllr Payne reported that:

- a) Information on anti-social behaviour had been reported to Police
Inspector Pat Devereux was to attend the Forum meeting on 12 October
The problems with the motorbikes around the town had been reported to Sgt Wild
6 traders had taken up the 'guru' advice offer. Overnight guards were now on the industrial estate. An Italian Market was to be held on 3 October.
The Emergency Plan – copies of the current plan were given to members for their input and would be brought back to committee.
Proposal: That events should be organised in the town during the 2012 Olympics. Proposed Cllr Gittus, seconded Cllr Gough and approved.
- b) Communication Sub Committee
 - The next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 5 September, 10-12 at Church House
 - The next meeting was to be held on Thursday 13 August at 11.30am at Globe House
 - Alcester Town Plan Joint Working Group – a meeting was to be arranged.

Scrutiny Committee – 13/08/09

No Scrutiny Committee meeting had been held.

Presidium - 14/08/09

- The external accountants had stated that an intermediate audit was required because of income over £200,000. The Clerk has requested clarification of what an intermediate audit is and will take up with WALC when a reply is received.
- Insurance – a full insurance review had been done and a £50 saving has been negotiated.
- Workers appraisals would take place in due course.
- Training – item deferred.
- Policies were to be done on grants etc.
- Work on the Quality Council status application is planned for later in September.
- Reply paid postage account was being maintained but was to be looked at for the future.

Complaints & Community Forum Requests – 15/08/09

Complaints from the last two surgeries re:

- cycling on the pavement
- damage to car door mirrors on Henley St
- lack of enforcement of the Alcohol Restricted Zones
- availability of smaller wheelie bins
- white lines on Henley St
- hospital matters
- various matters at the Pavilion
- flood problems on Newport Drive
- water collecting at new pedestrian crossing on School Rd

These matters had all been dealt with by the relevant councillor or the Police.

Payment of Accounts – 16/08/09

The Payment of Accounts was proposed by Cllr Hancox, seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and approved.

Correspondence – 17/08/09

- a) *WALC newsletter – had been circulated and was noted*
- b) *LCR magazine – passed to Cllr Hine*
- c) *Environment Agency Flood Newsletter – had been circulated and was noted*
- d) *Parish Talk from Stratford District Council – had been circulated and was noted*

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 August 2009 at Globe House, Alcester

e) *Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter – had been circulated and was noted.*

District and County Councillors' Reports – 18/08/09

Cllr Payne reported the following:

- Recycling had gone up dramatically to 47% and doorstep recycling was 78%. 81% of people were satisfied with their collection service.
- Stratford upon Avon is now one of the top ten places to live in the country.
- Attended the SCAN meeting; a meeting re sewage in Gas House Lane; a hospital stakeholders' meeting; the funeral of Tim Wilks.

Cllr Gittus reported that:

- The Birch Abbey consultation had started and a presentation was on display at Globe House.
- Fire Service – the aim was to produce a first-class fire service for Warwickshire. Proposals are to be made and then there will be a consultation.
- Swine Flu – people who think they may have it should contact NHS Direct or go online when they will receive a unique number and be able to collect a prescription from Stratford. Six deaths had been recorded in the west Midlands and it is now thought to have peaked. A second wave is forecast for the autumn.

Notification of Future Visitors – 19/08/09

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

Notification of any further business for future meetings – 20/08/09

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

Dates of future meetings – 21/08/09

Please note the dates of the next meetings:

*Forum Meeting Monday 10 August at 7.30pm
Community Committee Monday 24 August at 8.00pm
Recreation Committee Monday 17 August at 7.00pm
Amenities Committee Monday 17 August at 8.00pm
Planning Committee Mon 10 August at 6.30pm & Mon 24 August at 7.00pm
Scrutiny Committee Thursday 17 September at 10.00am
Presidium Meeting Thursday 15 October at 2.00pm*

All the above meetings at Globe House