

**MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT 8.00pm ON MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD,  
ALCESTER (SEGGS LANE ENTRANCE)**

**Present**

Cllr E Payne (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Adams, Cllr C Gough, Cllr L Cumberbatch, Cllr W Malin, Cllr J Kenyon, Cllr P Carr, J Hodges, D Wade, C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk). Also in attendance: Cllr Hine, Cllr Dearling, Cllr Crabtree, Cllr Bunting.

**Public participation at discretion of Chair**

No public were present

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Hancox, Cllr Gittus

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 November 2009 had been circulated and were approved and signed.

**4. Emergency Planning**

a) Cllr Payne reported that a Flood Forum had been held last week with Waitrose, Ragley, HSBC, Orbit, Malin Court, the Environment Agency, Warwickshire County Council and Stratford on Avon District Council. Waitrose were thanked for their work to the drains on the car park extension and HSBC had agreed to do the work by the bank to get water straight down to the pumps. The level of the wall at Malin Court had been raised where there was a breach. One thing that may affect us is the position of the pump at the bottom of Bleachfield Street, which may be on our allotments, and some plots may be lost. Alison Hampson from the Environment Agency had done a lot of work drawing up new plans from scratch. It had been a good partnership meeting. With the recent heavy rain only minor flooding problems had been reported and no sewage problems since the sewage and surface water pipes had been split. The old town drain had been affected by roots from trees and it was difficult to get machinery down there to clean it. The Environment Agency and Ragley were to be asked about putting manholes in.

b) Emergency Box – on hold at present.

c) Emergency Plan – updated copies had been circulated and councillors were asked to bring comments to the next meeting. Cllr Kenyon queried the use of St Benedict's School as a rest centre. Cllr Gough suggested that the Baptist Church could be used as a temporary centre. The Red Cross needed to be contacted.

d) Fire Station consultation - the boxes of consultation forms had been collected and collated. Out of 530 replies 90% agreed. The forms were to be taken to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue at Warwick.

**5. Community Safety**

a) Cllr Carr reported that he had received statistics from the Police, and it was important to take a serious view on community Police being diverted to 999 calls. The Police would welcome our support in this.

Cllr Payne had attended the Neighbourhood Watch meeting and reported on the Town Council's proposals for the youth. The Town Council was thanked for putting the Neighbourhood Watch piece in the newsletter. 46 members of the public were there. Dorrie Manders had signed up more new members at the mobile Police unit, and Hannah Kavanagh of Orbit also attended.

**6. Business Support**

a) David Wade reported that he had attended the Stratford District Council consultation meeting on budget consultation for business. 98% of the rates had been collected, but there were problems due to the high property values. An official invitation had been received to Alcester Business Show on 17 March, and the Town Council was to run a stand. David had attended a Chamber of Trade meeting where the Alcester and Arden Food Festival to be held on 24 April was discussed. This was to be a market of local food producers, eg Ragley. There was a lot of interest and so far £3700 had been raised towards the costs. Cllr Adams suggested a proposal to Council that £200 could be given now to get our logo on the advertising material. Maurice Abney-Hastings had offered the services of graduate students from Warwick University to manage the event, and a meeting could be arranged with him. A larger than usual Game Fair lasting three days was to be held next year at Ragley, and David was to get a contact name for the event.

**7. Town Development Working Group**

Cllr Adams reported that a meeting was to be held at the end of January 2010 to look at the plans from Advantage Alcester for the 'Gateway' to Alcester. These were to be sent to Waitrose. Waitrose was to contribute £1400 to the Alcester and Arden Food Festival.

## **8. Senior Citizens' Issues**

John Hodges reported that he had attended the County Older Peoples' Forum where a presentation had been given by Warwickshire County Council and Stagecoach on non-urgent patient transport management for NHS West Midlands. One highlighted subject was the increasing reliance on the voluntary sector to enable access to healthcare and any other service. Three pledges were made concerning highlighted gaps in information and services:

From Warwickshire County Council - a central telephone number for information and complaints from across the county will be put in place late January and the website to be upgraded.

From the NHS - a leaflet giving information on patient transport arrangements will be produced and distributed to doctors' surgeries and via libraries as soon as possible.

From Stagecoach - to respond at senior management level to attend Forum or Council meetings and to increase the number of wheelchair-friendly and disabled-friendly buses.

At a local level a direct link to Warwickshire County Council with Richard Brooks leading on a project to link in with national best practice for integrated community transport. Stagecoach is to review units used on the number 26 service to emphasise staff training re older passengers and bus signage indicating that it is the responsibility of passengers to request a driver to lower the bus when appropriate for access and egress.

## **9. Health and Inequalities**

a) Cllr Cumberbatch reported that there was to be a meeting this month where the two central agencies, the PCT and Warwickshire County Council will bring a joint written report to update and respond re a business plan.

b) ACT.com - Cllr Payne reported that a Cook and Eat Celebration was held on 30 November where 12 cooking buddies were recruited for the new year.

## **10. Youth Issues**

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held last week on progress with the MUGA and the potential of the Pavilion for the youth. Rob McCluskey, Hannah Kavanagh from Orbit and Jenny Theobald had made an application to the Norton Foundation for £100,000. The interior of the Pavilion was being re-designed to improve the kitchen and changing rooms to allow the football club to use more of the Pavilion at weekends. A lot of support is coming from Warwickshire County Council for improvements. District Councillors were also looking at Section 106 funding.

Consideration should be given to getting a Youth Champion; Jenny Theobald had been suggested and was being approached. A Group meeting was to be held in January to look at Pavilion matters.

## **11. Community Venues**

The Clerk had met with Gerda Jones from Warwickshire County Council and Jackie Witts of St Benedict's. The use of the Pavilion for community learning use had been withdrawn, as St Benedict's will have improved facilities they can use. Warwickshire County Council does not advertise any community learning issues in Alcester; they could be advertised in our newsletter. At the moment we were concentrating on the Lunch Clubs, the Youth Club and the Football Club. By mid January there should be a clear policy statement and vision for a community centre. Money is available from various sources but a clear vision statement is needed. Cllr Malin was asked to Chair a Group in the new year. The Greig - the report by the Clerk was handed out for councillors to consider.

## **12. Communication**

a) Three people came to the surgery on 5 December concerning a tree on Springfield Road, the bus shelter on Crooks Lane, a farmers market, the allotments and Smartwater. Smartwater was available for £15 from the Police. The next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 2 January 2010 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.

c) The newsletter had gone out and been well received. A slight problem had occurred with the printing but it was thought to be only one or two copies, one of which had been received by the Clerk.

## **13. Correspondence**

None

## **14. Propositions to Full Council**

a) To approve the provision of 18 waterproof jackets for the Alcester Town Football Club Under 9's at a cost of approximately £400.

b) To approve £200 for the Alcester and Arden Food Festival.

## **15. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

At present set for Monday 25 January 2010 at 8pm, but consideration was being given to moving the Community Committee to the nights when the Forum meetings took place, the next of which is on Monday 11 January 2010.