

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

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

Three members of the public were present but declined to speak.

### **Present**

M Gittus (Mayor), C Gough (Deputy Mayor), W Malin, Y Hine, J Bunting, P Crabtree, D Hancox, , N Dearling, P Carr, S Adams, L Cumberbatch, R Leek, N Knapman. C Wright (Clerk).

### **Acceptance of Office 01/12/09**

This item was removed

### **Apologies 02/11/09**

Apologies and reasons for absence had been received from Cllrs M Graham, J Kenyon, E Payne and A Tugwell (Press Officer)

### **Minutes of last meeting 03/11/09 (circulated) 03/12/09**

The minutes of the last Town Council meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, having been circulated were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Malin and seconded by Cllr Payne and accepted by Council.

### **Declarations of Interest 04/12/09**

No Declarations of interest were received.

### **Mayor's Report 05/12/09**

The Mayor gave a report on recent activities which he had undertaken on behalf of the Council. He explained a full list was available in Councillors packs, but highlighted the planting of daffodils on Primrose Hill as a marvellous experience and the switching on of the Town Christmas lights which had been a great success.

### **Notes on Forum Meetings 06/12/09**

The notes of the Forum meeting held on 9 November 2009, having been placed in Councillors Packs were approved. The Mayor commented on the visit by the Waitrose Manager Peter Falcini and asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks.

### **Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding and Drainage 07/12/09**

Councillor Gittus gave an update on the Flood Relief Pumps position, which he confirmed was still moving forward. He also stated that the Waitrose development had included improvements to the storm drains through the site, whilst being sympathetic to the Roman Heritage that had been unearthed during the work. Following the Ofwat meeting to discuss the level of funding for Severn Trent projects he also stated he was optimistic regarding the possibility of improvements for Alcester in the near future. Cllr Gittus also mentioned the recent 'Redrow Presentation' saying concerns were being raised that further upgrading would be required to meet this development. He also reported that a structural inspection of Gunnings Bridge had been completed with a good report. This had been undertaken in the light of the recent storm damage to bridges in Cumbria. The Clerk commented on a recent visit by an Environment Agency estates officer whom he had accompanied to each of the potential Flood Relief Pump sites as they would need to purchase the land on which the pumps would stand and obtain access.

### **Alcester Area Health Reforms 08/12/09**

Councillor Cumberbatch gave an update on a recent stakeholders meeting challenging the County Council and the Primary Care Trust regarding the Integrated Health and Social Care Team which were now in place at the Hospital. He also stated that at least 6 developers had met with the Doctors. Cllr Crabtree commented on the poor attendance from officers to the Stakeholders meeting and Cllr Cumberbatch agreed to tackle this as it was unacceptable.

### **Youth Provision 09/12/09**

The Clerk gave an update on Youth Projects, including the progress with the MUGA and the Alcester Town Youth Council, which had met in November, stating that following this meeting a site visit to both the Greig Centre and the Pavilion had been made, accompanied

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by the two outreach Youth Workers recently employed by the County Council. No sessions were available at the Greig; however it was intended to use the Pavilion in the New Year as a drop-in centre which would aid the Youth Workers. The Clerk also reported the Junior Youth Club, who also meet 1 evening a week at the pavilion, had secured further funding from Positive About Young People for a further year taking them through until the end of March 2011.

### **Planning Committee 10/12/09**

A report was received from Cllr Gough on behalf of the Planning Committee Chairman stating firstly the notes on the meetings were available in councillors' packs and there was only two issues to bring before Council, which related to a letter that had been drafted by the Chairman to respond on behalf of the Town Council to the Redrow development consultation, which was due on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and also to report that soil had been put on the Stratford Road land behind the Old Fire Station which had tidied up the area considerably and in the new year seeding and work on the neighbours fence would be done before removing the security fencing. Further comments were received from councillors regarding the Redrow development which would be passed on to the Planning Chair, including the Alcester Hospital project and drainage issues.

### **Amenities Committee 11/12/09**

A report was received from the Amenities Committee Chairman Cllr Dearling stating there had been further progress with an Allotment Association and following an inspection with the future chairman of all the plots three types of renewal letter would be sent to include a determined effort to improve the standards of plots that were not being suitably tended. Reference was also made to the adoption of the old telephone box at Oversley Green and improvements to the Bus Shelter at Crooks Lane. No proposals were made to Council at present.

### **Recreation Committee 12/12/09**

A report was received from the Recreation Committee Chairman Cllr Bunting stating the notes were in councillors' packs, but added there had been plans done for improvements to the Pavilion which were hoped to be started in the new year and a meeting to discuss the MUGA project would take place at the Pavilion on Thursday.

