

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 3 January 2012 at Globe House, Alcester

Council Members Present

Councillors L Cumberbatch (Mayor), Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), N Knapman, C Neal-Sturgess, J Styles, W Malin, Y Morrison, M Gittus, P Carr, J Bunting, E Payne, S Adams, M Cargill and the Town Clerk C Wright.

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, before the start of the Town Council meeting. Two members of the public were present. Mr Weaver of Evesham Street qualified a concern he first brought up in June 2011 stating he would like the following statement to be included on the minutes, that subject to the possible non-payment of his council tax he would like the council to be aware he would not be prepared to pay the extra levy incurred on him by the District Council as the charges were in his opinion excessive following a rise of 112% in three years. Cllr Gittus sought clarification from Mr Weaver and the Mayor advised Mr Weaver that this was a District Council affair and he should make representation to them, which could then be possibly supported by the Town Council.

District and County Councillors' Reports

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

Cllr Adams reported Ross's Garage had applied to sell alcohol without a time restriction and that any comments should be received by the District Council by 16th January, also concern was raised over the planning application for 26 High Street for change of use to a restaurant although no extraction had been shown, for which the Town Council had also questioned the opening hours.

Cllr Juned reported she had also responded regarding 26, High Street and the date of the Kinwarton Road appeal was 10th January where she was due to speak having also put in a written response. She was also looking at funding from the Community Energy Assessment fund with the possibility of partnership working. Cllr Juned said she had all the details and has registered to allow an application to be put in.

Cllr Gittus reported that he also attended the licencing committee meeting regarding the Garage on Evesham Street's Alcohol License application and although he was not in favour of 24 hour licences he supported the right for the application to be considered by the nature of the business.

Cllr Payne reported on a number of issues he had been involved in including supporting a homeless person, assisting a business within the town and assisting in the purchase of a grit bin paid for by residents of Springfield Road. He had also attended various events as the Chairman of the District Council including appearing on Songs of Praise.

Apologies - 010112

Apologies with reasons for absence had been received from Councillors C Gough, J Kenyon and A Brown.

Minutes of previous meeting 05/12/11 - 020112

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 December 2011, having been circulated were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cargill, which was seconded by Cllr Hine and approved by Councillors.

Declarations of Interest - 030112

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

Mayor's Report - 040112

The Mayor gave a report on recent activities, firstly declaring his thanks to the Deputy Mayor for standing in during his illness. Amongst the activities were a Warwick University Social Event, the Stratford District Council Chairmans charity concert, the Alcester Baptist Church Toy Service and St Nicholas Church Carol Service.

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Community Committee - 050112

Cllr Payne asked various councillors to give reports.

Cllr Gittus gave an update on the Public Works on the Stratford Road stating they were starting up again and although they were behind on their schedule they were clawing back and still hoping to be finished on time. There had been a successful visit to the big tank in December which had included Council members and members of the community. A burst water main had hampered things with the Pumping Station on Fairwater Crescent being also switched off, but tankers were used from the pumping station on Stratford Road to relieve pressure. Cllr Knapman raised a concern regarding an accident at the Oversley Green junction on the A46, questioning if it could be attributed to the traffic conditions caused by the Stratford Road disruption. Cllr Gittus stated it was only fair to determine the nature of the accident before making assumptions.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Inequalities issues stating the old hospital site would soon be flat with the completion of demolition. Also he had been in touch with the new Health and Wellbeing Board and that 70% of the people currently employed in the Warwickshire PCT would be re-employed in Health and Wellbeing.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Business Support stating that due to the down turn in business possibly caused by the road closure of the end of the High Street late night trading had been minimal. The Business Show is to be held at Ragley Hall this year and a Computer Repair shop had opened on the High Street.

Cllr Adams gave an update on the Town Development Working Group stating the next meeting was due to take place on the 12th January, but following a new placement for the Waitrose representative we would be without them.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Senior Citizens issues stating that the two lunch clubs had successful Christmas Dinners and there was to be a Scan meeting on Friday 6th January.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Community Safety stating the Crime Statistics had been issued and he had a meeting with Cllr Cargill regarding the Emergency Equipment being sponsored by Vision for Alcester.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth Issues stating there had been an Alcester Youth Project meeting and she had attended the Alcester Bidford Community Forum to report on the transport issues raised at the last Alcester Youth Council meeting who were in the process of collecting data from schools to be passed to Warwickshire County Council.

