

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 1 September 2009 at Globe House, Alcester

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

One member of the public present who did not wish to speak. One member from the press.

Present

Cllr C Gough (Chair), Cllr E Payne, Cllr J Bunting, Cllr N Dearling, Cllr P Crabtree, Cllr L Cumberbatch, Cllr W Malin, Cllr Mrs Y Hine, Cllr Mrs N Knapman, Cllr M Graham, District Councillors Susan Juned and Lynn Bowring, Mrs A Tugwell (Press & Publicity Officer), Mr C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk).

Apologies - 01/09/09

Apologies were received and the reasons for absence approved from Cllr D Hancox, Cllr R Leek, Cllr M Gittus, Cllr P Carr, Cllr Mrs S Adams.

Minutes of last meeting of 04/08/09 (circulated) - 02/09/09

Minutes of the last Council meeting held on 4 August 2009 had been circulated, and were proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Malin, approved and signed.

Declarations of Interest – 03/09/09

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

Mayor's Report – 04/09/09

No report received from the Mayor.

Notes on Forum Meetings – 05/09/09

a) Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 10 August and notes from the informal meeting of 13 July had been circulated and were approved.

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

Cllr Payne reported that pressure was being kept up by telephone and email about the sewage issue, over 1000 proforma letters destined to go to Ofwat complaining about the sewage leakage had been delivered and posting boxes were located at Globe House, Select & Save, Jubilee Court and Malt Mill Lane Community Centres. Cllrs Payne, Adams and Gittus would also be in the High Street on Friday and letters would be available to sign at the Surgery at Church House on 5 September from 10-12. Cllr Payne also said he will be attending the public participation part of the board meeting of the Consumer Council for Water on 8 September when he will make a statement over the letters. Cllr Juned stated she had contacted Tony Wray, Chief Executive of Severn Trent Water, and a decision was to be made in November 2009. A letter had been sent from Stratford on Avon District Council to Severn Trent and the Consumer Council for Water. Cllr Juned also said she had consulted environmental lawyers, who were to respond in three weeks and would give half an hour of free advice. They can give advice on legal bodies' powers etc. Stratford District Council was also to be asked what money was available, as £2m was still to be spent.

Alcester Area Health Reforms – 07/09/09

Cllr Cumberbatch reported that the final outline business case was going to the board meeting on 10 September. The Strategic Health Authority has agreed in principle the development and the project was moving forward for ratification. He also stated that the newly appointed Project Manager attended the stakeholders meeting on Friday 28 August and is attending the Town Council Forum meeting on 7 September. He will speak on how he sees his role and issues surrounding the timescale for the project. The construction timescale was still April 2011. The decision on whether to sell or lease part of the site for third party development is still to be made.

It was proposed by Cllr Crabtree, seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and agreed that the Council should send a letter thanking the hospital staff for their good work at the hospital.

Cllr Cumberbatch also said that NHS Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Council were trying to find the staff employment on the integrated health care team. The staff will be based on the hospital site until the end of the year. The wards will close at the end of September and the hospital closed at the end of October. Staff are being prepared for the move over to the integrated team, which will be based at the hospital site.

The dissatisfaction with the closure of the day centre has been expressed to Warwickshire County Council and NHS Warwickshire. The health and social care team is just about ready.

Youth Provision – 08/09/09

The Clerk reported that the MUGA was going ahead. £10,000 had been saved as Eon had now removed the offending telegraph pole and overhead lines. A meeting was to be held on 10 September with Sally Staley of St Nicholas School to consider joint working and funding on the project to give us more equipment and facilities.

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Planning Committee – 09/09/09

Cllr Payne declared an interest in this item as a member of Stratford District Council Planning Committee.

Cllr Graham reported that there were no planning applications to bring before the Council, however he brought to the attention of the council proposal 10a) of Appendix 1 to the Council agenda regarding the Draft Local Development Framework. This was outlined by Cllr Graham who proposed this was accepted as the councils response, it was seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and council agreed that this response should be sent to Stratford on Avon District Council. Cllr Graham also outlined Proposal 10b) of Appendix 1 to the Council agenda and then proposed, that this response should also be sent to Stratford on Avon District Council. This was seconded by Cllr Dearling and agreed by council.

Amenities Committee – 10/09/09

Cllr Dearling reported that every allotment has been inspected by an independent judge and prizes for the top three will be awarded on Saturday 5 September at the Alcester Flower & Vegetable Show at the Scout & Guide Centre. He also reported that due to vandalism to the shed at the cemetery a secure container will be put in at the bottom and the laurels removed and planted with mahonia over the winter. Work continues on the cemetery with permission being given to trim all the trees. It was then proposed by Cllr Dearling, seconded Cllr Hine and agreed by council that approval be given to investigate the appointment of an official Town Council gravedigger.

Recreation Committee – 11/09/09

Cllr Bunting reported that the next meeting of Vision for Alcester is on Wednesday 7 October. Progress is slow but funding has gone through. There is a deadline of next March to lay down the Riverside walk. There will be an update on 7 October. Regarding Conway Fields we were still waiting for a formal meeting with the footballers. The footballers however are marking out the pitches on the Weir Field this week, and the overgrown hedges have been cut back. A pod is needed for the goals and they will be put in next week. The existing pods on the car park are to be moved to possibly accommodate tarmacking the whole area. Regarding Play equipment, a letter had been received from a resident on Collins Way about youths making a lot of noise on the park late at night. Cllrs Bunting and Gittus had inspected the park and suggested that the street light be turned off. A meeting had been arranged on 11 September for the Play Area Sub Committee to look at equipment for youth. Regarding Alcester Opportunities, thanks were given to Cllr Dearling for investigating the electricity charges at the Pavilion and getting a refund of over £900.

