

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 5 March 2013 at Globe House, Alcester**

### **Present**

Councillors L Cumberbatch (Mayor), S Adams, J Bunting, E Payne, C Neal-Sturgess, J Kenyon, A Brown, M Gittus, Y Morrison, J Styles and Town Clerk C Wright.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

No residents were present

### **District and County Councillors' Reports**

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

Cllr Adams reported she had attended a tourism meeting at Stratford District Council who had pledged £75,000 towards tourism. Oversley Garage now had a 24 hour licence. She also stated she had accepted a second term as a governor of Warwickshire NHS Trust. Stratford District Council had announced there was to be no rise in Council Tax for the forthcoming year. She was also attending a meeting the following Monday regarding the Downgrading of the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch.

Cllr Gittus confirmed both the District Council and County Council had proposed no increase in the Council Tax. He had attended an Oversley Park meeting regarding their flooding issues where there had been at length discussions on the matter. He also announced there was an amount of £119,400 available from the New Homes Bonus for 2011/12 and the District Council were inviting organisations to make Community Grant applications. Regarding the Greig Community Assets issue he was responding to comments in the newspaper and he wished to assure the Town Council Stratford District Council was still fully supportive of keeping the covenant. He will be sitting on the committee regarding the Allimore Lane development and also attending the meeting at the Grammar School where the Birmingham Road traffic conditions will be aired. The Priory Road closure is in place and we look forward to the completion of this project. There has been complaints about contractors in another area where waste tarmac was observed to be dumped down a drain and this was being sorted and the contractors warned. The Parish Boundary Survey has been completed and the residents of Kinwarton and Arrow have responded to keep the status quo and this matter is in the hands of the Audit Committee for the final decision.

Cllr Payne reported he had contacted the Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce regarding the A boards that had been attached to certain cycle racks and these had now been removed. The District Council are now addressing the work on the Arrows of Bulls Head Yard Car Park now that the Priory Road entrance work has started. Seggs Lane Rubbish has not yet been removed but the District Council Street Scene have it in hand and the organisation that have dumped the rubbish face a charge as it is considered fly tipping.

### **Apologies - 010313**

Apologies with reasons for absence were received from Councillors M Cargill (Deputy Mayor), Y Hine, C Gough, N Knapman and invited District Councillor S Juned.

The Mayor asked all in attendance to observe a brief moment of silence in memory of former Councillor Bill Malin following his death.

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### **Minutes of Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013 - 020313**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 February 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Hine, which was seconded by Cllr Payne and approved by Council

### **Declarations of Interest - 030313**

Members were asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda. No interests were declared.

### **Mayor's Report - 040313**

The Mayor gave a report on his recent activities, which had included, among others, the Lord Lieutenants Knighthood celebrations.

### **Council Vacancy - 050313**

The Clerk gave a report stating that the period for calls for an election had now expired and the process of co-option could now take place. This would initially require a councillor to propose a candidate and a second councillor to second that proposal. He also stated that at least three people had shown a willingness to stand to date.

### **Governance Review - 060313**

The Mayor asked councillors to consider the Town Council response and following discussion it was agreed that the Town Council should attend and make a representation at the Audit Committee meeting.

### **Community Committee – 070313**

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Inequalities, stating that the doctors had informed him the first practice would be moving into the new Health Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April with the second (Priory Road Surgery) on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. A formal opening would take place approximately two weeks later. Springfield Mind already have a drop in facility at the Jubilee Centre and are looking to compliment this with a mental health sessional programme. The Doctors Practices have also agreed that Patients representation has become a significant issue as part of the process of commissioning the Health Centre. Cllr Payne complimented this saying he had visited the centre on Monday last and was taken around the inside and outside and to him the centre looks fantastic. The priory road practice will be moving in approximately a month time however there is still no information coming from them regarding arrangements for this. Cllr Cumberbatch stated Priory Road will be doing a patient's shot to inform their patients but Arrow Lodge have not indicated what they intend to do. Communication has been poor for patients and he has written a small article in the newsletter regarding the position.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Senior Citizens issues stating that WCC bus passes are being renewed and the information regarding Priory Road closure has to be reviewed regarding the bus stop and they may need a change to the junction. Cllr Gittus supported this stating that yellow lines will not be down before the opening but that temporary steps may need to be put in place.

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating the safer neighbourhood newsletter regarding a man photographing children had come from a number of sources but had not been corroborated. He also said it was natural that people are disturbed but this may be just a social media event and better information is required, for example number plates need to be recorded. The flood focus group met in February and information was shared, Cllr Hine is looking at stocking the jubilee centre as a rescue centre with such items as blankets etc.

