

# **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 5 April 2011 at Globe House, Alcester**

## **Present**

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

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

A High Street business owner enquired for clarity regarding the issue that had been raised about A boards and shelving that businesses use to enhance their business. Cllr Gittus responded as County Councillor.

## **District and County Councillors' Reports**

The following reports were given from Alcester's Ward District and County Councillors.

Cllr Adams had attended a tourism meeting where she had reiterated that it was for the whole district not just Stratford and she had also attended the Business Fair at the Greig Hall and the Town Hall AGM.

Cllr Juned reported on fuel poverty and energy efficiency, the Alcester Youth Project and the Local Development framework Core Strategy. She had also attended a training day on planning giving some input on energy efficiencies and shared services.

Cllr Gittus spoke on both District and County Council issues. He had spoken at the District Council Cabinet meeting in favour of retaining the new version of face to face at Globe House and also regarding a new green waste charging regime for schools. He had meetings with different parties regarding the future of the Greig Hall had received information that Warwickshire CC Highways were to do work at Bleachfield Street and Henley Street.

Cllr Payne he had attended various events which included the Flood Forum, Fair Trade, Exercise Watermark and the Business Show. He was also addressing the problem with the telegraph pole in Priory Road.

## **The Mayor opened the proceedings in prayer**

## **Apologies - 010411**

Apologies and reasons for absence had been received from M Graham and N Dearling

## **Minutes of previous meeting - 020411**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 March 2011 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Hine and approved.

## **Declarations of Interest - 030411**

Cllr Kenyon declared interests regarding the lease for the old golf range as the Deputy Chair of the Football Club.

## **Mayor's Report - 040411**

The Mayor gave a report on his recent activities stating he found Exercise Watermark very informative, he opened the Acorn Shop and the highlight was the Mayors Civic Dinner. He thanked the councillors who were not seeking re-election and the clerk for his support on what had been a difficult but enjoyable year.

## **Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding and Drainage – 050411**

Cllr Gittus gave an update regarding the Flood Alleviation Schemes stating the Environment Agency projects were coming to a close, however the Severn Trent Water project had started with archaeological digs on the field next to Corinthian Court.

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The Clerk gave some feedback on Exercise Watermark stating the tabletop exercise had shown up a number of weaknesses in the Emergency Plan and an action plan was being drawn up to address these problems. The day itself had gone reasonably smoothly.

### **Alcester Area Health Reforms - 060411**

Councillor Cumberbatch gave an update regarding health provision in the town stating the doctor's consortium will be giving a programme of work to completion. The NHS Warwickshire provider element has now moved to South Warwickshire NHS Trust who has taken responsibility for the Integrated Health and Social Care team in Alcester, the Draft Health Strategy document is nearing completion and we would be looking for a response, a doctor will be writing an article for the Newsletter after May, The new Chief Executive for Coventry and Warwickshire has been announced; he is Mr Steven Jones formerly of Coventry PCT. Cllr Gittus requested information why the demolition had not taken place as supposed, which was answered by finance and other agreements with various bodies.

### **Youth Provision - 070411**

The Clerk gave updates on the following Youth Projects stating that at the 'Depot' Youth Club and Community Centre Project at Conway Fields the contractors were now on site and the development was still on stream for completion in the summer. Our funders were being kept in the loop.

The Clerk also reported a meeting of Alcester Youth Council would take place next week and youth work in the town was still happening with the Rural Outreach Team.

### **Local Government Cuts, Localism and the Big Society - 080411**

Concern was raised regarding the responsibility being placed on volunteers and how far Alcester can improve the situation as it already uses a fair number of volunteers in different organisations, and in particular Cllr Adams raised concern on the pressure the Big Society was putting on the Voluntary Agencies and Citizens Advice Bureau.

### **Planning Committee - 090411**

In the absence of the Planning Committee Chairman Cllr Gittus reported a decision was imminent regarding the Maudslay site at Great Alne. The Clerk reported he and Cllr Knapman had attended a Core Strategy event in Studley on the Development Framework, which had proved interesting.

