

**MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 7 March 2011 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD,
ALCESTER (SEGGS LANE ENTRANCE)**

Present Cllr E. Payne (Chair) Cllr W. Malin, Cllr P. Carr, Mr J. Hodges, Cllr J. Kenyon, Cllr L. Cumberbatch, Cllr C. Gough, Mr. D. Wade, Cllr Mrs S Adams, Mr C Wright (Town Clerk), Mrs J Theobald.
Observing - Cllr P. Crabtree

Public participation at discretion of Chair

None present

Apologies

Cllr M Gittus

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Emergency Planning

Cllr Payne reported in Cllr Gittus' absence

- a) Flooding – Installation of Flood Pumps to be completed this month. Work on drains at the rear of HSBC will continue until May. The Environment Agency's attendance at the Flood Forum will cease after the meeting on 11 March but ATC will continue to chair a working group with Severn Trent and residents on future projects.
- b) Operation Watermark - The exercise was carried out today (7 March) with partner organisations to look at the Town's emergency plan in the event of flooding. Initial feedback showed that Alcester has a good Emergency Plan but in future more responsibility will fall on the town/parish councils and the community. The Clerk to make a report and cascade to Councillors. Comparison with other market towns with similar issues to then be shared.

5. Health and Inequalities.

A full report was given at Full Council by Cllr Cumberbatch

- a) The Hopkins' Pharmacy won the contract to operate from the new Health Care Centre.
- b) £3500 has been raised for a scanner by the Patient Participation Group matched-funded by Barclays Bank.

6. Business Support

- a) Tourism – Blue Sails workshops to be held on 16 March with an expected number of 50 participants. ATC have kindly offered light refreshments.
- b) The "Whispering Witch" are running a Ghost Festival 30 September to 2 October and have asked that ATC advertise it as a Town event.
- c) Mr Wade and several councillors attended the Chamber of Trade's open meeting on January 17th at the Holly Bush. The Business Champion will attend future meetings and feed back to ATC.
- d) A stand has been reserved for the Alcester Business Show on 30th March 2011.

7. Town Development Working Group

Nothing to report since last meeting

8. Senior Citizens' Issues

- a) Mr J. Hodges, the Senior Citizen's Champion, has written a report "Keeping your own front door" on challenges faced by older people, particularly those who live in owner occupied or private rented homes aged 70+. Mr Hodges requested that a future Council Forum be dedicated to housing and periodic articles put in the Newsletter encouraging residents to access available help and support.
- b) Transport – The Clerk has received a report from Warwickshire County Council that there will be reductions to No. 26 and 247 bus services.

9. Community Safety

Cllr Carr relayed comments from the last meeting to Sgt Moss. From 7th May the Police will move to new accommodation in Leamington Spa and, as crime rates are comparably low in Alcester, there will be a reduction in services as police will be deployed to other areas. Sgt Moss to be invited to the next Community Forum to give an update and the Town Council will host a informal reception to thank Warwickshire Police for their past support. A letter will be sent welcoming the beat sergeant when appointed.

10. Youth Issues

A member of the Youth Council chaired the meeting. Communication still seems to be an issue regarding attendance. At the next meeting, the co-ordinator of the Warwickshire County Council Youth Parliament will explain how a youth council should be run. A graduate who is on secondment for 6 months to support youth work attended the meeting and will co-ordinate the Celebration of Youth event on 29 August.

11. Community Venues

- a) The Depot – 5 contractors responded to the invitation to tender and one will be appointed this week.
- b) Greig Hall – The Clerk to send a letter of determination to Stratford District Council and a decision to lift part of the covenant will be reached on 23 March.

12. Communication

- a) The next surgery will be held on 2 April 2011
5 items were received at the last surgery. The signage at the A46 Oversley Green turn off was considered a cause of accidents and has been passed to the next Community Forum for discussion. No diversions have been made for contractors' wagons during the health centre build.
- c) Newsletter - the latest copies have a new coloured format. Articles for the next newsletter to be received by May 13.

13. Community Grants

The Committee were asked to consider the 17 grant applications submitted totalling £7250 and to submit them for approval by Full Council. It was suggested that in future more time be given to consider applications in detail.

14. Correspondence

None received

15. Proposition to Full Council

To approve the grant applications

16. Date and Time of Next Meetings

The next Forum Meeting is 7.30pm Monday 11 April 2011 at Globe House Alcester. The next Community Committee meeting is on Monday 18 April 2011 at 8.00pm.