Cllr Brown gave an update on Business Support stating that she had attended a tourism event and a festival guide had been produced and events were planned

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with Alcester chamber of trade and commerce focusing on the food festival and CLA game fair. Cllr Cumberbatch reported that he had spoken with Ragley estate who will contact us once the CLA game fair event is organised. However the Alcester Business Show at Ragley will not be attended.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on ACT.com stating that the terms of reference and constitution of the Alcester community trust are to be sent out to potential members of the trust which will initially be chaired by himself.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating that the Alcester youth project meeting took place last week however her talks with St Benedict's regarding Alcester youth membership got cancelled. A meeting of Alcester youth council is to take place next week where consultation with their peers will be considered regarding the cinema club. There had been an incident the previous Friday evening at the jubilee centre when outsiders wanted to force entry into the junior drama meeting which became scary for young people, this sort of incident does not create the sort of impression you want particularly with parents. Further security measure will be considered for the jubilee centre.

Cllr Morrison gave an update on Communication stating that the newsletter was completed on time and was currently at the printers and the new website was to be switched live this week. A number of issues were brought up at the town council surgery which was held at church house regarding damage to a wall outside the Greig hall and parking in Kinglsey Avenue. Cllrs also asked if consideration could be had in the future on a QR code for the newsletter.

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave an update on Broadband stating that there was progress regarding the box by Minerva mill and the industrial estate was in fact covered by a box at Tything Road junction.

Cllr Gittus gave an update on Alcester Olympics stating that a recent meeting had been postponed to the 13<sup>th</sup> march. The tug of war midlands championship to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May was moving forward and an archery organisation will attend to give demonstrations. Cllr styles complimented this saying plans for a sporting event day for the less able with a youth concert and some primary school events was being organised for the beginning of July.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Fields in Trust stating that the town council have to have up to date land registry details in order to complete the deeds and this work is still in progress. Cllr Payne also reported that we have received a number of applications to use the Jubilee centre and meeting are being arranged with perspective groups. The Alzheimer's cafe is still growing and to progress a new venue will probably be required, the Jubilee centre is also being considered for this. There were no propositions from the Community Committee.

### **Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 080313**

Cllr Bunting gave a report on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance stating that the community orchard has been pruned but some stakes had been removed and one new tree has been destroyed. Work on the Jubilee centre will be completed this Friday apart from some work on the kitchen which will continue into Easter week when the lunch clubs won't be meeting. The donation from the Lions should be received shortly, after which work on the fence around the play area will begin. All other ground maintenance work is up to date.

An update had been received from the Environment committee who are considering a wild flower area. Cllr Kenyon raised concerns on the wild flowers as the top soil

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had to be removed down to the subsoil to enable wild flowers to grow in a more natural and suitable soil.

Cllr Bunting gave an update on the Allotments stating that there are still two allotments available to let and a further area on the south Bleachfield site which could be used.

Cllr Brown gave an update on the Cemetery stating that the possible scattering of ashes with a remembrance book in globe house was being considered.

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

### **Planning Committee - 090313**

The clerk gave a report to council on behalf of the planning committee stating that had been numerous small planning applications that had be discussed, but these were overshadowed by three more major applications regarding, developments at Acorn house, Alcester Grammar School and the Land North of Allimore Lane. At Acorn house a third application had been received and objected to and the architect was considering placing one of his designs on appeal. The Alcester Grammar school application had had several concerns raised from Cllrs regarding the parking and transport issues so a consultation with Alcester Grammar school and the local community was arranged. A further consultation on the Allimore lane application was being organised to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and as a consequence the response date had been extended to the 21<sup>st</sup> March. Cllrs were informed of the arrangements being made and that an extraordinary meeting to determine the town council response had been organised to coincide with the town council forum meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan stating that the plans we had for the original designated area had to be reviewed and once we submit the application for designated area it is fixed and determines what our referendum area is, this is only possible once the boundary review conclusions have been published. Regarding potential section 106 and community infrastructure levy payments parish councils themselves have no rights to any money and without a neighbourhood plan we would be capped at 15% of the community infrastructure levy.

There were no propositions from the Planning Committee.

### **Scrutiny Committee - 100313**

Cllrs considered Council documents following the Meeting with the Internal Auditor 18<sup>th</sup> February and these were approved.

### **Presidium Committee – 110313**

There were no further reports the Presidium Committee.

There were no propositions from Presidium.

### **Payment of Accounts - 120313**

The clerk gave a report regarding payment of accounts for February 2013 which was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Neal-Stugess and approved by Council.

### **Correspondence - 130313**

The clerk read the document entitled Stratford on Avon District Council Recycling Centres – Consultation Exercise, which informed Cllrs of the removal of the recycling bins from the Bleachfield Street car park.

### **Notification of Future Visitors - 140313**

Cllrs were informed of the Alcester Town Council Forum 18<sup>th</sup> March – Maureen Rickards South Warwickshire Credit Union to attend.

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### **Notification of any further business for future meetings - 150313**

The Mayor requested Councillors for agenda items to be received by the clerk no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

### **Dates of future meetings - 160313**

Councillors were requested to consider two options for future meeting dates, which have been circulated.

Community Committee Monday 11 March at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 12 March and Tuesday 26 March at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 25 March at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee Monday TBA

Alcester Town Council Forum Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 2 April 2013 at 7.00pm

**All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House**

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