

**A MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDIUM WAS HELD AT 10:30  
a.m. ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD,  
ALCESTER (ENTRANCE FROM SEGGS LANE)**

**Present**

M Gittus (Mayor), C Gough (Deputy Mayor), J Bunting (Recreation Chair), E Payne (Community Chair), Y Hine (representing Amenities). P Crabtree(Scrutiny).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No Public were present

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dearling (Amenities Chair), Cllr Graham (Planning Chair) and Cllr Hancox (Scrutiny Chair)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of interest were received.

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009, having been circulated were approved

**4. Current Financial Position**

The Clerk presented a breakdown of the expenditure and income to December with a bank reconciliation. This was used to demonstrate the end of year forecast and the precept figures for next year and how it was made.

**5. Budget Issues**

Committee Chairmen gave their budget requirements for the forthcoming year  
Cllr Dearling via Cllr Hine sent approval for the figures to be presented by the clerk following previous discussions with the Clerk reasoning that the programme would include tree work, further work to the cemetery to denote more grave spaces and support to an allotment association which was hoped to get going over this year, and with the level of work required it was estimated a slight increase in the budget would be beneficial.  
Cllr Bunting clarified that work was starting in February on the MUGA and although capital funding had been achieved through Vision for Alcester this, along with the Riverside Walk, would impact on the recreation budget as a further person may be required for ground maintenance. The demise of Alcester Opportunity at the pavilion had also had an impact with decisions on projects being held back until a fuller picture was available and as a consequence it was expected that money would be needed for the Kitchen to be upgraded to enable Lunch Clubs to operate, improvements also were needed for the changing room area in the Ladies and Gents toilets and officials changing area as well as some improvement to the changing areas to meet the football club's league specification. Cllr Bunting also stated the wrap around design extension to the pavilion and the applications for funding to achieve the long needed Youth Club were also bound to impact on the budget as this was a very important project for the town. Considerable work was still under consideration for the play areas including the Natural Play area which needed some investment from the council to facilitate the Play Builder funding and also modernisation of Collins Way play area which was overdue. The results of a full inspection of the play areas was also due. It was not yet certain how much the Pavilion was likely to cost over the year, and a decision would have to be made on certain areas of grass cutting undertaken by the council following liquidation of a company ie. Roebuck Park. Cllr Bunting did not believe there was any scope for reduction and a rise would be beneficial.  
Cllr Payne stated that the eight page Newsletter had been a success and continuing the extra community information was very important. Cllr Payne also stated the concern over the extra pressure working to get funding and in starting the Youth Council, the importance of which was demonstrated at various meetings, had placed on the clerk as well as the work that has been put in to keep the pavilion going. He stated that the Community Committee was also reaching a position where it needed more resources to be made available to support essential community activity particularly seeking funding and also in the promotion Community projects such as the Youth Council, Flooding and Emergency

Response, Community Safety, Health, Older people, the Community Orchard etc. He proposed that the Council consider employing someone in this area.

The clerk gave a report on behalf of Planning stating that work was ongoing with improvements at Stratford Road and had benefitted by soil from the Riverside walk to achieve approval for the work from English Heritage. When weather conditions permit further work including rotovating the area and levelling for grass seeding along with some comprehensive fencing, tree work and the planting of defensive shrubs. This would continue slightly into the new financial year, but is covered from our contingency fund. All further cost centres were to stay in and be finally agreed in the new year when final figures were available

#### **6. Precept Considerations**

Following further consideration a unanimous decision was made that the precept for the coming year should be increased by 2% for the coming year. This equated to £1:86 per band D household per annum.

#### **7. Correspondence**

The Clerk reported there was no correspondence to be reported at present.

#### **8. Propositions to Full Council**

Presidium agreed that the following proposal should be put before a meeting of the Full Council:

'The Alcester Town Council Precept for the coming year be increased by 2%'.

#### **9. Dates of Future Meetings**

TBA in April to Discuss the Final Year Accounts to address final budgets for year