

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There were no members of the public present.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Adams gave a report starting that she had attended a presentation by Jayne Blackley, the director of development from South Warwickshire Hospital Trust on the proposed development of the Stratford Hospital. The trust had looked at selling the existing site and purchasing land on the edge of Stratford, however this proved not to be viable. Warwick Hospital site is full therefore some services are being moved back to Stratford (as was the case in previous years), 48% of Warwick's patients come from South Warwickshire and there is also an ageing population with increased needs. The planned development will come in 3 phases after the full business case goes before the board in September, architects will need to be appointed and the design and costing completed before planning application can be obtained. There will also be a fund raising appeal to help with this. Phase one, hoped to commence in October this year, will involve: A car park (underground and multi-storey), Cancer Unit (similar to the Aylesford Unit at Warwick, this will cater for those from the area who are unwilling or unable to travel to Warwick for chemotherapy, approximately 40%), Ophthalmology unit and a Pharmacy. Phase two, hoped to commence 2015, will involve: A Radiology unit, a MRI scanner (as Warwick's is working to capacity and they have no further room for another) and a Dermatology unit. Phase three, hoped to commence 2016, will involve Operating theatres and associated wards plus the infrastructure needed for day cases.

Cllr Payne gave a report stating that on the 9th May, SDC Planning committee took a tour of the district, including two sites in Alcester. Firstly was a guided tour of the SECO tools factory which was considered excellent and was a spotless factory, with particularly impressive design features such as the staircase. Secondly was the new Alcester Primary Care Centre, SDC were given a tour around the facilities and it was described as being a "cracker" and a fantastic facility.

Cllr Gittus gave a report, although mentioned that this was a particularly difficult time as the County Council had not yet had their first meetings of the new year. He commented that the Comprehensive spending review due the 26th June this year will present a challenge as there will be cuts of around 90-110 million, although the County is a billion pound Council this will still mean considerable cut backs in certain areas of around 30-35%. There will of course be certain areas that will be circled in red where no further cuts can be made such as for health and education. Cllr Gittus suggested that there will need to be revolutionary ways to continue to provide services which the County may reduce funding for, as this will undoubtedly fall to local government level he would like to see Alcester Town Council working with its rural neighbouring parishes to support the wider community. There are several projects which Cllr Gittus considers need input, including the libraries, the Greig and Hopkins plans. The High Street and making Alcester a festival town (which Cllr Gittus is actively looking for funding to support this) and commerce with suitable housing to suit everybody. Cllr Gittus would like to see Alcester as the principal lead in providing these services. He concluded by saying he is looking forward to the next 4 years but can see there is a lot of work ahead with a lot of that falling onto the Town Council to make some important decisions.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess also commented that the next Comprehensive spending review will be even more crucial with further cuts planned.

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Apologies - 130501

Councillor C Gough, away on holiday

The Mayor, M Cargill reminded Councillors that it is a lawful summons to attend Council meetings and as part of the changes to be introduced in order to obtain Quality Council Status, Councillors will be voting on whether to accept the reasons for absence from future Council meetings.

Minutes of Council Meetings - 130502

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 2nd April 2013, 15th April 2013 (Extraordinary Meeting) and 1st May 2012 (Annual Meeting) having been circulated were all proposed to be accepted by Cllr L Cumberbatch and seconded by Cllr E Payne and approved by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 130503

There were no declarations of interest

Mayor's Report - 130504

The Mayor, Cllr M Cargill, gave a report on the activities he had participated in since being elected as Mayor last week. These included attending the Tug of War Midlands Championships which were held on Sunday 12th May on Jubilee Fields and during this event unveiling the Fields in Trust Plaque, which is important for the town.

The previous Mayor, Cllr L Cumberbatch, also submitted a written report for inclusion in the Alcester Town Council Annual Report.

Reports from Town Council Committees - 130505

Written annual reports from the 2012-3 Chairs of Town Council Committees were submitted for inclusion in the Annual Report, including: The previous Mayor on behalf of Presidium, Recreation & Open Spaces, Community, and Planning. Any queries about these reports were directed to the relevant chairs of the committees.

Town Council Led Committees/Steering Groups - 130506

Councillors considered for appointment/reappointment of members for the Principal Committees: Recreation & Open Spaces, Community, Planning, and Scrutiny. Including the newest Councillor, S Payne.

