

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 1 November 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, M Gittus, S Adams, J Bunting, J Kenyon, M Cargill and C Wright (Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Residents are 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, before the start of the Town Council meeting and no later than 30 minutes after the start.

Members of the public may not take part in the Town Council meeting itself.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Ward District and County Councillors.

Cllr Adams stated she had attended a meeting at Warwick Hospital regarding Breast Cancer awareness launch and was also organizing members evenings one of which, in March, is for a consultant to talk on Dementia.

Cllr Juned reported she had attended the Alcester Youth Project Annual General Meeting, contacted Warwickshire County Council regarding the disposal of the Seymour Centre in Great Alne, been involved in Community Energy Warwickshire addressing Fuel Poverty and advised the Council the Planning Core Strategy had been delayed a further 5 months.

Cllr Gittus reported on a number of issues stating 46% of Warwickshire Highways will be gritted this winter, 10% more than any other authority. There is a consultation to be held regarding turning off street lighting from 12 am. To 5 am. To reduce the carbon footprint. There is to be more discipline on Blue Badge parking which will require more burden of proof for a national register. There are to be more strategic alliances, Coventry City Highways, Northants Fire Service and West Mercia Police to improve some areas economically. Stratford District Council may also consider an alliance. The Warwickshire Fire and Rescue risk management plan is also moving forward with figures this year down to 0 fatalities and 14 serious injuries.

Cllr Payne reported as Chairman of the District Council he had attended a number of Annual General meetings including Age UK, and Stratford CAB. He had also spent 2 hours in Studley withy some of their celebrations.

Apologies - 011111

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Y Morrison, P Carr

Minutes of previous meeting - 021111

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 October 2011, having been circulated, were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Malin, which was seconded by Cllr Payne and approved by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 031111

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

Mayor's Report - 041111

The Mayor gave a report on recent activities, which included two meetings with Greig Centre trustees, the High Sherriff's Service, Alcester Chamber of Trade, the Market Town Awards in Ludlow, Stratford District Council to discuss Globe House, Alcester Health Stakeholders group meeting, Warwickshire Police re. services at Globe House. He also stated he had written to the Parishes to arrange a common meeting.

Community Committee - 051111

Cllr Gittus gave an update on Public Works taking place in the town stating the Seven Trent Works were still on course to complete on date, the Warwickshire Architects had completed their work despite a small number of issues. Concerns were raised regarding the state of the Stratford Road Rec. site at the end of the project and Winter Gritting on the minor roads parishioners were now having to use.

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Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Alcester Health and Inequalities issues, stating the Contractors are now on site and demolition has already started. The stakeholders group is now starting to look at wider issues in Alcester and there is still a need for the County Council and the NHS to attend. ACT.Com has been restarted with a new emphasis on services for older people and young people's Health and Well Being.

Cllr Payne stated there was little news to report on Business Support, other than David Wade was continuing to attend the Alcester Chamber of Trade meetings on our behalf.

Cllr Adams gave an update on the activities of the Town Development Working Group stating the new Town Guide had been approved and that Waitrose were still intending to implement the access on to Priory Road, possibly for the Christmas period.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Senior Citizens issues there had been improvements in the practice of means testing to reflect deprivation, Bus Services were still an issue. Cllr Cumberbatch also reported that it was essential to understand the changes of service with older people from the County Council.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Community Safety, stating there was still a concern on how quick emergency services could respond to incidents on the High Street during the present road closures. Thirty incidents of crime had been reported to the police, however there were no major incidents. He also reported there was to be a Flood Emergency Committee meeting on 3rd November to pick up the actions identified from Exercise Watermark.

Cllr styles gave an update on Youth Issues stating the Alcester Youth Project Annual General Meeting had been held the previous Thursday and the main discussions focused on the Depot. One incident had been reported to the police, however peer groups were involved in solving the issue. Alcester Youth Council had only had attendance from St Benedicts, however Alcester Academy had responded and this should improve in the future.

