

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Monday 7 December 2010 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

Councillors C Gough (Mayor), P Crabtree, P Carr, D Hancox, E Payne, W Malin, N Dearling, M Gittus, S Adams, Y Hine, J Bunting, C Wright (Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Three members of the public were in attendance. Mrs Hill asked if rumours regarding parking charges were true. Cllr Adams stated there had been no discussions to date at the District Council Parking Strategy Committee.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Adams reported that as some general and recycling waste may be missed due to the weather conditions up to 3 sacks by the grey bins and cardboard boxes by the recycling bins would allow extra waste to be collected the next time. Also the District Council are running a road show to try and help to reduce food waste.

Cllr Payne reported the Alcester Health Clinic plans had been approved by the West Area Committee. Also congratulated ABLE on the Christmas Lights; the Clerk was asked to write to their committee thanking them for their hard work.

Cllr Gittus reported that Alcester High School were concerned at having to adopt academy status and being in control of their own budget. A review of policing was being discussed at the Alcester and Bidford Forum and the document was cascaded to members. He reported that although crime figures were down considerably the inevitable cuts would undoubtedly have an impact both in Alcester and Stratford, although possibly not so much on community policing, but in response calls (999) and investigations. Alcester Police station's future is still in doubt.

The Mayor said a short prayer before the start of the meeting.

Apologies - 011210

Apologies and reasons for absence had been received from N Knapman, M Graham, R Leek, J Kenyon and L Cumberbatch (Deputy Mayor)

Minutes of last meeting 2/11/10 - 021210

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

Declarations of Interest - 031210

No declarations of interest were received

Mayor's Report - 041210

The Mayor gave a report on his recent activities which included the St Nicholas Night celebrations, the British Legion Remembrance Concert, the Court Leet Dinner and the switching-on of the Christmas lights.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding and Drainage - 051210

Councillor Gittus, the Flood Champion, gave an update stating the pump progress, which was going well up to the bad weather. He also commented that he and the clerk had attended Project Foster Workshops which were very informative on the recording and mapping of flooding to help with future plans, and Warwickshire County Council had a special responsibility as the Lead Local Authority, the clerk reported on the progress of the exercise Watermark project. Cllr Adams also gave a report on the Severn Trent Water project to improve the Foul Sewer capacity by Stratford Road.

Alcester Area Health Reforms - 061210

Cllr Payne gave a report on behalf of Councillor Cumberbatch, the Healthcare Champion, stating that although appearances seem slow the project is still on track. Discussions have taken place regarding the Adult Social care Transformation

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Monday 7 December 2010 at Globe House, Alcester

programme. Concern is also being raised regarding cuts with the result that the county Council vision for Adult Social Care is to ensure people can maximise all opportunities to live independently.

Youth Provision - 071210

To receive updates on the following Youth Projects

The clerk reported the 'Depot' Youth Club and Community Centre Project at Conway Fields was progressing and colours of the brickwork and cladding were being requested by the architect. Alcester Youth Council continues to meet, however has found it difficult to both retain membership and induct new members, meetings with and at the three senior schools will attempt to address this problem. Projects such as the Depot continue to need their input.

Alcester Youth Project have reorganised and will become more active as the Depot Programme develops.

Planning Committee - 081210

In the absence of the Planning Committee Chairman Cllr Hancox gave a report on his behalf stating they had met twice and there was nothing to report except a reply from the District Council to a recent letter that would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

There were no Proposals to Council at present

Amenities Committee - 091210

Amenities Committee Chairman Cllr Dearling gave a report stating a survey of all the trees on Town Council controlled land had been completed and following work on priority items a maintenance programme will be worked out. Cllr Dearling also reported the Allotment Association were short of a treasurer which had to be addressed before things could move on. Concern was raised by other councillors regarding the trees behind Springfield Road on Conway Fields; Cllr Dearling is to examine his records. There were no proposals to Council at present.

Recreation Committee - 101210

Recreation Committee Chairman Cllr Bunting gave a report stating Vision for Alcester were meeting the following day and following this meeting a full report would be available for January. Minor work to the Pavilion door and a boiler for drinking water had been done and a community use document for the MUGA had been agreed with the schools to release outstanding funds. Planting for the Natural Play area was still outstanding due to the bad weather and planting for the Community Orchard would begin in February.

