

MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 8.00pm ON MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2009 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER (SEGGS LANE ENTRANCE)

Present

E Payne (Chair), Mrs S Adams, M Gittus, C Gough, L Cumberbatch, W Malin, J Kenyon, J Hodges, D Wade, C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR

No public were present

1. Apologies

Cllr Hancox

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Gittus, Adams and Payne declared a pre-determined interest in agenda item number 4d).

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21 September 2009 had been circulated and were approved and signed.

4. Emergency Planning

a) Cllr Gittus reported that a lot of rain had fallen at the weekend but the drains held up well apart from one or two areas due to leaf blockage. No sewage problems had been reported, due to the pipe re-routing work recently carried out. Waitrose was putting in large drains on the old Brooklyn site, and HSBC was to deal with the sections on their land. Archaeological finds included a Roman footway and foundations of the granary.

A flood forum was to be held on 4 December.

Cllr Gittus had attended the exhibition by Redrow of the proposed housing plans at Kinwarton and had concerns about the drainage.

A broken drain at Gunnings Bridge was to be inspected.

b) Emergency Box – on hold at present.

c) Emergency Plan – updated copies had been circulated to councillors for comments at the next meeting.

d) Fire Station consultation - because of the concerns of residents of Bidford and Studley there may be a rethink on proposals. Consultation forms have now been distributed around Alcester and were being collected in five boxes located around the town.

5. Community Safety

a) Cllr Payne reported that he had attended a meeting with the Police and 20 residents of Gas House Lane regarding anti-social behaviour in the area. Sgt Wild was to take the concerns of residents to the Community Forum.

Cllr Cumberbatch asked that the matter of who reports on community safety be addressed, as there were important issues which should be taken to the Community Forum, and items were not being moved on. Cllr Payne took note of this.

b) To be reported under item 7.

6. Business Support

a) David Wade reported that a meeting of the Town Development Working Group had taken place with Waitrose, and a temporary car park surface would be down by 11 December.

An Italian Street Market was proposed for 17 July 2010. A group was to be formed to organise it.

One bank in the town was to make good and decorate their frontage, but the other needed chasing up. Bowen's shop front work had now started.

The Town Hall Committee had applied for a grant from Stratford District Council to promote the Town Hall and had received £1200. A committee had also been formed to organise a local food festival for 24 April 2010, and it was hoped to get sponsorship.

Threshers had now closed, the old Alcester Locks shop was to have shared use, and the old Mills shop had had some internal damage and work had been held up.

A Business Show was to be held at the Greig Hall on 17 March 2010.

7. Town Development Working Group

Cllr Adams reported that Waitrose would look at assisting with signage in the town. Phase 2 of the old Brooklyn site development would take two years and would open up the centre of the town.

They were to consider purchase of the Methodist Church site, and to look at the previous plans for a 'Gateway' to the town by Advantage Alcester. The next meeting was to be arranged for the end of January 2010.

8. Senior Citizens' Issues

John Hodges reported that it was two years since Alcester SCAN had linked with other groups in the town with a survey of transport usage. It was intended to repeat this again in January to give an update picture on usage and problems to feed back to the Community Forum and continue dialogue with the bus companies. This would be linked to distributing leaflets highlighting safety for bus passengers, as this would help pinpoint real life situations for our residents.

Lunch Clubs: The Wednesday Club and the Friday over 60's Club which use the pavilion have had positive discussions with the Town Clerk and councillors. A brief report and wish list has been passed on as a basis for further progress. A response is awaited from the PCT and Warwickshire County Council to matters highlighted previously regarding the shortfall in services. Stratford District Council have asserted their willingness to engage and also offered financial support.

9. Health and Inequalities

a) Cllr Cumberbatch reported that until now his energies had been with the hospital but by the beginning of 2010 he hoped other health matters could be looked at, including mental health issues. A meeting of the Stakeholders Group was being held on Friday 27 November at 11.30am. On Friday he intended to ask questions and hope to get the answers by the next meeting on 7 December. The integrated team was now at the hospital, but staff had still to be appointed and the virtual ward was not in operation. The day hospital support had gone especially for carers, and home support was not happening. The community Matron and district nurses were in place but there is not a cohesive approach. A public meeting would be called in the new year. Cllr Bunting had taken photographs of the hospital for records. Work was being done on the old school and it should be running from January. He also had a meeting on Thursday with the PCT on Thursday when the development of the site would be clear. John Hodges requested responses on previous users of the day centre on what was happening to fixtures and fittings and money raised for a Christmas party.

b) A meeting of ACT.com was being held on 3 December at the Children's Centre.

10. Youth Issues

Youth Council – a second meeting had been held including a visit to meeting venues of the Greig and the Pavilion. The Greig had no offer of suitable times but the Pavilion they thought had possibilities. There was a keen nucleus of people, and the Mayor had offered a prize of £50 to design a logo. The plans for the natural play area had been placed in the schools for comments. Two outreach workers would be working soon. Warwickshire County Council had offered £100,000 towards a Pavilion extension from the sale of the barge. In January a meeting was arranged for the Youth Council. Warwickshire County Council has offered a Dragons Den event in January.

11. Community Venues

a) The Clerk reported that Alcester Opportunities had been dissolved by Companies House. Their funds had been transferred to Alcester Town Council to keep the facilities going seamlessly. A meeting was to be arranged with each of the groups and they were to give a wish list for facilities and equipment. It was intended to clear the office and enlarge the kitchen, and ACT.com had pledged some money. Alcester Town Council had also taken over the administration and the building management.

12. Communication

- a) The next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 5 December from 10-12 at Church House. The dates for next year's Surgeries had been booked at Church House.
- b) The website continues to be updated but councillors were requested to look at it to see what improvements could be made.
- c) The newsletter had been completed and sent to print.

13. Alcester Town Plan

To be referred to Town Development Working Group

14. Correspondence

None

15. Propositions to Full Council

- a) To approve having a stand at the Alcester Business Show on 17 March.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 7 December 2009 at 8pm