Review of Terms of Reference - 130507

Councillors were asked to review and consider for approval the Terms of Reference for each committee, at the relevant committee meetings and signed by the previous Chairs, and any changes to be made were to be brought back to the Clerk.

Review of Town Council Policies for the year 2013-4 - 130508

The Clerk read out a list of Town Council Policies which should be reviewed every year and suggested that the relevant Committee groups should be responsible for this. These included:

Grants Policy	Community Committee
Internal Financial Control Policy	Scrutiny Committee
Financial Regulations	Scrutiny Committee
ATC Risk Assessment	Scrutiny Committee
Complaints Procedure	Scrutiny Committee
Child Protection Policy	Community Committee
Standing Orders	Scrutiny Committee
Annual Governance Statement	Scrutiny Committee

Once these documents have been reviewed and where necessary updated, they can be passed by Full Council and be put onto the website for the public to be able to view. This was proposed by Cllr L Cumberbatch and seconded by Cllr C Neal-Sturgess.

Reports from Town Council Representatives - 130509

Written annual reports from the present Town Council Representatives on External Committees for inclusion in the Annual Report were submitted and reports received in the Annual Parish Meeting were taken as read. These included: St Nicholas School Board of Governors, VASA, Alcester Town Hall Management Committee, Alcester United Charities, Moorfield Charity, Newport School Foundation, and Church Street Properties.

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Town Council Representatives - 130510

Councillors considered appointment/reappointment Town Council Representatives for: St Nicholas School Board of Governors, VASA, Alcester Town Hall Management Committee, Alcester United Charities, Moorfield Charity, Newport School Foundation, and Church Street Properties. With all previous representatives willing to stand, only additional representatives were needed to fill in for the vacancies left by Bill Malin. Cllr S Payne volunteered to be a representative for the United Charities, having had some experience of this charity through the Court Leet, this was proposed by Cllr Y Hine and seconded by Cllr E Payne. Cllr A Brown volunteered to be a representative for the Moorfield Charity, this was proposed by Cllr C Neal-Sturgess and seconded by Cllr L Cumberbatch.

Cllr L Cumberbatch wanted it noted that there were some discussions about the time these charities met with day times and early evening being unsuitable for many councillors. The Mayor therefore asked if the Clerk could approach the Clerks of the Charities to consider rescheduling their meeting times for the future.

Other Community Led Committees - 130511

Cllr L Cumberbatch gave a report on Alcester Community Trust, which replaces ACT.com which was set up to benefit the community where the Town Council cannot help. The work of ACT.com, covering the vulnerable communities of the Conway estate and Ten Acres areas has now finished with good results however we are now faced with challenges of how to bring in finances to develop resources to help families and individuals in need in the Town. Therefore it was agreed to set up the Alcester Community Trust. With the help of 6 people, research has been done and the trust's constitution has been put together as is necessary by law, including their aims and objectives, membership and structure. There are 4 themes which the Trust will work on: Alcester as a sustainable market town, Alcester as a town to grow up in, Alcester as an attractive place to live in and visit, and Alcester as a better place for business. There will also be an involvement with the SCAN group to include elderly people into the plan as well. Once the Trust's plan has been reviewed by its 6 members they will submit a report to full Council, this is expected to take about a month. Finally Cllr L Cumberbatch also commented that as there are 3 wards in Alcester the trust will need Council representatives for these wards on the Trust. Cllr C Neal-Sturgess also pointed out that the Alcester Community Trust had a lot of similarities to the Neighbourhood plan so there were potential links between the two and he also mentioned that WALC were now accepting sponsorship to pay for its activities.

