

**MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 8 MARCH 2010 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD,
ALCESTER (SEGGS LANE ENTRANCE)**

Present

Cllr E Payne (Chair), Cllr C Gough, Cllr W Malin, Cllr L Cumberbatch, Cllr Mrs Y Hine, J Hodges, D Wade, Mrs J Theobald, C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk). Also in attendance: Cllr P Crabtree, PCSO Ali Streatfield.

Public participation at discretion of Chair

No public were present

1. Apologies

Cllr M Gittus, Cllr Mrs S Adams, Cllr Hancox, Cllr Kenyon.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 February 2010 had been circulated and were approved and signed.

4. Emergency Planning

a) Cllr Payne reported that funding has been given by Stratford Transport Seminar for Gas House Lane storm drains to be connected to the old town drain on Stratford Road. The Environment Agency (EA) now has £968,000 of the project estimate of £1,100,000 and the Project Approval Board released funds in January. A contractor has been formally appointed. Surveys are to be completed over the next few weeks to confirm the final design. Letter drops to be completed.

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 400mm diameter was 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 Ancient Monument site. Neil Chetwynd to chase content.

The bridge survey was completed and the flow of the river deemed to be good.

Highways to inspect their unflapped outfall from becoming scoured by erosion at River Alne upstream of Stratford Road.

Highways completed work on the entrance to Gas House Lane where a foul and storm sewer cross at the same level and a sump introduced.

The highway storm water pipework from Gas House Lane to the main connection to be replaced by April 2010.

Highways have requested extra funding for the works to the old town drain - possible £40,000 for the EA.

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 - plan to start works April 2010.

Bleachfield Street allotments are owned by Stratford DC and leased to Alcester Town Council. The TC 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 DC, Alcester TC and EA.

Severn Trent Water has funding for the foul issues at Alcester. They are currently modelling the sewers and have flow meters in position for approximately two months for a feasibility study. Model verification planned for April/May and the cost benefits will be calculated.

Orbit - no communication - A Hampson to chase.

Alcester Public Forum - display boards to be arranged for 16 March 2010 at Globe House 4-8pm.

b) Emergency Box – The Environment Agency (EA) had indicated that they may assist us subject to certain provisions, eg colour of box and an EA sticker alongside the Alcester Town Council crest.

c) Emergency Plan – Cllr Payne and the Assistant Clerk had almost completed the Plan. A new Floodline phone was needed as the old one had stopped working.

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

5. Community Safety

a) PCSO Ali Streatfield gave a report on the meeting held on Hopkins Precinct. A dispersal order was in place and it was hoped that the new MUGA and Pavilion extension would help. Tesco had problems with theft and were getting Police advice on improved security. A meeting between the owner

of Hopkins Precinct, Peter Thorneycroft, and the Police was to be organised soon. Sgt Wild was going into the schools to speak to the children and was working with parents. The chocolate run on Friday nights for the younger children was working well. John Hodges had reported an incident on Friday night and asked for an update. Ali was to investigate and report back. Cllr Carr was to feed back information to the Committee from the Police.

6. Business Support

a) David Wade reported that there been a request and support for a 'Slow Food' market in the town. A £300 discount had been given on the licence for the Food Festival on 24 April, and the road closure had been granted. 15 stalls had been booked and paid for. A Business Show was being held at the Greig Centre on 17 March from 10 to 4 and the Town Council was to be represented. A meeting before the day will be held at Globe House. At a recent Chamber of Trade meeting, it was endorsed that shuttle coaches be provided into the town from the Ragley Game Fair in the summer at a cost of £275 per coach. The Chamber of Trade was to raise funds to pay for the coaches.

7. Town Development Working Group

Cllr Payne reported that a meeting was being called soon.

8. Senior Citizens' Issues

John Hodges reported that he had revisited the two priorities for older residents first brought to the Committee at his first meeting, ie access to information enabling their choices; access to services enabling their independence. John had met with Dr Betts and officers of Warwickshire CC in Adult Community Services, and attended the county conference focusing on housing and 'lifetime neighbourhoods'. He had also spent a morning at Stratford DC with Dave Nash and Cllr Gray. The priorities have not changed but the threshold of access to all services for and supporting older people has been raised and will escalate in the months ahead. Dr Betts emphasised the role of all councillors, county, district and town, alongside the officers of the councils in communicating how the policies created after consultation are being delivered within the agreed strategy. This is particularly important in view of financial restraints. John has identified seven categories as benchmarks for Alcester: Improving the health and well-being of our older population; improving their quality of life to support independent living; supporting volunteering and community involvement; enabling them to make their own choices and remain in control of their own lives; advising and supporting all organisations and the business community to reduce age discrimination; encouraging, advising on advocacy and supporting their economic well-being; working for the dignity and respect for all older people in service provision.

9. Health and Inequalities

a) Cllr Cumberbatch reported that the aim of developing services is improved access and well-informed people. This has to be done in relation to financial constraints. Cllr Cumberbatch was concerned with ensuring that the full business case approved at the next Warwickshire NHS Board meeting on 10 March, and there is a lot of work to do. At present 19.3% are over 65 and by 2029 it will be 29%. Cllr Cumberbatch will be working with John Hodges to prepare a Town Council strategy of health and social care needs, and Rotary are committed to helping.

b) ACT.com - a meeting is being held on Wednesday 10 March at 1.30pm with the Clerk, Cllr Payne, Cllr Adams and Jan Roberts of Stratford DC to discuss the future of ACT.com. It is to become a sub-committee of the Community Committee. Cllr Gough and the WRVS are to meet the new contractors for the meals service.

10. Youth Issues

The Clerk reported that the MUGA was on track to be finished by the end of March. The architect's amendments were not acceptable to Stratford DC, and a radius wall had to be put around a tree to protect it. The St Nicholas School funding was to be used on the MUGA. Jenny Theobald is searching for funds for the shelters, and the Clerk is to supply a price for the application forms.

The Playbuilder application to Stratford DC for equipment for up to 16 year-olds had been awarded £42,500, subject to call-in. A funding application had been made to the Norton Foundation for £100,000 for the youth club building. We have made it to stage two (out of three) of the process and a meeting was being held Tuesday 9 March to fill in the application form. We are also applying to Warwickshire CC for further funding.

The Youth Council is meeting on 22 March and is working closely with the two outreach workers. The Games Night held on 4 March was well attended and very successful, and hopefully another one could be organised. Jenny was working on getting more members for the Youth Council and building confidence with young people. Jenny was also searching for funds for play equipment for disabled children, which the Youth Council could apply for. A councillor needs to be a contact between the youth and the committee.

11. Community Venues

Alcester Pavilion - equipment was available from the hospital and the school on Moorfield Road. The work was imminent and quotes were coming in next week. Funding of £1000 had been received from ACT.com for the purchase of a cooker.

12. Communication

a) Cllr Malin reported that the Surgery held on 6 March, Sgt Wild attended and several matters were answered by him. Complaints included speeding motorcycles, dropped kerbs blocked by cars and missing litter bins. The next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 10 April from 10am to 12 noon at Church House.

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

c) The next newsletter had been delivered and was well received. The deadline for the Summer newsletter was 21 May for delivery early June. Please let the Assistant Clerk have any articles you wish to be considered for inclusion.

13. Correspondence

a) Letter from Karen Verena shop on Swan Street - passed to Town Dev Working Group

b) Road Safety Pack from Warwickshire CC - passed to Cllr Gough

c) Stakeholders Database Form from Warwickshire CC - passed to Cllr Cumberbatch

14. Propositions to Full Council

None

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 12 April at 7.30pm at Globe House