

**MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 8.00pm ON MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2010 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD,
ALCESTER (SEGGS LANE ENTRANCE)**

Present Eric Payne (Chair) Cllr W. Malin, Cllr Mrs S Adams, Cllr L. Cumberbatch, Cllr C. Gough, Mr. D. Wade, Mr C. Wright (Clerk), Mrs J Theobald

Public participation at discretion of Chair

None present

Apologies

Cllr M Gittus, Cllr P Carr, Mr J. Hodges

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 November 2010 had been circulated. Mr J Hodges apologies were not recorded. Cllr Payne and the Mayor to get together to compose a letter to the Chief Constable to convey the town's thanks for the good work the PCSO's are doing and their positive effect on the town.

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Emergency Planning

Flood Forum reported at Full Council

- a) Concreting has been delayed. In response to the request from the Environment Agency that all residents of Corinthian Court give permission for parking of the tank, Cllr Payne has written pointing out the difficulties in getting all the signatures and asking that the work proceeds with those submitted. It was reported at a meeting that the holding tank provided by Severn Trent will cost approximately £2m.
- b) Operation Watermark - Students from Alcester Grammar School have delivered letters to households at risk of flooding and will collect for analysis shortly.
- c) The Emergency Plan is now complete and this item will be removed from future Agendas.

5. Health and Inequalities

- a) Hospital - The NHS Warwickshire Project Manager is to fully brief the Stakeholders' group on 17 December. Cllr Cumberbatch will report back at the next meeting.
- b) Social Care Integration Programme – Cllr Cumberbatch will report back at next meeting.
- c) Adult Social Care Services – There are to be significant reductions in grants which will impact on all services. The governments New Vision is to ensure people can maximise all possibilities to live independently but services will be reduced by means-testing making voluntary services essential. Cllr Cumberbatch and Mr Hodges will look at necessary volunteering services.
- d) Ambulance Waiting Times – in Mr Hodges absence, this item is deferred.

6. Business Support

- a) Mr Wade has re-written to HSBC regarding their decision not to paint the outside of the building. The disability access ramp has now been installed.
- b) Tourism – Blue Sails have funding for advice/training for market towns. The criteria is food/tourism and have offered help with Alcester's food fair in May. A representative to be invited to give a presentation at the Town Development Working Group in January. Warwickshire website is to include all towns to bring in more tourism.
- c) A letter has been received from the "Whispering Witch" proposing a ghost festival with mediums operating from the town hall. Mr Wade to discuss the plans with the proprietor.

7. Town Development Working Group

Cllr Adams submitted a report to Full Council

- a) Cllrs Adams and Payne are putting town events onto Alcester's website.
- b) Reddivision has been invited to discuss the production of the free DVD of Alcester at the next TDWG meeting.
- c) The Fairtrade Committee submitted an item "Location and Type of Permanent Signage" to the Alcester & Bidford Community Forum asking that the Fairtrade logo be incorporated on the Town's entrance signs. As the Fairtrade Committee do not have funds to support the project, this will be considered by ATC in the new financial year.

8. Senior Citizens' Issues

Mr Hodges submitted a report in his absence

- a) The weather pattern has highlighted the need to strengthen the cold weather resilience of older residents. Suggested solutions would be a request to Chamber of Commerce for shops who would be willing to make home deliveries in adverse conditions or alternatively volunteers with 4x4 vehicles who would assist.
- b) Challenges such as fuel poverty, budgeting and benefit take up will be discussed in the Money Matters sessions as part of the CAB programme next spring.
- c) Take up of the PCT falls prevention programme launched 2 years ago has fallen to a low level. Age UK is offering to partner ATC in developing a programme gleaned from best practice. Mr Hodges to discuss with the Health Champion and report back.

9. Community Safety

In Cllr Carr's absence, The Future of Policing item to be put on the next Agenda and a request for a presentation at a future ATC forum.

10. Youth Issues

- a) Alcester Youth Council meeting was held on 24 November at the Grammar School. Three new members from the Grammar attended and parental consents are being sought for seven new members from St. Benedict's. The Mayor and the Clerk are to meet with Alcester High School.
- b) Alcester Youth Project Group has given £1000 towards the Police gaming equipment initiative that will run from the Pavilion.

11. Community Venues

- a) Work on the steel frame for the Pavilion extension has been put out to tender
- b) Greig Hall – A newly formed group has written to the SDC's portfolio holder and given a PowerPoint presentation outlining alternative plans for the centre. The Group delivered newsletters to Kinwarton and Arrow and have had positive feedback from volunteers, particularly from those under 40. A meeting was held with the Trustees who welcomed community involvement in running of the Greig Centre.

12. Communication

The next surgery will be held on January 8, 2011

- a) The County Council have written to say that the lights sequence at School Road crossing will be increased by 2 seconds.
- b) Cllr Payne to pursue the bad condition and overhanging growth outside Acorn House

13. Committee Review

Cllr Cumberbatch has discussed the role of the Community Committee with the Clerk. The dates of Forums will be fixed, separate but linked to the Community Committee meetings.

14. Correspondence

None received

15. Proposition to Full Council

No items were proposed for Council approval.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

7.30pm Monday 10 January at Globe House Alcester