

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2 June 2009 at Globe House, Alcester

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Three members of the public were present and the Mayor took two questions.

1. What is the Town Council's policy on the legality of some parking fines that are imposed by Stratford on Avon District Council? The Clerk asked if the full question could be put in writing and he would investigate and report back.
2. A grant given by the Town Council to Alcester in Bloom of £3000 seems rather a lot of money for flowers. Councillor Payne declared an interest in this item. The Mayor responded that as well as purchase of flowers the money went to pay for the watering by the Scouts & Guides over the summer weeks.

Present

Cllr M Gittus (Chair), Cllr E Payne, Cllr J Bunting, Cllr P Crabtree, Cllr C Gough, Cllr N Dearing, Cllr D Hancox, Cllr W Malin, Cllr Mrs Y Hine, Cllr P Carr, Cllr Mrs S Adams, Anne Tugwell, Mr C Wright (Clerk), Mrs P Haggerty (Assistant Clerk).

Apologies - 01/06/09

Apologies were received and the reasons for absence approved from Cllr N Knapman, Cllr R Leek, Cllr A Morgan, Cllr L Cumberbatch, Cllr M Graham.

Minutes of last meeting of 12/05/09 (circulated) - 02/06/09

Minutes of the last Council meeting held on 12 May 2009 had been circulated, and were proposed Cllr Malin, seconded Cllr Payne, approved and signed.

Declarations of Interest - 03/06/09

Members were asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda.

Mayor's Report - 04/06/09

The Mayor asked that his report be deferred until the next meeting.

Notes on Forum Meetings - 05/06/09

- a) No meeting had been held.

Alcester Emergency Plan, Flooding & Drainage - 06/06/09

Cllr Gittus reported on the following:

- Bill Garrad and Alison Hampson of the Environment Agency had been to inspect the areas in town and provision of the pumps was on schedule. By the end of this financial year the first pump should be in place.
- Cllr Bunting reported that the drains down the High Street don't work until the ones outside the post office and outside the bank. The cleaning system used doesn't work properly. Also the contractors cutting the grass blow grass into the gutters which ends up in the drains. The Clerk is to write a letter to Stratford on Avon District Council about these matters.

Alcester Area Health Reforms - 07/06/09

- Cllr Payne reported that a series of meetings had been arranged by NHS Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Council with stakeholders and others to continue with the project development programme for the Alcester Hospital site. The dates are: 19 June, 17 July, 10 September and 13 November, all at 11.30am at Globe House. Also a special meeting is scheduled for 23 June between 1.00pm and 5.00pm, location to be decided, to discuss the Alcester Options Appraisal process.
- The Director of Primary Care along with HR colleagues will be conducting interviews for the post of Project Manager on 18 June and Cllr Cumberbatch would be joining the panel for these interviews.

Youth Provision - 08/06/09

- The Clerk reported that he had had meetings with Stratford on Avon District Council, Warwickshire County Council and Vision for Alcester, and a draft report was to be done with possibilities for sites. Warwickshire County Council is applying for national funding and hoping to get a substantial sum. There was no youth club at present and levels of anti-social behaviour in the town were rising.
- Cllr Carr had approached the three senior schools about forming a Youth Council and received a positive response. He was hoping to get three young people from each school aged 13-16 who lived in Alcester.

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- Cllr Payne reported that the Youth Champion had resigned as she had a new job and wasn't able to give the time needed, therefore he was keen to get the Youth Council started.

Planning Committee – 09/06/09

- Cllr Hancox reported that the minutes for the last two meetings were in councillors' packs. There were no propositions to bring before council.

Amenities Committee – 10/06/09

- Cllr Dearling reported that the minutes of the last meeting were in councillors' packs. The trees in the cemetery had been inspected with a company and a planning application had been submitted. A quote for the work had been requested. He had also been looking at the use of the old cemetery along with Cllr Hine.
- The Clerk reported that there had been approximately 40 burials last year and up to now for this year they were averaging one per fortnight. It was estimated that we had 2-3 years left in the present cemetery at a rate of 16 to 17 new graves per year.
- Cllr Adams reported that she had been asked by a resident when the work to the trees along the railway line was to be done. The Clerk reported that a tree surgeon is sending letters to residents and the work was to be done this week.

