

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 1st June 2010 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Five members of the public were present and District Councillor Susan Juned. Mr Terry Carter raised an issue with the Greig Centre, following a recent meeting involving the Greig Board and the user groups at the Greig. He stated that the Greig Board had plans to sell part of the site, demolishing the Greig Hall and reducing the Car Park area with proposals to build an extension. This was however not acceptable as the proposed extension would not have enough capacity. Cllr Gough stated the council had been treated to information but had respected the Greig's wishes for it to be kept confidential.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Juned reported changes to planning from a regional perspective to a more local one. Alcester was also being considered on a whole place concept, with District Councillors invited. Questions were also raised on the position of Birch Abbey. Cllr Payne reported the District Council are restructuring committees such as Planning and Scrutiny.

Cllr Gittus replied re. Birch Abbey stating he had corresponded his disappointment at the position and a reply is still awaited. Cllr Gittus also reported on the Middle High Street Crossing, meals on wheels and the Fire and Rescue Service review.

A G E N D A (Standing Orders Apply)

Apologies - 010610

Cllr Adams, Cllr Graham, Cllr Carr.

Minutes of last meeting 11/05/10 - 020610

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 May 2010, having been circulated, were approved and signed.

Declarations of Interest - 030610

Members were asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda; none were received.

Mayor's Report - 040610

The Mayor gave a report on his recent activities, which included the opening of the Multi Use Games Area, the Twinning Association reception for people from Vallet in France and the Alcester Town Football Club Presentations. The Mayor also commented on the Fred Parrot award that had been given to Councillor Bill Malin, and on Councillor Eric Payne, who was now the Deputy Chairman of Stratford District Council.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding and Drainage - 050610

Councillor Gittus, the Flood Champion gave an update on the progress of the Flood Relief Project stating there were still some concerns regarding the ownership of the Town Drain, the connection of the HSBC pipework, with some remedial work being promised by Severn Trent Water. The Emergency Store had still not arrived, although in stock, due to health and safety considerations.

Alcester Area Health Reforms – 060610

Councillor Cumberbatch, the Healthcare Champion gave an update on the position of the Alcester Project following the meeting at the Greig Hall stating the project

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was still progressing. A draft Health and Social Care document would also be available soon.

Youth Provision - 070610

The Mayor made a statement on Youth Projects reading a Letter from the Norton Foundation which commended the Town Council on its presentation to them and awarded a grant of £100,000 toward the 'Depot' project to bring the town one step closer to a dedicated youth club building. The Clerk asked the Council to thank one of the Youth Council members who had attended the presentation, which was agreed.

Planning Committee - 080610

A report was given by Cllr Hancox on behalf of the Planning Committee Chairman stating there had been two meetings in May. Work had started to tidy up the Stratford Road site and the state of the Bulls Head Tuery had been reported to the Conservation Officer at Stratford District Council.

There were no propositions to Council.

Amenities Committee - 090610

Amenities Committee Chairman N Dearling gave a report stating the first meeting of the Allotment Committee had been held and there was a meeting in July at the Town Hall to confirm their positions.

Cllr Dearling also made a proposition to Council, that cemetery fees be increased across the board. Cllr Hancox asked that the proposal was deferred to give councillors the chance to see the full proposal. The original proposition was removed.

Recreation Committee - 100610

Recreation Committee Chairman J Bunting gave a report stating the Multi Use Play Area opening had been a success and was very popular. The Natural Play equipment had been installed on the Conway Fields area, but a number of issues had been identified which had resulted in the removal of the seesaw and complaints regarding movement in other equipment when it was being used. The Clerk stated the representative had been contacted and would inspect the next day.

Cllr Dearling gave a report re Alcester Vision Projects stating we were now in year three of four year projects. Progress was made on all projects including Conway fields and pavilion, South Alcester sports facilities, the Heritage surveys and the Riverside Walk, which was behind schedule due to the footpath diversion but still able to be finished.

There were no Proposals to Council.

Community Committee - 110610

Community Committee Chairman E Payne gave a report on behalf of the Committee stating the success of the recent Food Festival and support to the Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce for their involvement in the Italian Market and the CLA Game Fair at Ragley. A meeting with Stratford District Council Planners was also being held to discuss developments in Alcester and to consider a masterplan. This would be followed by a meeting of the Town Development Working Group.

Communication sub-committee Chairman W Malin gave a report stating the Newsletter had gone out on time and the next Town Council Surgery was the next Saturday on June 5th and invited the councillors to join at Church House.

There were no propositions to council.

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Scrutiny Committee - 120610

There was no report from the Scrutiny Committee Chairman

Presidium - 130610

There was no report from the Presidium Committee Chairman

Complaints and Local Forum reports - 140610

Clerk reported there had been no surgery and no complaints to bring forward to council, however he reminded councillors of the forthcoming Community Forum to take place on the 22nd June at St Benedicts High School in Alcester, when a workshop was proposed to look ahead to shape the future of our community.

Payment of Accounts - 150610

Councillors received a report by the Clerk for approval by the Council on the Payment of Accounts, which was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cumberbatch and seconded by Cllr Malin. The Clerk informed the Council the Annual Accounts for 2009-2010 had not yet been received but were imminent and due to the need to send the accounts to the external auditor Clement Keys an extraordinary meeting would be held on Monday 7th June in between the Planning and Community committee meetings to enable the councillors to consider approving the accounts.

Correspondence - 160610

The following correspondence was noted

- a) Thank you letter from the High Bailiff of Alcester Court Leet regarding the recent Court Leet Civic Service.
- b) A Climate Change newsletter from Warwickshire County Council which had already been circulated by e-mail.
- c) The Ragley Estate Matters magazine, copies of which were distributed amongst councillors.

Notification of Future Visitors - 170610

The clerk stated there were no invitations to visitors to date.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 180610

A request was made to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to the next meeting.

Dates of future meetings - 190610

Planning Committee Monday 7 June at 6.30pm and Monday 21 June at 7.00pm

Community Committee Monday 7 June at 7.30pm

Recreation Committee Monday 21 June at 7.00pm

Amenities Committee Monday 21 June at 8.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Council Tuesday 6 July at 7.00pm

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House