Cllr Malin gave an update on Communication stating all previous surgery matters had been dealt with and the next surgery would be held and the next surgery is to be held next Saturday, 5th November. Cllr Malin raised an issue about parking outside Globe House and the Police Station now that the front desk of the police station was no longer operating.

Cllr Gittus gave a report on the Olympics Committee stating meeting were being well attended and money was still being raised. He also announced the Olympic Torch may come through Alcester.

Cllr Payne made the following proposition to Council from the Community Committee '*To appoint a Vice Chair of the Community Committee*'. The proposition was seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and approved by Council.

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 061111

Cllr Bunting gave an update on Recreation and Leisure Facilities stating that Building Inspectors had been to the pavilion and a small number of improvements were identified some of which were already in the plans to get done, however this was only an interim inspection as a full inspection cannot be done until the whole building is completed. The committee want to get a better understanding of what facilities comply with Section 106 applications to enable the Town to take full advantage of future development in the Town.

Cllr Bunting also gave an update on Ground Maintenance stating the committee were seeking a quote for fencing to segregate the Junior Play area on the Conway Playing fields from Dog walkers. A consultation with young people on play equipment is also essential.

Cllr Knapman gave an update from the Environment sub committee stating that although a meeting has not taken place people have been contacted, and a mechanism to get people involved such as a questionnaire is also being considered. The date of the next meeting will be cascaded.

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating they were looking at prices for bins to contain fertilizers such as soot, and the waiting list was now down to 12.

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Cllr Brown gave a brief update on the Cemetery stating that ideas on how to proceed with the cemetery as a project were being taken forward.

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

Planning Committee - 071111

Cllr Gough gave an update from the Planning Committee stating they had only needed to meet once during the last month and the only concern raised had been the change of age range of one section of Oversley House. Cllr Knapman enquired about any progress made on the Alcester Design Statement. Cllr Cumberbatch replied that it was currently awaiting a response from 2 senior planning officers from Stratford District Council.

There were no Propositions to Council from the Planning committee

Presidium - 081111

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on The Greig Centre stating he and the clerk had met with Greig Trustees, who had received correspondence from the Unity Trust Bank and were also to meet with Stratford District Council the following week. Further meetings were planned. Concern was raised regarding the dilapidation of the building during closure. Cllr Cumberbatch replied that visual building, electrical and structural surveys had been completed and no immediate problem had been raised. Cllr Gough stated that the Greig Hall is in a safe condition with frost prevention measures in place.

Cllr Cumberbatch also gave a report on the progress regarding Globe House and presented the following proposition on the understanding 2 issues still had to be clarified, the insurance of the building which was awaiting valuation details, the review of the lease every five years. The basis of the agreement was for Alcester Town Council to act as principle tenant and manage the building for the next four years with Stratford District Council meeting the running costs as they presently do, without further costs to the Town Council, however the Town Council would take on the full responsibility after the four years. Cllr Cumberbatch formally proposed the proposition, *To consider acceptance of the Draft Lease from Stratford on Avon District Council for the management of Globe House*, Cllr Gittus seconded the proposal and it was passed by Council.

Scrutiny - 091111

There were no updates

Payment of Accounts - 101111

The Clerk gave a report for approval by Council on Payment of Accounts for October 2011. Cllr Malin proposed acceptance of the report, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Kenyon and accepted by council.

Correspondence - 111111

The Following correspondence was noted.

- a) Invitation from President of British Legion Alcester branch to join Remembrance Day parade and service.
- b) Invitation from Baptist Church to Toy & Gift Service
- c) Letter from MP re disabled access in Alcester
- d) Information re The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

Notification of Future Visitors - 121111

None to date.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 131111

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

Dates of future meetings - 141111

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

Community Committee Monday 14 November at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 8 November and Tuesday 22 November at 7.00pm

Forum meeting TBA

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 28 November at 7.00pm

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Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium meeting TBA

Council Monday 5 December at 7.00pm

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House