There were no proposals to Council at present

Community Committee - 111210

Community Committee Chairman Cllr Payne gave a report stating the Emergency Plan had been updated, four grit boxes had arrived and were in place, the asbestos had been removed from the old hospital site, but the HSBC painting had not happened yet to smarten up the High Street. The Food Fair for next year was progressing and should achieve more than last year and the Alcester Chamber of Trade now has a new chairman. Regarding Community Safety thanks go to the PCSO who visited and comforted an old lady who had suffered windows being broken. Lastly the War Memorial is to be cleaned next year for the 90th anniversary of the Alcester Branch of the British Legion.

The Communication sub-committee Chairman Cllr Malin gave a report from the Council Surgery with a number of concerns that had been passed to the relevant

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Monday 7 December 2010 at Globe House, Alcester

authority. Cllr Malin also commented on the Newsletter which had been well received.

There were no Proposals to Council at present.

Scrutiny Committee - 121210

The Scrutiny Committee Chairman Cllr Hancox gave a report stating a meeting had taken place with Helen Vining of Vinings, who act as our internal auditor as a review of the Council Internal Audit and the arrangements made to implement it. Agreements were made on the timing of the Audit process being set by the Clerk and Vinings immediately after the end of the financial year and the accounts being presented by the clerk for audit. Vinings will present a letter of engagement for the internal audit before the end of the financial year for approval.

There were no Proposals to Council

Presidium - 131210

The Mayor Cllr Gough gave a report stating the Greig Dilemma is still taking precedence on time, however a community group formed by young people are getting involved and have had a meeting with the Stratford District Council Portfolio holder and Acting Head of Resources, and also with two Greig Trustees. The Mayor also stated he had met with our MP and Lord Hertford.

There were no Proposals to Council at present

Complaints and Local Forum reports - 141210

Complaints had already been covered by Cllr Malin under His Communication report.

Town Council Membership of Other Groups - 151210

Cllr Adams gave notification of her resignation as the Town Council representative for VASA. The Clerk recommended this would be addressed at the Annual Meeting for future representation to take effect.

Cllr Bunting explained the representative for United Charities had been resolved as Cllr Payne was already a town representative and to automatically take the place of the Town Council Representative allowed a town representative to be elected from the Alcester Community.

Payment of Accounts - 161210

A report was received from the Clerk who requested approval by Council on the Payment of Accounts for November. This was proposed by Cllr Malin, seconded by Cllr Hancox and approved by Council.

The Clerk confirmed the Internal Audit Review by the Scrutiny Committee had fulfilled all outstanding requirements from the External Auditors.

Correspondence - 171210

The following correspondence was noted by councillors and magazines distributed as requested.

- a) Report on budget position of Stratford on Avon DC (circulated)
- b) Draft Corporate Strategy 2011-15 from Stratford on Avon DC (circulated)
- c) Legal Briefing re Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 from NALC (circulated)
- d) E-bulletin re Big Society agenda from NALC (circulated)
- e) Winter Gritting Routes from Warwickshire CC
- f) Snow Warden Scheme from Warwickshire CC
- g) Notification of Scope house-to-house collection dates
- h) Open Space magazine
- i) Countryside Voice magazine

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Monday 7 December 2010 at Globe House, Alcester

j) Stratford View magazine

k) Fieldwork magazine

Notification of Future Visitors - 181210

The Clerk reported there were no Future Visitors booked at present, however the presentation that is to be done by the Greig Hall Action Committee would also be done directly to this council as soon as possible after.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 191210

The Mayor made a request to Councillors for agenda items to be received by the clerk no later than 7 days prior to next meeting

Dates of future meetings - 201210

Councillors were asked to note the following dates of future meetings:

Planning Committee Monday 13 December at 7.00pm

Community Committee Monday 13 December at 8.00pm

Recreation Committee Monday 22 November at 7.00pm

Amenities Committee Monday 22 November at 8.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Council Tuesday 4 January 2011 at 7.00pm

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House.