

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5 January 2010 at Globe House, Alcester

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Four members of the public were present but three asked to speak. Mrs Holway complained about a tree on the area close to the old Fire Station site which overhung her property and was leaning badly. The clerk assured her that this would be progressed. Mrs Hill congratulated the Town council for their support of the Food Market.

Mr Weaver asked about his letter requesting clarification and Acts of Parliament covering Town Council meetings. The Clerk stated the letter was under correspondence to be addressed later, but confirmed the council only referred to the Local Government Act 1972 in line with the Clerk Training provided by the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, not the two mentioned by Mr Weaver, however if council wished he would enquire via WALC the relevance of the two acts he mentioned.

District Councillor Juned stated she had a copy of the Standing Orders but requested copies of all aspects of Town Council Practice.

Present

M Gittus (Mayor), C Gough (Deputy Mayor), Y Hine, J Bunting, M Graham, E Payne, P Crabtree, D Hancox, , N Dearling, L Cumberbatch, R Leek, N Knapman. C Wright (Clerk).

Apologies 01/01/10

Apologies and reasons for absence had been received from Cllrs, J Kenyon, P Carr, S Adams, W Malin and A Tugwell (Press Officer)

Minutes of last meeting 03/11/09 (circulated) 02/01/10

The minutes of the last Town Council meeting held on the 1st December 2009, having been circulated were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Dearling and seconded by Cllr Hine and accepted by Council.

Declarations of Interest 03/01/10

No Declarations of interest were received.

Mayor's Report 04/01/09

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 05/01/10

No Forum meeting had taken place. A request from District Councillor Juned was made that all pack material was also made available to visitors.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding and Drainage 06/01/10

Councillor Gittus reported that following progress with Ofwat Severn Trent Water had agreed to improvements to the foul drain system for completion in 2011. He also stated the minutes of the Alcester Flood Forum meeting held on 4th December were also available upon request and that he had also been appointed as the Warwickshire County Council's representative on the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

Alcester Area Health Reforms 07/01/10

Councillor Cumberbatch gave an update on the progress being made by the Integrated Home Care Team, stating they were due to be on the Moorfields site in February, however there were still some concern over recruitment of the team. Also both Doctors Practices have agreed on the appointment of a Project Manager to work on their behalf, who will also be at their cost. Cllr Cumberbatch also reported there is to be a user led group to cover the local area to look at services provided locally and to question the authorities on what is required.

Youth Provision 08/01/10

The Clerk gave an update on Youth Projects, including the progress with the MUGA and the appointment of an architect and quantity surveyor to work on the pavilion plans and to enable an application to go to the Norton Foundation for funding with the help of Rob

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McCluskey the local County Council Youth Officer. Cllr Gittus mentioned a planned meeting with Shinderpaul Bhangal of the County Council Youth Service to talk about funding for the Youth projects that are being proposed in the Town.

Planning Committee 09/01/10

The Planning Committee Chairman Cllr Graham gave a report stating they had only met once and there was nothing major to report other than attendance at the District Council planning committee where the concerns over parking around St Benedicts School were identified including the lack of double yellow lines in some areas. Cllr Graham also stated that further work at Stratford Road was imminent particularly fencing to 50, Stratford Road and through Stratford District Council a request for Section 106 Funding had been sent to Redrow Homes to try for financial help towards the Youth Club Building Project.

Amenities Committee 10/01/10

The Amenities Committee Chairman Cllr Dearling stated there had been no meeting of the Amenities committee since the last Council meeting and there was nothing more to report.

Recreation Committee 11/01/10

The Recreation Committee Chairman Cllr Bunting stated the committee had met in December however there were no notes in councillors' packs, but added there had been plans done for improvements to the Pavilion kitchen which were hoped to be started soon to meet a standard suitable for running such as the Luncheon Clubs which was seen as an essential service to the town. He also stated the MUGA project was progressing and an order to the contractor to progress the manufacture of the fencing and steel frame had been put out but the final ground work specification would only be agreed when St Nicholas School's contribution had been confirmed. Failure to do this would mean the MUGA would be built without any facilities for the school. Further work is needed for the Play builder funding application, Cllr Adams offering help.

Cllr Dearling, chairman of Vision for Alcester gave a report stating he was intent on doing a presentation to Council to show the achievements up to the end of the second year. The date is to be agreed.

Community Committee 12/01/10

The Community Committee Chairman Cllr Payne gave a report stating there had been no meeting of the Community Committee during December and the minutes from the last meeting would be available at the next meeting. He commented on behalf of Cllr Malin that the newsletter had been completed and delivered on time and had been received well. Cllr Payne also reported the Town Council Surgery had been held on the previous Saturday. A question was raised by Cllr Knapman asking why some items that should appear on the website were omitted. The Clerk stated this was the responsibility of the Assistant Clerk who constantly asked Councillors to look at the web site to give their views on how to take it forward. He also stated that another licence other than the Assistant Clerk's had been purchased and this was available to enable the software to be put on a computer and if any councillor wished to help this would be appreciated.

Scrutiny Committee 13/01/10

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

Presidium 14/01/10

The Presidium Committee Chairman stated there had not been a meeting of the committee, but one was due to discuss the precept.

Complaints and Community Forum requests 15/01/10

The Clerk read complaints that had been received at the Town Council Surgeries on the 5th December and 2nd January.

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Payment of Accounts 16/01/10

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. Councillors were then asked to individually comment on the precept in the current financial climate to help Presidium in their deliberation. The Clerk stated this had been included following a request from Cllr Graham. The general feeling from the council was to keep the precept as low as possible even with no increase this year. Cllr Gittus and members of Presidium agreed a Presidium meeting should take place at 10am on

Correspondence 17/01/10

The Following correspondence had been received and was presented to council and noted. Publications were distributed to various councillors:

- a) Letter from Mr S Weaver – Item discussed in Public Participation.
- b) Letter and questionnaire from Warwickshire County Council re Community Forums - Noted
- c) Local Transport Plan report from Warwickshire County Council
- d) House to house collection dates from Scope
- e) Parish Talk Special from Stratford on Avon District Council
- f) Warwickshire Rural Housing Association Annual Report
- g) Flood News Winter 2009 from the Environment Agency
- h) Prime Time Magazine from Warwickshire County Council
- i) LCR Magazine
- j) Copies of Decorum newsletter from Stratford on Avon District Council

District and County Councillors' Reports 18/01/10

Reports were received from the following Ward District and County Councillors. Cllr Adams had attended numerous events but her report focussed on the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) official report which stated that the Stratford District was performing well. She also reported that the District Council had approved £10,000 to allow a concessionary travel pilot to take place in the Shipston Area. Cllr Juned stated the CAA report had in fact said the use of resources did not perform well and neither did Warwickshire County Council who got one red flag in partnership working. Cllr Payne had nothing to add.

Cllr Gittus had put a report with the councillors' packs but also commented in particular on the Heritage and Intergenerational work that is going on at the moment.

Notification of Future Visitors 19/01/10

No visitors had been invited as yet for future meetings.

Notification of any further business for future meetings 20/01/10

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 21/01/10

Councillors were reminded of the following meeting dates which were noted

- Planning 11 January at 6.30pm & Mon 25th Jan at 7.00pm
- Recreation Committee Mon 25th Jan at 7.00pm
- Amenities Committee Mon 25th Jan at 8.00pm
- Community Committee Monday 11th Jan at 7:30pm
- Planning Committee Mon 7 Dec at 7.00pm
- Presidium Meeting 12th Jan
- Scrutiny Committee TBA

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House