

**MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00pm ON MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2010 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD,
ALCESTER (SEGGS LANE ENTRANCE)**

Present

Cllr E Payne (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Adams, Cllr C Gough, Cllr L Cumberbatch, J Hodges, D Wade, C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk). Also in attendance: Cllr Hine, Cllr Crabtree, Jenny Theobald.

Public participation at discretion of Chair

No public were present

1. Apologies

Cllr Gittus, Cllr Malin, Cllr Carr

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 December 2009 had been circulated and were approved and signed.

4. Emergency Planning

a) Cllr Payne reported that following the Flood Forum meeting held on 4 December 2009, the Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Scheme Presentation was shown to all parties. The Project Approval was to meet in January to release funds and a contractor was to be formally appointed. The Old Town Drain: at Corinthian Court the culvert is single skin brickwork at 2.6m deep and 600mm diameter. This is in poor repair and heavily rooted. Initially high power water jets at 600mm were used but the brickwork seemed unstable and the amount of water used to proceed 20m or so. A flail at 400 diameter was then used to cut the roots for a further 40-50m. New manholes are required within the drain to cut the roots more economically. This will require consent from Ragley Estates and English Heritage due to the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Anna Stocks is aware of the manholes required.

Waitrose - new 600mm culvert replaced there collapsed in several places 375mm drain. Three new manholes installed along the length. All falls are in the correct direction, all storm water from the new car park will go to the old town drain. Currently CCTV and unblocking links into the old town drain. Current value of works around £35k.

HSBC - plan to install an additional 600mm culvert from the rear of their car park to the old town drain at the front of their building. The existing 225mm culvert will remain in place. The new culvert will travel along the existing driveway between the properties.

Bleachfield Street South allotments are owned by SDC and leased to Alcester Town Council. The Town Council is currently holding back two allotments to reduce the impact during works. Once the design is complete a meeting is to be held with Stratford District Council, Alcester Town Council and the Environment Agency.

Road closure map proposal discussed.

Orbit - no communication received - Alison Hampson is to chase.

Communication - deadline for the next Town Council newsletter is 20 February 1010 for early March release.

The date of the Environment Agency Approval Board Meeting for the release of funds is planned for 26 January, therefore the date of the next Alcester Flood Forum has to be rearranged for 27/28/29 January.

b) Emergency Box – on hold at present.

c) Emergency Plan – Cllr Payne and the Assistant Clerk were to liaise and get the booklet up to date.

d) Fire Station consultation - the decision by Warwickshire County Council has been delayed until later in the year.

5. Community Safety

a) Cllr Payne reported that the Neighbourhood Watch meeting had been successful; PCSO David Martin had transferred to Henley and we had a new PCSO in Alcester, who was to be invited to a future meeting.

6. Business Support

a) David Wade reported that the Game Fair to be held at Ragley on 23 to 25 July was to be a very large event. David was in contact with the organisers and was to attend the meetings.

David was supporting the parking arrangements for the Alcester and Arden Food Fair on 24 April. The Scouts were to be involved with traffic control.

The Welcoming Walkers group were looking for commitment from the town, and David was to contact Derek Spencer from Kings Coughton. One advantage is that Alcester would be on their website as a town that welcomed walkers.

The Alcester Business Show was on 17 March and the Town Council had booked a stand.

7. Town Development Working Group

Cllr Adams reported that a meeting was to be held at the end of January. David Morgan of VASA would like to hold a meeting of the West Midlands Redevelopment Group in Alcester; it would be a three hour event, and the Clerk has asked for more information.

8. Senior Citizens' Issues

John Hodges reported that it is right to acknowledge the commitment and work of the health and home care teams who have persevered in providing support to the older members of our community at this very difficult time. Equally once again so many in our community have acted as good neighbours and friends. In the time ahead these informal support networks will be vital as reductions in funding for service and changes in delivery of home care by the County Council are and will further reduce community resilience. SCAN and Forum chairs across the county have been seeking to raise awareness of this for 12 months but it is a subject not as media-friendly or emotive as the fire brigade, yet vital for older people. John suggested three ways the Town Council could respond:

Support through grants organisations directly linked with the older members of our community and those that encourage volunteering.

