

# **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Globe House, Alcester**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

Four Members of the public were present, including Katherine Long and Reg Williams to talk on Alcester Fair Trade and Mr and Mrs Spencer to talk on litter in the Town, plus one member from the press.

Katherine Long thanked the Town Council for their support and with Reg Williams outlined their plans to promote Fair Trade in the town in the future, which included a Town Trail and further opportunities for existing businesses. Councillors responded with various questions. The Mayor thanked the Fair Trade members for their contribution.

Mr Spencer gave a talk on how he felt the Town could improve its attitude towards clearing the town of its litter problem. This included the implementation of on the spot fines and encouragement to community groups. Councillors responded with various questions and the Mayor Thanked Mr Spencer for his contribution to keeping areas of the town free from litter.

## **Present**

Cllr M Gittus (Chair), Cllr C Gough, Cllr E Payne, Cllr N Dearling, Cllr P Crabtree, Cllr L Cumberbatch, Cllr W Malin, Cllr Mrs Y Hine, Cllr Mrs S Adams, Cllr Mrs N Knapman, Cllr R Leek, Cllr D Hancox, Cllr M Graham, Cllr P Carr, District Councillor Susan Juned, Mrs A Tugwell (Press & Publicity Officer), Mr C Wright (Clerk).

## **Apologies - 01/10/09**

Apologies were received and the reasons for absence approved from:  
Cllr J Bunting.

## **Minutes of last meeting of 01/09/09 (circulated) - 02/10/09**

Minutes of the last Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 had been circulated, and were proposed Cllr Malin, seconded Cllr Dearling, approved and signed.

## **Declarations of Interest – 03/10/09**

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

## **Mayor's Report – 04/10/09**

A written report had been received from the Mayor and distributed to Councillors. The Mayor mentioned two events that had given great pleasure. The Annual meeting of the Alcester Horticultural Club when he awarded the prizes and the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party of an Alcester resident. Cllr Crabtree asked for feedback from the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue review. The Mayor replied he had attended the Alcester meeting at the High School and that his understanding was for it to bring improvements to old working practices, and that he had assurances from the fire service on a number of questions including that any new provision would be an improvement, that the Town Firefighters already employed as retained officers would remain and also that any officers including those where stations may close could also apply for full time posts if they wished.

Other Councillors continued to make statements including lack of disadvantages published, overnight cover, meeting future housing expansion needs and also raised other concerns. The Mayor emphasised the need for all councillors to personally fill in a response form.

## **Notes on Forum Meetings – 05/10/09**

a) Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated.

## **Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding & Drainage – 06/10/09**

Cllr Gittus reported that there had been numerous meetings with different agencies and to simplify matters he had produced a written report that was in Councillors Packs.

## **Alcester Area Health Reforms – 07/10/09**

Cllr Cumberbatch reported details from the last stakeholders meeting stating that the final closure of the Hospital is due at the end of October, after which the hospital would be occupied for a further 2 to 3 weeks before the expected move to the Moorfields Old School site. He also stated the PCT have appointed an Associate Director to work closely with the Project Manager. Alcester Project will be a standing agenda item at the Board Directors meetings. The Doctors have arranged meetings with the Medical Council to discuss medical health care with respect to the nursing programme. An outstanding item is the legal applications regarding the lease before contractors can arrive on site.

## **Youth Provision – 08/10/09**

The Clerk reported that the Multi Use Games Area project at the pavilion was progressing well, and consideration was still being made regarding allowing the two Junior Schools being allowed to use the facility during the day with Community use in the evenings.

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The Clerk also reported on the inaugural meeting of the Youth Council had taken place although only with members from the three senior schools and membership from detached youth groups was still being sought with help from PCSO's. The meeting brought out a number of initiatives which included concessionary travel, Internet Cafe, Drop in meeting place. Methods of communication had also been mentioned which may include a web site and newsletter. Advice on secure methods were being sought from the schools.

### **Planning Committee – 09/10/09**

Cllr Graham reported that there were no planning applications to bring before the Council.

### **Amenities Committee – 10/10/09**

Cllr Dearling reported there had been no Amenities meeting, however he thanked the Mayor for the giving the awards at the Horticulture Club show and stated progress was still being made at the Cemetery, he had a meeting with an arboriculturist and tree work would be starting shortly to address the trees and laurels, however this would be phased over a number of weeks. The Garage was also subject to vandalism and this would be replaced by a more secure container.

### **Recreation Committee – 11/10/09**

Cllr Adams reported in Cllr Bunting's absence stating Chris Fennell of SDC had spoken at the last meeting about Natural Play as the District Council had applied for funding re: the Playbuilder Scheme and some money was available. She had also visited sites in Nuneaton and Bedworth with Frances Carroll who was a member of our Play Area Sub Committee, to look at possible plans for the Conway Fields.

The Clerk asked Councillors to approve the siting of 2 containers on the perimeter of Conway Fields and the Weir Field for the storage of football pitch equipment, a map showing the proposed positions was submitted to every councillor. Cllr Knapman raised concerns over compromising the possible use of the Weir Field for a Community Orchard, as had been requested by the Bio Diversity group. Cllr Gough spoke in favour of siting the containers in the proposed position. The approval to site the containers as per the drawing was proposed by Cllr Hancox and seconded by Cllr Leek and passed by Council.

