

**MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 12 APRIL 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 S Adams, Cllr D Hancox, Cllr J Kenyon, Cllr P Carr, J Hodges, D Wade, Mrs J Theobald, C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk). Also in attendance: Cllr P Crabtree, Cllr Mrs Y Hine.

Public participation at discretion of Chair

No public were present

1. Apologies

Cllr M Gittus

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

4. Emergency Planning

a) Cllr Adams reported that at the recent council surgery Floodsaks were on display and 6 people wanted to buy on the day. A further list of people wanting to buy was noted. A proposal was to be made to council to buy a supply and they were to be kept in the new emergency store. The Floodsaks were guaranteed for 5 years.

The Clerk reported that on the site for the pump at Bleachfield St south allotments Stratford District Council was insisting that they were statutory allotments. The Environment Agency's legal team were trying to find a solution. An exact location plan was to be sent to the Secretary of State by the Environment Agency. The test borehole was to go ahead.

b) Emergency Parish Box – this was due to arrive on site any day now.

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 - Cllr Adams to pursue.

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

5. Community Safety

a) Cllr Carr reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the Police to take comments from this committee. It was stressed that the Council wanted to work with them and Cllr Carr was to be the link bringing regular updates to the committee. Cllr Carr reported on the following incidents: 5 March at Hopkins Precinct when anti social behaviour was in progress a police car drove past without stopping but they were en route to another incident; 7 March egg-throwing incident - no police response; another dispersal order is being applied for but people cannot be moved on if no anti social behaviour is going on. A core element of youths 15-20 is causing the most trouble, but the age group 12-15 is being focused on and the police are looking to do more games nights etc. Vision for Alcester is helping with funding and is looking at the police access unit at Evesham. Incidents for 2010 are up on 2009, and burglaries and criminal damage figures are up. There is new legislation on minors with alcohol and various workshops are happening in the town.

Cllr Cumberbatch had concerns that the police were giving up on the core of trouble makers. Cllr Hine had reported the motorcyclists racing round the estate to Sgt Wild and was told that there were no local police on duty that day. John Hodges had concerns about cars racing around the estate; there had been two serious accidents and cars were being driven by underage, unlicensed and uninsured youths. David Wade had reported cars racing round Bleachfield Street. Cllr Payne had received a complaint about young people harassing residents and he would pass it on to Cllr Carr. Safer Neighbourhood Team officers were still being diverted to other places; the Chief Constable can be written to with concerns. Cllr Carr was to enquire if there were any updates from the meeting with Malt Mill Lane residents. Two retirements were imminent at Alcester Police Station but there was no news of replacements.

6. Business Support

a) David Wade reported that the Chamber of Trade AGM had taken place and Andy Mills re-elected as Chairman. There had been new people in attendance. Market town issues were discussed and attracting different things to the town. A suggestion was made of short leases for empty shops. Dates of events in the town had been given to gas contractors.

The Business Show had not been so well attended this year but the Town Council was present this year and was to attend next year. Alcester and Arden Food Festival 24 April - 43 stalls had been sold and more requests were coming in. The Game Fair at Ragley in August was likely to attract 150,000 visitors, and consideration was to be given to having a stand for Alcester Town Council and the

Chamber of Trade. The first meeting of the proposed Slow Food Market is to be held. A survey is to be done at the Food Fair and published.

7. Town Development Working Group

Cllr Adams reported that a meeting was to be arranged. A regeneration meeting was to be held on 28 April in Stratford upon Avon. A small meeting was to be held to agree a response to the Stratford District Council tourism survey.

8. Senior Citizens' Issues

John Hodges reported that national charities including AGE UK are reporting what we have already highlighted in Warwickshire that in all the support services for older people access thresholds are being raised at the same time the service provision is being reduced.

More than ever the old saying that prevention is better than cure is relevant. As a result of lobbying by the SCAN Chairs, the Warwickshire County Council Roadshow VOX (Voice of Experience) is coming to Stratford Racecourse on Thursday 10 June from 10.00am-1.00pm. Flyers with details were handed round and John strongly encouraged councillors to book a place to attend. John and Cllr Cumberbatch were going to attend. There will be opportunities to raise questions and to comment and highlight priorities in services that are available at this time.

9. Health and Inequalities

a) Cllr Cumberbatch reported that the Healthcare Project was progressing and the old school was being prepared for occupation. The process for demolition of the hospital had been arranged. The quality of service people are to get was now being concentrated on and a training programme arranged. A meeting is being held on 13 April with the PCT and senior officers re community involvement. Coventry Partnership Trust was responsible for mental health services and greater emphasis was needed re dementia etc. New dates for public consultation were being set up and will be published on 7 May. The Strategic Health Authority proposed staff cuts will not affect this project but there will be gaps in the Warwickshire County Council contribution.

b) ACT.com - a meeting is to be held re the next 12 months. The Assistant Clerk is working on setting up a training programme for the volunteers.

10. Youth Issues

Jenny Theobald reported that the MUGA was completed and being well-used. The official opening is proposed for 13 May with a tournament and possibly a barbecue. The Stratford Herald was to publish an article about it. A grant application had been made for a shelter on the site. Jenny had attended a consultation at the Pavilion along with Cllr Bunting re play equipment etc. Young people came along and were quite excited about the proposed developments. St Nicholas School was interested in using the Pavilion. Nine had attended the Youth Council meeting and on 22 April a logo competition was to be judged. The Mayor was providing a £50 prize. Visits to other clubs were to be arranged. The Drop-in sessions on Thursdays were very successful, and this was all good evidence of a need. The target age group was 13-19. £4000 was being provided by Vision for Alcester for a communication project.

11. Community Venues

Alcester Pavilion - a funding application had been submitted today to the Norton Foundation for a Youth Club building. Section 106 funding had also been applied for from Stratford District Council. If successful the youth side could be built by next March. Funding for the other side was needed. Surplus equipment was available from the hospital and the old school and a date for it to become available was awaited. The least disruption to users of the Pavilion needs to be taken into consideration when work commences.

12. Communication

a) Cllr Malin reported that the Surgery had been held on 10 April, along with a flood forum. Complaints included blocked drains by the Town Hall and Chestnut Court and overgrown brambles in Bulls Head Tuery. The next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 1 May from 10am to 12 noon at Church House.

b) The website continues to be updated and developed and Paula, Jenny and Cllr Adams were to attend training.

c) 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. Community Grants

The list of grants proposed to be awarded was read out by Cllr Payne. It was proposed that this be put forward as a proposition to full council. Cllr Payne had received two additional requests for grants after the closing date of 28 February. These were from the Chamber of Trade for coaches to the Game Fair and Alcester Netball Team for new kit. Cllr Payne was to get more information on these.

14. Correspondence

- a) Letter from a resident re 'A' boards on pavements. It was agreed that David Wade would write a letter and attach a leaflet from Warwickshire County Council on good practice for placing these boards and take them to businesses in the town.

15. Propositions to Full Council

- a) That community grants be awarded under Section 137 as in the list previously circulated to councillors.
- b) That 10 boxes of Floodsaks be purchased.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 10 May at 7.30pm at Globe House