Building on the SDC database project of information and advice for older residents. Resource localising and publishing this in the Council newsletter and providing an advice line number.

Revisit the Red Cross community resilience programme and see if there are ideas to be developed and options such as a community warden scheme based at the Pavilion who could facilitate responses at times such as the current weather event.

Cllr Payne reported that the paths around Malt Mill Lane had been cleared by the gardeners. Cllr Gittus and Orbit have arranged for the area to be gritted in the next few days. Cllr Hine was to check on grit bins, and is also providing a shopping service for residents in need. The Clerk was to check with WALC on whether shopkeepers were liable if they clear the pavements outside their shops and someone slipped. David Wade was to ask his advisors on the legal situation. A Community Volunteer scheme was suggested, and enhanced CRB checks would be needed for anyone working with children and vulnerable adults. Cllr Payne had dealt with an overcharge for a digital aerial to an elderly lady in the town. An article was to be included in the next newsletter.

9. Health and Inequalities

a) Cllr Cumberbatch reported that the programme schedule for the hospital had been issued which can be circulated. The next meeting was to be held in February. The doctors have now appointed their project manager. The Integrated Team has put in a lot of effort in the last two months and they are now beginning to work as a team. There are a few gaps but hopefully it will continue to develop. The move to the old Moorfield Road School is on track for February. Warwickshire County Council commissioning process was slow due mainly to changes in funding, procedures and senior personnel. Issues in the north of the county are getting attention and the south seems to be missing out. We need to ensure that the commissioning is proportionate to need. Warwickshire County Council is aiming for a user-led service and Cllr Cumberbatch is on the group.

b) Cllr Payne reported that a meeting of ACT.com was to be held this week.

10. Youth Issues

The Clerk reported that the Youth Council was due to meet on Thursday, but it was still a fragile group. It was important to get a forum of young people to secure funding. They are to be invited to a meeting with Chris Brannigan. It is important to identify a youth champion. The Clerk and Cllr Payne are working on this and some news was hoped for soon. Two youth workers have been trained and are now working in the town with hard to reach youth. The Town Council have offered the Pavilion to be the focal point.

11. Council Representation on Outside Bodies

Cllr Carr had formally resigned as the representative on the St Nicholas School Governors. This is an appointment of full Council, and will be an item on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting.

12. Community Venues

The Clerk passed round new plans for the Pavilion. It was a wrap-around design around the current Pavilion. Budget figures have been given and it can be built in stages. Extra funding can be applied for once the youth have a building. The Clerk will now talk to Rob McCluskey of Warwickshire County Council as there was a good chance of getting £100,000 from the Norton Foundation. The Clerk was currently looking at kitchen improvements and ACT.com was to make a contribution.

13. Communication

a) There was a query on the proposed surgery date of 3 April, as it was Easter Saturday. Cllr Payne was to speak to Cllr Malin about this.

b) The website continues to be updated, but any comments and items for inclusion were welcome.

- c) The next newsletter was to be published in March and the deadline for articles was 20 February.

13. Correspondence

- a) Email re breast screening unit - The Greig could not now accommodate this unit and Cllr Cumberbatch had spoken to Anita Stanton at the NHS. Moorfield School was a possibility and they have applied to Waitrose as a second option. Long term the unit should go to the hospital site.
- b) SCAN newsletter - the next meeting was on 14 January at 10.30am - noted.
- c) NALC Notice of Section 137 expenditure limit for 2010/2011 - noted.
A VASA (previously CVS) Trustees meeting was being held at the Town Hall on 10 February.

14. Propositions to Full Council

None

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 8 February at 7.30pm at Globe House.