

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2nd February 2010 at Globe House, Alcester

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Three Members of the public were present, Mr and Mrs Weaver and Mrs Hill.

Mr Weaver asked to speak and expressed disappointment at the rise of 2% in the precept.

Present

M Gittus (Mayor), C Gough (Deputy Mayor), S Adams, Y Hine, M Graham, E Payne, P Crabtree, N Dearling, L Cumberbatch, W Malin, C Wright (Clerk).

Apologies – 01/02/10

Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted from the following councillors, N Knapman, P Carr, J Bunting, D Hancox, R Leek, J Kenyon.

Minutes of last meetings 05/01/10 and 25/01/10 – 02/02/10

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 January and the Special Council meeting held on 25 January were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Hine, seconded by Cllr Crabtree and approved by Council.

Declarations of Interest – 03/02/10

No Declarations of interest were received.

Town Council Representatives – 04/02/10

The Mayor declared that a representative of the Council to the St Nicholas School Board of Governors was required following the resignation from this post of Cllr Carr. He also stated, in her absence, that Cllr Knapman had declared an interest to stand and asked Councillors if there were any further nominations and Cllr Cumberbatch was nominated. The Mayor then asked for a proposer and seconder for each candidate. Cllr Knapman was proposed but not seconded, Cllr Cumberbatch was proposed by Cllr Malin and seconded by Cllr Dearling. Cllr Cumberbatch was then approved by council as the representative to St Nicholas School of Governors.

Mayor's Report – 05/02/10

The Mayor gave a report on his recent activities and included further information on two items that that merited it. Firstly the hard work that had gone into formulating the precept application by both the presidium and the clerk. It had been discussed at length and was an indication of the responsibility the Presidium Committee placed on the projects underway to improve the facilities particularly for young people. Secondly the Civic Service which Cllr Gittus said was a wonderful event and thanked all councillors that had helped.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding and Drainage – 06/02/10

Councillor Gittus, the Flood Champion, gave an update stating he had attended the joint agency meeting and it had been announced the money for the Flood Relief pumps had been released and commented on the cost which had now risen to £1.1 million but County Council Highways have put more money in. Detailed Surveys are due to start soon with the full plans possibly available before March. HSBC are committed to extend the pipe put in by Waitrose. Severn Trent have placed flow meters in Gas House Lane to enable a full model of the Foul Sewer system to be drawn up.

Alcester Area Health Reforms – 07/02/10

Councillor Cumberbatch, the Healthcare Champion, gave an update on the progress being made by the Doctors and the Integrated Health and Social Care Team, however there were two issues that were being monitored, firstly staffing levels of the integrated team and secondly the Doctors had appointed a Project Manager and were close to appointing designers.

Youth Provision – 08/02/10

The Clerk gave an update on Youth Projects stating that due to the bad weather and exam commitments the Youth Council meeting had been cancelled, and would now take place after half term. The MUGA was progressing well with completion due end of March. Queries were raised from Councillors regarding the appointment of a Youth Champion, Cllr

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Payne answered saying even in the event of there being n Youth Champion links were being made which ensured Young People's opinions were being heard.

Planning Committee – 09/02/10

Cllr Graham gave a report on behalf of the Planning Committee stating there had been two meetings planned however due to no planning applications one was cancelled. Work on Stratford Road regarding fencing and landscaping was imminent.

Proposals to Council:

None at present

Amenities Committee – 10/02/10

Amenities Committee Chairman N Dearling gave a report on behalf of the committee stating that the proceedings had been dominated by Allotment Holders who had been invited to talk about setting up an Allotment Association. The general consensus was in favour of forming an Allotment Association and the following proposal was agreed. Cllr Dearling also stated that Councillors should be aware of the significant Tree Work that is taking place at the cemetery that was hampered by soft ground.

The Proposal to Council: 'to agree in principle the formation of an Allotment Association' was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Dearling, seconded by Cllr Payne and approved by Council.

Cllr Crabtree queried the progress with the Community Orchard, Cllr Gittus commented saying a meeting was planned next week to agree on the location of the orchard and this project had been successful with County Council Community Development Funding for over £8,000.

Recreation Committee – 11/02/10

Recreation Committee Chairman J Bunting was not present to give a report the clerk reported that much of the Committees time had been spent regarding the MUGA and Natural Play projects. Cllr Dearling gave a short report re Alcester Vision Projects stating that a presentation has been put together regarding the overall achievements and future vision projects and a date was being sought to do this.

The Clerk gave a report regarding Alcester Pavilion stating Plans for the Kitchen extension had been submitted to the user groups for comment and a wish list of equipment had been considered.