Cllr Malin reported that the fascia boards at the pavilion were to be repainted and the anti-vandal mesh was to be installed on the roof of the Pavilion.

Cllr Juned reported that Act On Energy can give advice to not-for-profit organisations.

It was proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Graham and agreed by council that an agreement in principle should be given to the Alcester Town Football Club that a barrier could be used around the full size pitch on Conway Fields.

Community Committee – 12/09/09

Cllr Payne reported that Cllr Carr has compiled a list of questions for Inspector Devereux's visit on 12 October. An updated list was to be sent to him. Regarding business David Wade has done lots of work and now had a good contact at Waitrose, who has now purchased the Brooklyn site, and a director will come and speak to the Town Council about their plans. Also the Italian Market was being organised by the Chamber of Trade for 3 October, and finally two properties in the High Street had been approached about improving the appearance of their property.

He also stated the Youth Council was to start in September, which would include some hard-to-reach people. PCSO David Martin was working with us on this and the Senior Citizens' Lunch Clubs at the Pavilion have absorbed some more people on the closure of the day centre.

Cllr Malin chair of the Communication Sub Committee reported that the next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 5 September, 10-12 at Church House. The next meeting of the committee was to be held on Friday 13 November at 11.30am at Globe House, also the website was up to date and the newsletter had gone to print for delivery in the second week of September.

Scrutiny Committee – 13/09/09

No Scrutiny Committee meeting had been held.

Presidium - 14/09/09

No Presidium meeting had been held.

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Complaints & Community Forum Requests – 15/09/09

The Clerk reported that complaints have been received regarding Drinking, smoking and littering at the Recreation Ground, Vandalism of vehicles on Gas House Lane, The timing of the hedge-cutting at Conway Fields and Vandalism to festoon lighting at shops on Bulls Head Yard

Payment of Accounts – 16/09/09

Acceptance of the Payment of Accounts was proposed by Cllr Malin, seconded by Cllr Graham and approved by council.

Correspondence – 17/09/09

- a) Letter re work to hedge on Conway Fields – Clerk to reply
- b) Letter re public payphones – to consult Oversley Mill Park residents
- c) Warwickshire Advisory Lorry Route Map 2nd edition – for information to Community and Planning Committees.
- d) SCAN newsletter - noted
- e) Prime Time magazine - noted

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

Cllr Juned reported on the matter of 440 trip victims falling on footpaths with claims of £501,000 and will be asking for the figure for Alcester. She was also taking up with the District Council a complaint received about a damaged building, graffiti and wooden fence along the footpath from the High Street to Bulls Head Yard car park. She also stated a representative from Act On Energy could come to a future Town Council meeting to do a presentation on energy efficiency, and she would pass on the information. She also stated Concerns about the diversity of the town being lost.

Cllr Payne reported that he had attended the Bidford and Alcester Community Forum, Attended a panel on concessionary transport for young people, there is to be a pilot scheme in the near future, and also attended the Alcester Hospital project stakeholders' group meeting. He has also been in contact with Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council re grass cutting, drainage and the state of the tueries. He also stated the Fire station proposals were to go to the Warwickshire County Council Cabinet in private and there was to be a special Community Forum meeting at Bidford when proposals were known. Councillors requested a letter of support should be sent to Bidford, Alcester and Studley fire stations.

Cllr Bowring asked that he be informed of the Town Council's wishes regarding the telephone box at Oversley Green.

Cllr Gittus, due to his known absence, had sent in a written report, which stated that he had attended Warwickshire Trust Fund (Alcester Firefighters) at Leamington Spa, to wind up the trust and distribute the remaining monies to the families of the tragedy, he had also visited Warwickshire Archaeology Department to discuss the results of the recent Alcester surveys, and had met with Mark Porter of County Highways to hear the results of the Birch Abbey consultation. 300 letters had been sent out with suggestions sheets; 65 replied with 30 in support and 35 not in support. The premise is taken that those who have no views would be satisfied with the proposed scheme. The details will now be advertised in the press and the proposals considered by the County Council. The public have a further opportunity to consider the details. He also stated he had held a Surgery at Malt Mill Lane Community Centre. Three complaints received – two remedied and one ongoing and in addition made 14 home visits. Cllr Gittus stated there are currently have 49 public issues on file.

Satisfactory conclusions have been reached on 19 and 30 are ongoing, and that 27 files are open relating to wider community and public issues. He had also attended a variety of meetings concerning and involving the hospital; flooding sewage; flooding river; flooding storm (a variety of agencies); the Greig; Warwickshire County Council.

Notification of Future Visitors – 19/09/09

Forum meeting 7 September – Menoj Sanjera, Project Manager for the Alcester Hospital development.

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

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

Cllr Knapman reported that the Fairtrade application had been approved. Feedback from the panel was that there were impressed by the number of events held. A meeting was to be held on 10 September with a representative from Waitrose. Fairtrade status helps to bring people into the town. Cllr Knapman would let the Town Council know about an event to celebrate. The Fairtrade

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logo can now be used on signage etc. A letter of thanks should be sent to Katharine Long. A Chamber of Trade meeting was to be held at 6.00pm on 7 September.

Dates of future meetings – 21/09/09

Please note the dates of the next meetings:

Forum Meeting Monday 7 September at 7.30pm
Community Committee Monday 21 September at 8.00pm
Recreation Committee Monday 14 September at 7.00pm
Amenities Committee Monday 14 September at 8.00pm
Planning Committee Monday 21 September at 7.00pm
Scrutiny Committee Thursday 17 September at 10.00am
Presidium Meeting Thursday 15 October at 2.00pm

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House