

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Monday 3 October 2011 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

Councillors L Cumberbatch (Mayor), Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), C Gough, N Knapman, C Neal-Sturgess, A Brown, J Styles, W Malin, E Payne, Y Morrison, P Carr and M Cargill, C Wright (Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Residents were invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Mr Weaver asked about the agendas and minutes being in the library. The Clerk is to investigate why they were not.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Alcester Ward District Councillors

Cllr Juned reported she had chaired an environment panel focusing on reducing carbon consumption and recommended this may be a subject for the Town Council forum in the future.

Cllr Payne reported he had attended a number of local events as the District Council Chairman, including the retirement of the Baptist Minister, the Scouts centenary celebrations and the Town Council Civic Service.

Apologies - 011011

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from M Gittus, S Adams, J Bunting, J Kenyon.

Minutes of previous meeting 06/09/11 (circulated) - 021011

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 September 2011 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Brown, which was seconded by Cllr Cargill and approved.

Declarations of Interest - 031011

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

Mayor's Report - 041011

The Mayor gave a report from on his recent activities, which included the Stratford District Council West Area Planning Committee meeting at St Benedicts, where he spoke in favour of retaining the Greig Hall, the farewell service for the Baptist Minister, the service at St Nicholas for the Coventry Diocese 'Cross of Nails', the NHS Warwickshire AGM, the Alcester Town Council Civic Service, a cheese and pickle event at Coughton Court and last but not least the start of the New Surgery Project on the old hospital site.

Community Committee - 051011

Cllr Cumberbatch and the Clerk gave an update on the Public Works that are currently work in progress on Stratford Road, and in particular relating to the diversion signs and coning on the A46 by the Trench Lane junction. The Mayor reported on a meeting with the project manager, this day 3/10/11, when it was explained why the measures that had been in place were removed, as they were considered to be of no improvement to the facility that is currently in place. The new diversion agreement for Oversley Green resident to access Alcester is through Great Alne. Further diversion signs are to be employed to improve the information to drivers regarding access to the High Street which remains unaffected. Cllr Cumberbatch also stated that the project manager had agreed to supply regular updates for both councilors and notice boards. Concern was also raised that the emergency services were not informed of the diversions following an incident in the town. Councilors concerns are to be forwarded to the project manager.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health Issues stating the development at the new surgery site has actually started and hard hats were now required on the site. Concern was also raised regarding the County Councils report that the old school on Moorfield Road was to become an extra care facility.

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Cllr Payne gave an update on Business Support mentioning the forthcoming Stratford Business Show.

Cllr Payne also gave an update on the Town Development Working Group stating that consultations were ongoing with respect to the Town Guide, Tourism and Parking. It was generally accepted the draft Town Guide was not up to the expected standard and needed to be reviewed urgently.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Senior Citizens issues stating the lunch clubs were in the process of returning to the pavilion.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Community Safety stating statistics regarding the number of incidents in Alcester with the comparison between areas of the town either side of Gunnings Bridge.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth work, stating there had been a meeting of the youth council for the first time at the Depot, however only with attendees from St Benedicts. Discussion had concentrated on the lack of public transport particularly in the evenings. The Clerk gave an update on the outstanding development issues at the Pavilion including the unacceptable state the developers had left the site in, disability access and temporary heating.

Cllr Malin gave an update on Communication issues and in particular concerns raised by the public at the recent Town Council Surgeries which included the pedestrian crossing areas on the High Street, overgrown vegetation on Spittle Brook and overgrown hedges which prevented visibility of the signposts in the town.

Cllr Cargill gave an update on the Town Council Facebook page.

No further information was available regarding the Olympics Committee other than notification of a forthcoming ladies only event in October.

There were no Propositions to Council from the Community Committee

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 061011

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Hine gave a brief update on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance issues recently discussed at the recent committee meeting.

Cllr Knapman gave an update on a recent Environment sub-committee meeting stating a disappointment at the low turnout, however the meeting was positive and Cllr Brown and other members from the community would be invited for future meetings and the cemetery is to be included in the discussions. It was also considered the Newsletter could be used for consultation.

Cllr Hine gave an update on the Allotments stating the waiting list was now down to 12 and the position with allotments that had not been worked would be reviewed for new applicants before the end of the year.

Cllr Brown reported there was no new information on the Cemetery.

There were no Propositions to Council from the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

Planning Committee - 071011

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating one meeting had been averted by the use of e-mail correspondence and there were no issues to bring to council.

Cllr Gough also gave feedback from the Town Council Forum meeting with Bloor Homes, stating it provided an interesting look at urban development and it had been beneficial for the council to have some input.

Cllr Gough also related to the West area Planning Committee meeting where he had been the only speaker for the Redrow application as we had made planning decisions on planning grounds only.

There were no Propositions to Council from the Planning committee

Presidium - 081011

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Globe House, stating that the draft lease had been cascaded to councilors and there was a need to consider all aspects of it including management duties, but a meeting would be organised on this issue during October.

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Cllr Cumberbatch also gave an update on The Greig Centre stating he had written to the trustees the day after the West Area Planning Committee decision and was hopeful a meeting with the trustees could be organised in the near future. Council would be kept informed of any developments.

There were no Propositions to Council from Presidium

Scrutiny 091011

No meetings had taken place.

Payment of Accounts - 101011

The Clerk presented a report for approval by Council on Payment of Accounts for September 2011. Cllr Malin proposed they were accepted, Cllr Payne seconded the proposal and council approved.

Correspondence - 111011

Cllr Cumberbatch stated he had received a Letter from Alistair and Ruth Aird thanking the council for their generosity and kind thoughts.

The clerk read a Letter from WCC re the Restructured Rights of Way Team. And also a letter Boundary Commission re 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England, stating documents were available in reception.

Notification of Future Visitors - 121011

None to date.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 131011

Cllr Cumberbatch made a request to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

Dates of future meetings - 141011

Councillors were asked to note the dates for future meetings:

Community Committee Monday 10 October at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 11 October and Tuesday 25 October at 7.00pm

Forum meeting TBA

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 24 October at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium meeting TBA

Council Tuesday 1 November at 7.00pm

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House