No Proposals to Council were received

Community Committee – 12/02/10

a) Chairman Payne gave a report on behalf of the Community Committee stating that some information had already been submitted on Flooding and Health, however the last Flood Forum meeting on January 11th it was announced HSBC were to complete the section under the bank to the same specification as Waitrose. There was a concern on Community Safety as one PCSO had been moved to Henley. On Business the committee was looking at representation at the Game Fair at Ragley Hall and the Business Fair at the Greig, they had also looked at 'Walkers Welcome' and were considering advertising our walks on their web site to bring more visitors to the Town.

b) Cllr Malin gave a report on behalf of the Communication sub-committee stating the Surgeries were still quiet but people were coming in, the next Surgery was to take place 6th February. He reminded councillors that the deadline for submissions for the newsletter were to be in by February 19th to enable delivery 1st week in March. The website was being updated and councillors were invited for comments.

Proposals to Council:

a) The provision of 18 waterproof jackets for the Alcester Town Football Club Under 9's at a cost of approximately £400 was removed following a statement from the Mayor that this money was being found from the Mayors Charity fund which was set up for this sort of purpose.

b) The sum of £200 for the Alcester and Forest of Arden Food Festival was approved.

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Scrutiny Committee – 13/02/10

There were no Scrutiny Meetings to report

Presidium – 14/02/10

The Presidium Committee Chairman reported that it had meet to

Removal of Register Office from Alcester – 15/02/10

This item had been requested by Cllr Kenyon and was deferred due to his absence

Complaints and Community Forum requests – 16/02/10

The Clerk gave a report on general concerns received and actions taken this included a letter accompanied by the code of practice relating to the use of A boards and goods on pavements. Councillors agreed that the complaint should be referred to the Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce to be brought to the attention of High Street Traders so that the concern can be addressed locally rather than going to a higher authority. The Clerk reminded Council that the next Community Forum was the 9th February at the Graftons Village Hall.

Payment of Accounts – 17/02/10

Payment of Accounts were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cumberbatch, seconded by Cllr Malin and approved by Council.

Correspondence – 18/02/10

The following correspondence was

- a) Letter from WALC re proposed establishment of a WALC Parish & Town Council Liaison meeting – The Clerk informed Council this was taking the place of the Parish Liaison meetings formerly organised by Stratford District Council to enable a wider range of guest speakers.
- b) Letter from WALC re nominations for Royal Garden Party on 22 July – This was noted and Cllr Gough and his wife were proposed as nominees.
- c) Letter from Alcester War Memorial Town Hall re AGM – This was noted. Cllr Dearling, who acts as the Town Council representative, stated he was willing to step aside as he is also the representative to other organisations.
- d) Letter from Stratford District Council re Tree Preservation Order – This was noted by Councillors.
- e) Letter from Sacha Barnes Associates re tree planting – This was noted by Councillors.
- f) CPRE magazine – This was passed to Councillors for circulation.
- g) The Arden magazine from VASA – This was passed to Councillors for circulation. Cllr Adams proposed a letter of congratulation should be sent to Clarissa Roberts, which was agreed.

District and County Councillors' Reports – 19/02/10

The following reports were received from Ward, District and County Councillors:

District Councillor Sue Adams reported the Housing Moratorium was remaining in place subject to a decision by Cabinet and the Local Development Core Strategy would be available from Monday.

District Councillor Payne stated he had attended the following meetings, the Youth Provision Task Group, the Heritage Trust, Conway Fields Stakeholders, the Civic Service and an Estate site visit with Orbit Housing.

County Councillor Gittus stated he had circulated his report, but further commented he had attended the District Council meeting on the Moratorium and made a presentation not to lift it for various reasons, and there had been a cross party decision for it to remain to allow Alcester More time to get its infrastructure issues in place. He also stated he had attended the Maudslay Consultaion at Great Alne, and the Kinwarton Parish Council meeting. Cllr Crabtree asked if there was any progress with the Fire and Rescue Service Review. Cllr Gitus replied that it held up because of the volume of information that had been submitted.

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Notification of Future Visitors – 20/02/10

The clerk reported there were none to date

Notification of any further business for future meetings – 21/02/10

The Mayor gave a reminder to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

Dates of future meetings – 22/02/10

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the following meeting dates:

Planning Committee Mon 8 February at 6.30pm & Mon 22 February at 7.00pm

Community Committee Monday 8 February at 7.30pm

Recreation Committee Monday 22 February at 7.00pm

Amenities Committee Monday 22 February at 8.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House