The Clerk gave an update on Community Facilities stating the Globe House Lease was still in the hands the SDC Legal Department who had contracted it out to an external solicitor. The Pavilion was being reviewed to see if the Community side of the building could be completed up to a position where it could be usable. This would involve the purchase of materials for the floor, suspended ceiling and floor. Further work would be reviewed when money became available.

Cllr Malin gave an update on Communication reminding councillors the date of the Surgery the following Saturday and stated that more publicity was being investigated to raise its profile. He also stated that Councillors Cargill and Sturgess were looking at the website and Cllr Cargill commented that the Town Council Facebook site had more than 150 interested particularly young people.

Cllr Gittus gave a report on the progress the Olympics Committee had made stating that the fund raising was progressing, the name issue was resolved and he invited anyone interested to come to the next meeting.

There were no Propositions to Council from the Community Committee.

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 060112

Cllr Bunting gave an update on Recreation Facilities, particularly the work being undertaken at the pavilion, stating the patio landing was nearing completion and consideration was being made to install the Mezzanine Floor, suspended ceiling and a suitable floor in the community side, as well as other features, to make it usable for groups in the light of the Greig Hall possibly remaining closed for a lengthy period. There was also a visit to the

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pavilion by Parish Councillors from Kinwarton and Arrow to see what we are doing for the community, which had a favourable response. Some Play Equipment maintenance work has been undertaken and some path surfaces need addressing to suit prescription walks. The committee is looking into ways of fencing off the junior play equipment area on Conway Fields. ACT.Com is also supporting the purchase of 2 doors at the pavilion to improve regulations requirements. A name for the Community Hall is also required and signposting from the road. Councillors also commented on the good job done by our groundsmen over Christmas.

Cllr Knapman gave an update on the Environment Committee progress stating a meeting is due to take place after the next Open Spaces Committee meeting and that suitable surveys are being considered.

Cllr Hine gave an update on the Allotments stating 2 tenants have given up their plots and nearly 70% of all tenants have paid.

Cllr Gittus stated there had been talks with Morgan Sindall and English Heritage regarding how the surface of the area used by Morgan Sindall at the site of the Old Fire Station was to be following reinstatement.

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

Planning Committee - 070112

Cllr Gough gave an update on recent Planning Applications stating only one was of concern which related to the change of use of a High Street shop to a food outlet as no extraction had been admitted. Talks had confirmed that no food preparation was to take place on the site.

There were no Propositions to Council from the Planning Committee.

Presidium - 080112

The Mayor gave an update on The Greig Hall position stating following a request for the trustees to have a copy of the Greig Hall Action Committee Business Case, which was permitted only on the grounds that it was treated as being confidential for the trustees only to view, it was then shown and presented to the Unity Trust Bank for scrutiny. This was not in accordance with their request or the conditions that had been set by the Mayor in his letter to the Trustees, the Mayor then read the contents of a subsequent letter of complaint to the trustees. No further talks with members of the trustees are planned, however a meeting with the Stratford District Council Portfolio Holder and the Leader of the District Council has been requested to keep them informed of the position.

The Clerk gave a report re the lease for Globe House, stating that no further progress had been made and the lease is still in the hands of an external solicitor facility.

There were no Propositions to Council from Presidium.

Scrutiny - 090112

The Clerk informed members that all queries from last year's accounts had been resolved and the annual return and the closure notices had been addressed. A meeting of Presidium would be convened in the near future to discuss the internal audit arrangements.

Payment of Accounts - 100112

A report was received from the Clerk and for approval by Council on Payment of Accounts for December 2011. This was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Malin and seconded by Cllr Styles.

Correspondence - 110112

The following two pieces of correspondence were noted by councillors.

- a) SCAN newsletter
- b) WALC Financial Update (circulated)

The Clerk also asked if the council had any Nominations for Royal Garden Party May 2012. Cllr Knapman proposed that the Town Clerk should be nominated. This was seconded by Cllr Hine.

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Notification of Future Visitors - 120112

Councillors were informed of the Forum Meeting to be held on Monday 16 January 2012 at 7pm when Phil Ward of Warwickshire Rural Community Council and Simon Purfield of Stratford DC would be present to discuss both a Housing Needs Survey and a Town Plan.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 130112

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

Dates of future meetings - 140112

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

Community Committee Monday 9 January at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 10 January and Tuesday 24 January at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 23 January at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium meeting TBA

Forum meeting Monday 16 January 2012 at 7.00pm

Council Tuesday 7 February 2012 at 7.00pm

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House