

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 6th April 2010 at Globe House, Alcester immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Two members of the public were present but did not participate

Present

M Gittus (Mayor), C Gough(Deputy Mayor), S Adams, J Bunting, L Cumberbatch, N Knapman, M Graham, J Kenyon, D Hancox, E Payne, N Dearling, W Malin, Y Hine, R Leek, P Crabtree.

Apologies - 010410

P Carr

Minutes of last meeting 02/03/10 (circulated) - 020410

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 March 2010, having been circulated, were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Malin, seconded by Cllr Crabtree and approved by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 030410

No declarations of interest were received

Mayor's Report - 040410

A written report from the Mayor on recent activities was distributed amongst members. The Mayor also referred to two items in particular, the Town Council civic dinner and the Town Criers competition which were of particular enjoyment.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding and Drainage - 050410

Councillor Gittus, as Flood Champion gave an update stating that, considering the level of development, he was satisfied with the progress, however there were a few areas of concern: the ownership of the 'Town Drain', the statutory status of the allotment site where one of the pumps was due to be sited and the capacity of the Stratford Road Pumping Station.

Alcester Area Health Reforms - 060410

Councillor Cumberbatch, the Healthcare Champion gave an update on the Alcester Health Project stating the Integrated Home Care Team will be moving into the Moorfield School site in the coming month and that the plans for the new building have been agreed by both the PCT and County Council and will be on display at Globe House. Further displays will be done at Studley and Bidford. Councillors asked if an empty High Street shop could be used for displaying the plans.

Youth Provision - 070410

The Clerk gave an update on Youth Projects in particular the completion of the Multi Use Play Area on Conway Fields, the proposed Pavilion Extension Plans which had now been put forward for Planning Approval, and the proposed Natural Play area development on Conway Fields. Councillors commented on the popularity of the MUGA already.

Fairtrade - 080410

Councillor Knapman gave a report regarding Fairtrade, stating both the Fairtrade trail and Fairtrade Fortnight were both successful and businesses were being consulted on the impact on sales of both Fair Trade and Organic goods. Signage was also an urgent requirement.

Closure of Alcester Registrar's office - 090410

Cllr Gittus gave a report on the closure of the Registrar's office at Alcester, stating it had become uneconomic to continue. Councillors raised a number of concerns including the accessibility and parking facility for people needing to visit the Stratford Office, for people who may be disabled or in distress.

Concern was also raised regarding the consequential closure of the two County Council offices in Globe House, which results in the 'One Stop Shop' aspect possibly becoming difficult to maintain. Councillors discussed the possibility of the Town Council using the

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office space to expand the office capacity. The Presidium Committee are to investigate and report back.

WRVS - 100410

Cllr Gough declared a personal interest.

Cllr Gittus gave a report on the Meals on Wheels situation stating WRVS had been replaced by 'County Enterprise Food' who were run by Nottingham County Council. Councillors raised concerns on the loss of Lunch Clubs and the apparent drop in the personal service WRVS had provided and agreed all must be done to retain the facility where possible. Councillors were reminded the extension at the pavilion included more community space and with the improvement that was already planned to improve the kitchen it was hoped the Lunch Club facility could be improved with Town Council support. The Community Committee are to continue investigating the issue and report back.

Planning Committee - 110410

The Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr Graham, gave a report stating there had been two meetings in March, and objections had been raised on one application. A response had been sent on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the planned development for the Maudsley site in Great Alne. Work was also ongoing on the Design Statement for the Conservation Area.

There were No proposals to full Council at present.

Amenities Committee - 120410

The Amenities Committee Chairman N Dearling gave a report stating an Allotment Management Committee had been formed, planning permission was not required for a container at the cemetery and trees near houses had been the biggest problem over the year.

There were No proposals to full Council at present.

Recreation Committee - 130410

Committee Chairman J Bunting gave a report for the Recreation Committee stating work was now due to start at the pavilion on the kitchen and two toilets. A recent open day was held when the plans for the pavilion were on display. Three issues were brought up, Parking around the pavilion especially for local residents, a skate park for young people and fencing around the play area to keep out dogs. Equipment for the Natural Play Area was also coming on site in May.

Cllr Dearling gave a report re Alcester Vision Projects stating the steering committee were due to meet to get the projects off the ground for year 3, and a list of projects would then become available.

There were No proposals to full Council at present.

Community Committee - 140410

Community Committee Chairman Cllr Payne gave a report stating ACT.COM had given £1000 towards the kitchen development at the pavilion, Community Safety issues at Hopkins Precinct had been addressed at a forum in Globe House where the Town Council had stated its long term plans for Youth provision in the area, the Town Council had a stand at the Business Show held at the Greig Hall and were also supporting the Food Festival. The Business Champion was looking at how to make the most of the Game fair at Ragley.

The Communication sub-committee Chairman Cllr Malin gave a report stating no meeting had taken place but reminded councillors of the forthcoming Surgery dates and the deadline for the Newsletter on the 21st May.

There were No proposals to full Council at present.

Section 137 Grants 2010 - 150410

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A report on proposed Section 137 grants for 2010 was deferred as it had not been formally approved by the Community Committee

Scrutiny Committee - 160410

Scrutiny Committee Chairman Cllr Hancox gave a report stating no formal issues had been discussed, but Scrutiny were due to meet. A concern was raised regarding the involvement of District Councillors during a meeting who were not Town Council Members and the Scrutiny Committee were to report on the matter.

Presidium - 170410

The Presidium Committee Chairman stated no report was necessary as they had not met.

Complaints and Local Forum reports - 180410

The Clerk reported on general concerns received and actions taken, however due to the timings of the Town Council surgery more information would be available next month.

Payment of Accounts - 190410

The Clerk gave a report by for approval by Council on Payment of Accounts. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Cllr Malin and seconded by Cllr Graham.

Correspondence - 200410

The following correspondence was noted by Councillors:

- a) A Letter re consultation on land north of Allinmore Lane
- b) Invitation from Warwickshire CC to an open event on Adult Social Care.
- c) Review of selection criteria for Parish Council representatives on Stratford DC Standards and Ethics Committee. Councillor Adams declared an interest.
- d) WALC newsletter March 2010 (circulated)

District and County Councillors' Reports - 210410

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

Cllr Adams reported that from 1st April a £2 concessionary Bus Ticket was available for travel within the District.

Cllr Payne reported attendance at a number of meetings.

Cllr Gittus had left a written report in Councillors packs but mentioned in particular that Birch Abbey was to reopen and there is to be a meeting with the project manager from the West Midlands Alliance Gas company regarding the slowness of the work taking place in Alcester and the hindrance to traffic flow through the town centre.

Notification of Future Visitors - 220410

- a) The Clerk reported there were None to date

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 230410

The Mayor made a request to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting none were forthcoming.

Dates of future meetings - 240410

The following committee meetings were noted

Planning Committee Monday 12 April at 6.30pm & Monday 26 April at 7.00pm

Community Committee Monday 12 April at 7.30pm

Recreation Committee Monday 26 April at 7.00pm

Amenities Committee Monday 26 April at 8.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Also the Annual Town Council meeting on 4th May

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House

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