Recreation Committee – 11/06/09

- Cllr Bunting reported that the minutes of the last meeting were in councillors' packs.
- Conway Fields – there was to be a lease review in the next month. The Pods were to be moved next week. People had been climbing onto the roof of the Pavilion and proposals for further security to be fixed around the top would be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- A meeting of the Play Area Sub Committee had been held on Friday 29 May to look at equipment and improvements.

11a) To consider employment of an extra person for 72 hours per month to cover holidays and extra duties that may have been done by contractors in the past. Proposed Cllr Dearling, seconded Cllr Hine and agreed.

Community Committee – 12/06/09

- a) Cllr Payne reported that:
- Minutes of the last meeting were in councillors' packs
 - The Red Cross Resilience Programme meetings at the Greig were poorly attended but had been very good events. Clerk to send a letter to the Red Cross thanking them for their work.
 - He had attended a business support meeting with the Chamber of Trade and the gurus. Letters and CVS leaflets are to be delivered to each business in the town and industrial estate.
 - The Healthcare Champion and the Senior Citizens' Champion had held a meeting and were to report to the next committee meeting.
- b) Communication Sub Committee
- The next Surgery was to be held on Saturday 6 June, 10-12 at Church House
 - The newsletter had been sent to print today and would be collected by the Scouts on Friday for delivery during the next two weeks.
 - The website was being updated as time permitted.

Proposals to council:

- a) To refurbish the globe on the roundabout and place a small plaque in remembrance of Mary Madge, Mayor of Alcester in 1994 and 1995. Proposed Cllr Gough, seconded Cllr Hancox and agreed.
- b) To set up a combined Planning and Community Committee Town Plan Action Group as a sub-committee to the Community Committee. – Proposed Cllr Adams, seconded Cllr Hancox and agreed.
- c) To purchase two pop-up boards with the Council's name and crest for use at events – approximate cost £175 each. Proposed Cllr Hine, seconded Cllr Carr and agreed.

Scrutiny Committee – 13/06/09

The next Scrutiny Committee is to be held on 16 July at 10.00am

Presidium - 14/05/09

The next Presidium is to be held on 16 July at 2.00pm

Complaints & Community Forum Requests – 15/06/09

- Grass cutting at Eclipse Road is not being done since Pettifers went into liquidation. Cllr Gittus has details of the contractors who have been cutting the grass. Stratford District Council has offered to do a one-off cut in two weeks' time. In the meantime the Clerk would get a price from Limebridge for cutting the grass.

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Payment of Accounts – 16/06/09

The Payment of Accounts was proposed by Cllr Malin, seconded by Cllr Dearling and agreed. 16a) The Annual Accounts were in councillors' packs. They had to be sent to the external auditors by the end of June. To give time to read them it was agreed to defer the Annual Accounts for discussion at the Forum meeting on 8 June. Councillors were asked to email the Clerk in the meantime with any queries.

Correspondence – 17/06/09

- a) Letter from D Guillaume – noted
- b) Road closures – noted
- c) Court Leet Civic Service – Clerk to reply that councillors would attend.

District and County Councillors' Reports – 18/06/09

Cllr Payne reported the following:

- A meeting with the Strategic Director of Stratford District Council regarding the Alcohol Zones signs – the signs were now in place.
- The Funeral of Angela Noyce
- The grass on Stratford Road bridge was an eyesore and it had now been cut by the County Council. Also the grass at Arrow and Kings Coughton roundabouts were to be cut.

Cllr Adams reported that:

- The County Council had put the wrong signs up for direction to the car parks which had been reported and hopefully they will be changed.
- The recycling figures for April were 63%

Notification of Future Visitors – 19/06/09

Forum meeting 8 June – Helen McKeever, Community Legacy Manager Midlands & N Ireland for the NSPCC.

Notification of any further business for future meetings – 20/06/09

Council agenda items should be received no later than 7 days prior to the next meeting.

Dates of future meetings – 21/06/09

Please note the dates of the next meetings:

*Forum Meeting Monday 8 June at 7.30pm
Community Committee Monday 22 June at 8.00pm
Recreation Committee Monday 22 June at 7.00pm
Amenities Committee Monday 22 June at 8.00pm
Planning Committee Mon 8 June 6.30pm & Mon 22 June at 7.00pm
Presidium Meeting Thursday 16 July at 2.00pm
Scrutiny Committee Thursday 16 July at 10.00am*

All the above meetings at Globe House