### **Amenities Committee - 100411**

In the absence of the Amenities Committee Chairman the clerk gave a short report on the progress with the tree maintenance in the town and a report regarding the Allotment Association, following which councillors were asked to consider for approval constitution of the Alcester Town Allotment Association. Concern was raised over the wording relating to the Tenancy and Association Fees as this could be misunderstood, and the clerk was asked to clarify this on the document and to re-present at a future date.

### **Recreation Committee - 110411**

Recreation Committee Chairman Cllr Bunting gave a report stating that the money for year 4 of the Vision for Alcester Projects had been secured. He also gave a report regarding Alcester Pavilion stating the developers were now on site and a few minor decisions such as the future of the mosaic on the side of the building had

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to be made. The trees on the Natural Play area still have to be planted. Two trees on the Community Orchard have been damaged and a workshop is still to be organised for local people to look after it.

The clerk explained that the proposition to consider for approval a lease and sub-lease for the old golf range site as Oversley Green had to be deferred as there was a clause regarding a charge by the Football Federation that was inappropriate at this time. The Lunch Clubs had been relocated temporarily to the Town Hall whilst the Pavilion development was in progress, and an article regarding litter and dog litter bins would be going in our next Newsletter.

### **Community Committee - 120411**

The Community Committee Chairman Cllr Payne gave a report stating the Tourism Workshop was postponed, the Business Champion had attended the AGM of the Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce, The Older Person Champion had reported on various issues and with respect to Community Safety Sgt Andy Moss will be attending the Council Forum meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April to outline the impact the Police review will have on the Town. The recent Youth Council meeting had good attendance from Alcester High School and St Benedict's and to mark the completion of the Depot there will be a 'Celebration Of Youth' event on the Conway Fields in August.

The Communication sub-committee Chairman Cllr Malin gave a report on recent Council Surgeries regarding general concerns received and actions taken and announced the date of the next Council Surgery to be May 7<sup>th</sup>. The main issue brought up related to grit bins and litter bins. Cllr Malin will be making a report in the next Newsletter, for which articles will be required by 24<sup>th</sup> May.

There were no Proposals to Council at present.

### **Scrutiny Committee - 130411**

Cllr Hancox, the Scrutiny Committee Chairman, reported that the committee had met and made recommendations to the Terms of Reference which will go before Council before committees are reinstated.

### **Presidium - 140411**

The Mayor gave a short report and made the following Proposals to Council: Firstly, to consider for approval a loan from a local charitable trust to enable the Pavilion to be developed to a stage which includes the youth centre to an operational condition and the full roof construction with walls for the community section. This was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Bunting, seconded by Cllr Knapman and approved by councillors.

Secondly, to consider for approval agreement in principle a lease with Stratford on Avon District Council as landlord for the management of Globe House by Alcester Town Council. Details of the arrangements will be brought back to full council for consideration prior to full acceptance. This was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Hancox, seconded by Cllr Leek and approved by Councillors.

### **Payment of Accounts - 150411**

The Clerk gave a report and asked for approval by Council the Payment of the Accounts for March 2011. This was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cumberbatch, seconded by Cllr Malin and approved by Council.

### **Correspondence - 160411**

The following correspondence was brought to the attention of councillors:

- a) WALC Newsletter 93 (circulated) - noted

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- b) Letter from Stratford DC re highway verge cutting – the clerk read details for councillors
- c) Letter from Warwickshire CC re Library Service Consultation - noted
- d) Letter from Warwickshire CC re changes to SpeedAware Scheme - noted
- e) Invitation to Royal Wedding Street Party from Alcester Court Leet & Chamber of Commerce - noted
- f) Open Spaces magazine - noted

### **Notification of Future Visitors - 170411**

- a) Sgt Andy Moss on 11<sup>th</sup> April

### **Notification of any further business for future meetings - 180411**

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

### **Dates of future meetings - 190411**

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

Planning Committee Monday 11 April at 6.30pm & Monday 18 April at 7.00pm

Forum meeting Monday 11 April at 7.30pm

Community Committee Monday 18 April at 8.00pm

Recreation Committee Monday 18 April at 7.00pm

Amenities Committee Monday 18 April at 8.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium meeting TBA

Annual Meeting Tuesday 17 May at 7.00pm

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House