

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 2 April 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

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

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

To receive reports from Ward District and County Councillors

Apologies 010413

Apologies with reasons for absence were received from Councillors M Gittus, Y Morrison, J Styles, S Adams

Minutes of Council meeting held on 5th March 2013 020413

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 March 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cargill, which was seconded by Cllr Kenyon and approved by Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting 18th March 2013 030413

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 March 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Knapman, which was seconded by Cllr Sturgess and approved by Council

Declarations of Interest 040413

There were no declarations of interest.

Mayor's Report 050413

The Mayor reported he had attended a number of events which included the following; on the 13 March a presentation of Sweeny Todd at Alcester Academy, on the 15 March the Alcester town council civic dinner, on 20th March Alcester town Hall AGM, on 21 March the opening of SECO tools new factory, on 23 March a visit to headway charity, 27 March a meeting at SDC regarding the Greig Hall, and finally on the Saturday 30 March the town criers competition.

Council Vacancy 060413

Councillors considered nominations for the vacancy following the retirement of Councillor Malin. Following proposals and seconders of 3 nominees, Steven Payne of Bleachfield Street, Alcester was duly elected to be co-opted as a councillor of Alcester Town Council.

Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Stratford on Avon 070413

The Clerk read a letter from SDC to Councillors and informed that individual responses were appropriate rather than a council response. Questions were raised regarding the attendance of district councillors to their meetings and Cllr Gough as former District Councillor raised the concern that reducing the numbers will mean more work for district councillors not necessarily making them more effective.

Community Committee 080413

Cllr Payne gave an update on Health and Inequalities stating that Cllrs Adams and Cumberbatch had attended a meeting regarding the Alexandra hospital. Cllr Cumberbatch commented that Arrow Lodge had moved into the new Health

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Centre and the Pharmacy was open. Priory Road was starting their move this coming Friday and completion was expected the following Wednesday. Concern was still raised regarding the lack of notification to patients. Cllr Cumberbatch also stated that he had a meeting with Spring Field Mind Chief Exec and their intention was to increase the service in Alcester, Cllr Cumberbatch also said he had agreed to become a trustee of Springfield Mind. He had also had a meeting with Carol Zambonini regarding extending this service to include older people. There was no further update on Senior Citizens issues.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating that he had met with residents from Oversley Green and he was progressing issues raised at the meeting at the forthcoming ARC meeting. A number of issues had been raised regarding the outflow pipes and the state of the bunds in Alcester. The Safer Neighbourhood team weekly update was circulated today but it was difficult to interpret local issues from their global picture.

Cllr Brown gave an update on Business Support stating that the Ragley Business Fair had been quieter than last year. She also stated that the new Waitrose entrance has received comments from local shops which feel it is an improvement and Waitrose will re-look at the signage in time. Only one High Street Shop is empty but interest is being shown. The ACTC AGM will take place later this month. Alcester has received extra publicity in National papers including the Daily Mail, Observer and Guardian. Concern has been raised regarding the direction of traffic coming out of the Waitrose entrance and Council agreed this should be a left turn only. The Going for Growth Bid has also been completed. Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on ACT.com stating that the Alcester Community Trust meeting was planned for the 10 April.

There was no update on Youth issues.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Communication stating that the Spring Newsletter was out in its new format which had received comments stating it was more reader friendly.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Broadband stating that planning had been granted for a new cabinet at Cross Roads and the Tything Road junction had been designated as an area of intervention.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Alcester Olympics stating that the main topic of discussion at a recent meeting was the Tug of War championship which would be held on the 12 May.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Fields in Trust stating that they hoped to do the presentation of the plaque on the day of the Tug of War championships.

There were no propositions from the Community Committee

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee 090413

Cllr Bunting gave an update on Recreation Facilities stating that Builders had not yet completed work on the Jubilee Centre but needs to this week before the return of the Lunch Clubs. No cheque has yet been received for the fence around the play area however Vision for Alcester money is being used for the Skatepark plans.

Cllr Bunting also gave an update on Ground Maintenance stating that the new contract for grass cutting had been agreed and was about to start.

Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment issues stating that the trees in Moorfields need a Mulch put around them to prevent future maintenance problems. They had also discussed areas of the Weir field which could be suitable

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for the planting of wild flowers this required a measurement of the site for the pricing of the flowers. It had also been put forward that the grass in the community orchard should be allowed to grow longer. Cllr Knapman also stated that she wished to lobby for Alcester to be the first Bee-friendly Town, which means getting Alcester Schools involved. She also stated that they were trying to get hedging plants for the old football site in Oversley green and the tennis courts in Moorfields.

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating that more area had been cleared on the South Bleachfield site and they were looking at the removal of one tree on the North Bleachfield site.

Cllr Brown gave an update on the Cemetery stating that the weather had prevented work going on there and there was still a problem with tidying up the kerb stones.

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

Ground Management Arrangements 100413

Following a report from the clerk Council unanimously approved the purchase of a vehicle which was proposed by Cllr Gough and seconded by Cllr Brown as a solution to current Ground Management Issues.

Planning Committee 110413

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating that the applications for the Allimore lane development and the Grammar School were due to go to SDC planning committee.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Neighbourhood Planning stating that a new structure of the committees was being considered and this structure was cascaded to councillors for consideration.

There were no propositions from the Planning Committee.

Scrutiny Committee 120413

There were no updates from the Scrutiny Committee

Presidium Committee 130413

There were no updates from the Presidium Committee

There were no propositions from Presidium

Localism Act – Right to Bid 140413

The Clerk read the letter from SDC confirming that the Greig Company had applied to the district council for disposal of the site the Town Council had registered as a Community Asset. Councillors then considered for approval, under the Localism Act, for the right to bid for this site as a Community Asset and following discussion Cllr Gough proposed that we proceed with this which he stated will put the Town Council in a very strong position with respect to the feelings of the town's people. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hine and unanimously supported by council.

Payment of Accounts 150413

Councillors received a report from the clerk on payment of accounts for March 2013, which was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Kenyon, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by council.

Councillors received a report from the clerk regarding future accounts and payroll procedure which was now to be done by the council following the retirement of Mrs Janet Evans who had been subcontracted for the purpose of payroll. The

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Clerk informed the council that a Sage accounting package and a Sage payroll package have now been purchased for this purpose.

Correspondence 160413

Plantscape News - Noted

Western Power Distribution – Business Plan - Noted

Clerks and Councils Direct – March Newsletter - Noted

LCR – Spring 2013 Newsletter - Noted

Landscape and Amenity - Newsletter - Noted

Notification of Future Visitors 170413

No further dates have been arranged

Notification of any further business for future meetings 180413

A request was made to councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

Dates of future meetings 190413

Councillors were asked to note the following dates for their diaries:

Community Committee Monday 8 April at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 9 April and Tuesday 23 April at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 22 April at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Annual Meeting Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 7.00pm
(Mayormaking)

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 7.00pm

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House