### **Community Committee – 12/10/09**

Cllr Payne reported that the Italian Market had generally been a success, with some shops reporting sales up by 50%. He thanked David Wade and Ann Tugwell for their contributions toward organisation and advertising respectively. Some Councillors commented and Cllr Payne stated a debrief meeting was planned to address any problems that may hinder similar future initiatives and the results would be brought before the Community Committee.

### **Scrutiny Committee – 13/10/09**

Cllr Hancox reported on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee meeting and proposed an amendment to Standing Orders which will ensure Councillors have the chance to consider amendments to Committee proposals. The full wording of the amendment appearing on the Agenda. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Dearling and seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and agreed by Council.

### **Presidium - 14/10/09**

The mayor reported no Presidium formal meeting had been held, however an emergency meeting had been held to discuss the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Consultation and the Greig Centre, following Newspaper following a newspaper report. A number of Councillors had attended the Fire Service Consultation meeting at the Alcester High School and a number of questions had been asked as reported in the Mayors report. Representative from this Council had a meeting would seek further meetings with representatives from the Greig Directors to clarify the situation

### **Complaints & Community Forum Requests – 15/10/09**

The Clerk reported that concerns have been received from the two surgeries held since the last meeting including on 7<sup>th</sup> September a Skatepark provision, Sewage spillage on Mill Lane, Updates on the Hospital and Neighbourhood Watch, and on 3<sup>rd</sup> October speeding along Evesham Street, Carer issues, High Street rowdiness, dog litter on the Nature Reserve, grass cutting and the high costs at the Italian Market. All were addressed by councillors present.

Further complaints re: speeding traffic, illegal parking and blocked drains had also been received and duly auctioned. The Clerk also reported on the Alcester Community Forum which was due to be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Aston Cantlow, and had now been rearranged to a single issue Forum at Bidford on the Fire Service Review. The Clerk showed concern that this had happened with no thought of rearranging the Alcester one at the time and that advertising another was now out of the question due to our newsletter having been delivered. He also stated this was the second time such

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a meeting had been cancelled at short notice as the last planned PACT meeting was also cancelled with no replacement. Councillors agreed with the comments and supported the clerk if he wished to review his position with respect to the administration of the Alcester Community Forum.

### **Payment of Accounts – 16/10/09**

The Clerk presented the relevant information and acceptance of the Payment of Accounts was proposed by Cllr Malin, seconded by Cllr Graham and approved by council.

### **Correspondence – 17/10/09**

- a) *Royal British Legion – Remembrance Day parade – Councillors were given details.*
- b) *Major (Retd) R.G. Woodfield MBE – Various Town Concerns - Noted*
- c) *Clerks and Council's Direct – Publication - Noted*
- d) *NALC – Legal Briefing – Sustainable Communities Act 2007 Amendment Bill - Noted*
- e) *Outlook – Campaign to protect Rural England, Warwickshire – Grey Areas - Noted*
- f) *WALC – Annual General Meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009 7:30 pm - Noted*
- g) *WALC – Newsletter ADH/84 - Noted*

### **District and County Councillors' Reports – 18/10/09**

Cllr Payne reported he had included a list of events he had supported in the Councillors packs and would answer any questions from them.

Cllr Adams reported the Regional Spatial Strategy had called for increasing the allocation of dwellings in Redditch to 1900 which would be located in the Bromsgrove District. There were also 12 hectares in the Winyates Green Triangle which were to be for Commercial Space.

Cllr Juned also reported on the Regional Spatial Strategy saying it was on their web site and regarding sewerage the legal advice she had consulted had given useful advice on Statutory Requirements.

Cllr Gittus reported that he also had included a list of meetings he had attended with the councillors packs and if councillors had any queries he would be willing to answer them.

### **Notification of Future Visitors – 19/10/09**

Councillors were informed that at the Forum meeting Monday 12 October Inspector Devereux, from the Alcester Community policing team would attend. A range of Questions had been sent to him for him to respond to.

### **Notification of any further business for future meetings – 20/10/09**

Councillors were reminded by the Mayor agenda items should be received no later than 7 days prior to the next meeting, none were proposed at the meeting.

### **Closed Session**

People who were not members or officers of the Council were asked to leave.

### **Council Vacancy – 21/10/09**

The Mayor read the names of the people who have applied to become Town Councillors and the Clerk confirmed the necessity to achieve a majority of votes by one candidate. The Mayor read out the list of candidates in turn and every candidate received a proposer and seconder. A ballot was then held and after counting all the ballot papers the clerk declared a majority was reached and Mr James Kenyon was declared as the successful candidate. Letters will be sent to all the candidates telling them of the result.

### **Dates of future meetings – 22/10/09**

Councillors were asked to note the dates of the next meetings:

Forum Meeting Monday 12 October at 7.30pm

Recreation Committee Monday 26 October at 7.00pm

Amenities Committee Monday 26 October at 8.00pm

Community Committee Monday 26 October at 8.00pm

Planning Committee Mon 12 Oct at 6.30pm & Mon 26 Oct at 7.00pm

Presidium Meeting Thursday 15 October at 2.00pm

Scrutiny Committee 14th January, 2010 at 10am

Full Council Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 at 7 p.m.

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House