Cllr Dearling, chairman of Vision for Alcester gave a report regarding their projects, stating that work on the riverside walk on one stretch had been completed but was held up in its entirety by Warwickshire County Council on the Diversion from the original AL47 path. He also stated that there was no plans to make the Old Stratford Road one way as had been suggested by an Oversley Green Resident. This had caused some concern to residents and Cllr Knapman asked for letters from both Vision for Alcester and the Town Council stating as such, which were agreed.

Cllr Bunting made the proposal on behalf of the Recreation Committee that approval in principle should be given to the Alcester Community Orchard group for a lease to take over land at Conway Fields to enable the group to apply for funding from external bodies. The exact position of the land in question still has to be determined accurately. Cllr Knapman proposed this should be accepted and Cllr Gough seconded the proposal, which was agreed.

### **Community Committee 13/12/09**

In the absence of the Community Committee Chairman Cllr Carr gave a report stating there had been a meeting with Alcester Policemen and the following statistics had been made available. There had been a police operation in both Alcester and Bidford and a significant amount of alcohol had been confiscated from under-age drinkers followed by anti-social warning letters. Shop lifting at Waitrose was also an issue from out of town people. Also following a disturbance and violent assault someone had been arrested who was in possession of a significant amount of drugs and cash, which had been confiscated. Cllr Carr also reported a concern due to the reactive 999 teams being located only in

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Stratford meant cover being sought from the Alcester Community Police to areas outside Alcester on 999 calls. Cllr Knapman also stated there had been further theft problems from shops on the High Street.

Cllr Malin gave a report as Chair of the Communication Sub Committee stating the need to review the website and that the Newsletter had been printed and collected and was in the process of being delivered and he was pleased with its content.

A proposal was put forward by the committee 'To seek approval to have a stand at Alcester Business Show on 17 March 2010' which was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cumberbatch, seconded by Cllr Leek and approved by Council.

### **Scrutiny Committee 14/12/09**

The Scrutiny Committee Chairman stated there had not been a meeting and there were no proposals to council at present.

### **Presidium 15/12/09**

The Presidium Committee Chairman stated there had not been a meeting of the committee, He also stated that due to recently received sensitive information the clerk had requested that a discussion regarding the Greig Centre should take place after this meeting in closed session.

### **Complaints and Community Forum requests 16/12/09**

The Clerk read complaints that had been received including speeding vehicles, traffic congestion particularly close to schools and Street lighting.

### **Payment of Accounts 17/12/09**

Councillors received a report from the Clerk who asked for approval by Council on Payment of Accounts. This was proposed by Cllr Malin and seconded by Cllr Hine and approved.

### **Correspondence 18/12/09**

The Following correspondence had been received and was presented to council and noted.

Publications were distributed to various councillors

- a) Letter from Monitoring Officer, Stratford District Council (in councillors' packs)
- b) Letter from Ministry of Justice re War Memorials
- c) Oversley Mill Park Flood Plan
- d) Invitation from Renewal Church to Carol Service
- e) Invitation from Baptist Church to Toy and Gift Service
- f) Invitation from Fairtrade Town Steering Group to the official opening
- g) WALC Newsletter November 2009
- h) South Warwickshire Carers Newsletter November 2009
- i) The Arden Newsletter Autumn 2009
- j) Clerks and Councils Direct November 2009
- k) CPRE magazine Autumn 2009

### **District and County Councillors' Reports 19/12/09**

Reports were received from the following Ward District and County Councillors.

Cllr Adams had attended a liquor licensing course, and there was a Neighbourhood Watch meeting tomorrow at the Members Club.

Cllr Payne had attended at meetings with the Adult Health and Social Care Group, SDC Civic Service, Cllr Vince Seaman's Funeral, the Orbit MUGA Cheque Presentation, the VFA MUGA meeting, Alcester Firefighters, TDWG and Alcester Flood Forum.

Cllr Gittus had put a report with the councillors' packs but also commented in particular on the Birch Abbey consultation and the Fire and Rescue Service Review meetings.

Cllr Juned reported that she was trying to keep pressure up on Severn Trent about their investment, and a select committee report re flooding and water management, if it gets through Parliament, will give more power to local authorities to demand more from utility companies.

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## **Notification of Future Visitors 20/12/09**

No visitors had been invited as yet for future meetings.

## **Notification of any further business for future meetings 21/12/09**

A request was made to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

## **Dates of future meetings 22/12/09**

Councillors were reminded of the following meeting dates which were noted

Forum Monday 11 January at 7.30pm

Recreation Committee Monday 7 Dec at 7.00pm

Amenities Committee Monday 7 Dec at 8.00pm

Community Committee Monday 7 Dec at 8.00pm

Planning Committee Mon 7 Dec at 7.00pm & Mon 11 Jan at 6.30pm

Presidium Meeting TBA

Scrutiny Committee 14 January 2010 at 10.00am

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House