12. Clerk to Report on status of Various Projects - 130512

Globe House

The Clerk began by saying there will be another meeting week after next to discuss the latest design, and in June there will be a meeting to discuss the legal side of it. He stated that things are moving along despite some glitches and that everyone is determined for it to work. The plans involve the Library as the senior partner and principal tenant and keeping the museum within the building. The library would like the plans to be as a "Hub" for the town with offices for the CAB, SDC Housing team, VASA, etc. still all included in the building, and ATC if even only for part of the day. Cllr M Gittus also commented on this project, having been heavily involved, stating that the museum is an important part of the building and for the community of Alcester, therefore the trustees of the museum want to participate but accept that there is a need and requirement for paying partners. He stated that there is currently lots of work being done in different directions and it is hoped that soon everyone involved will come to some compromise, this is anticipated to be on a timescale of about 10 months, but could be expected to last up to 20 months. Cllr M Gittus commented that it was important to move these talks on especially in the current climate, and made reference to the fact SDC currently own the building and ATC are the only paying tenants. Some concern was raised about lost facilities from the library and if the public know about these plans, Cllr M Gittus responded stating that the area proposed for the library to use would involve a possible extension to the building to make sure there was no loss of facilities. He also stated that the designs still need the approval of both SDC and ATC but they will be presented to the public in due course. Another concern raised was that the building should belong to the people of Alcester and that it should be saved for such a reason, which is of course the purpose of the current plans to keep it open for the use of the Alcester Community. Cllr L Cumberbatch concluded these discussions stating that potentially

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

the museum could close with the upcoming end of its lease, under the above mentioned WCC cuts the library could potentially be closed, and without a principal paying partner for the building Globe house and all the other services it provided home for could be closed, therefore this plan aims to save all threatened services and retain them and an important building for Alcester, which is the core of the plans. He also made reference to the fact that these plans also have implications on education and welfare services in the town which are an important part of the discussions. Cllr Cumberbatch also commented that it is now felt that the museum trustees are more comfortable with the latest plans and negotiations are now moving forward, he also echoed Cllr Gittus's comment that once there are definite plans in place the plans will be taken to the public for their consultation. The Mayor added that it was a logical conclusion to create a "hub" and hoped that compromises would be made to allow this to happen smoothly, he stated that everyone needs to appreciate the hard work that is going into making this happen.

Greig Centre

The Clerk stated that the Greig Hall and its associated site had now been registered as a community asset, however the Greig trustees have now submitted their wish to "dispose" of the site, therefore as the site is a community asset that gives ATC the "right to bid" for the site under the Localism Act. ATC have the application forms for this process and as part of that need to have the site valued. Bigwoods were approached to carry out a valuation however as the company had done the valuation for SDC it was felt that there was a conflict of interest so they will not act on ATC's behalf. Therefore other quotes from other local companies providing the same services were being sought, for example J Trustlove had been contacted. However in order for any company to carry out a valuation there will be fees involved, in the region of £1000 (as Trustlove quoted), although this could be covered by a grant available the current time restraints with getting everything for the right to bid finalised before the end of the 6 month period, the Clerk proposed that ATC cover the valuation fees and can claim the money back after we receive the grant. This suggestion was proposed by Cllr M Gittus and seconded by Cllr C Neal-Sturgess and approved by council.

Alcester Jubilee Centre

The Clerk reported on the recent Tug of War Championships which were held at the Jubilee centre commenting that the reports back had been very positive. However there were some outstanding issues still to address, such as the hot water supply, which currently is not adequate to run both the toilets facilities and use for the kitchen at the same time, therefore solutions such as a boiler fitted upstairs were being considered. Generally though the Jubilee centre is starting to work well and it was noted that the new tables had arrived this week. Cllr M Gittus also commented on the Tug of War event stating that it was good to see the recreation fields being used for their purpose and that despite the weather it had been a very good day, with feedback from the participants that the facilities of the Jubilee centre had been much better than they were used to. The Tug of War organisers had also asked if they could come back to use the fields again on 24th August and were considering the venue for the national finals later in the year. Cllr M Gittus pointed out that obviously there were costs involved with such events but hoped that these costs could be recouped it was suggested by Councillors that other services could be run at the same time in order to bring in more money rather than relying on just the kitchen, it was noted however that the weather is a big factor in the turn out of the public and on a better day costs would more easily be covered. Cllr M Gittus concluded that at the end of the day any even that brings people into the town, even just those participating, had to be good for the town.

Ground Maintenance Transport

The Clerk stated that the new Van had now been purchased, a 2006 Ford Transit, and circulated images to ask Council their permission to add Alcester Town Council's name and logo onto the side of the van with the slogan "Working for Alcester", these would be in the form of a decal done by the same company who do the Mayor board, which he pointed out had been updated with the new Mayor's name added.

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

13. Payment of Accounts - 130513

Councillors received a report from the Clerk on Payment of Accounts for April 2013, which was proposed to be accepted by Cllr L Cumberbatch and seconded by Cllr Y Hine.

There was one query regarding the title of "mayor's wages" for the cost centre covering the payment of the wages paid to the mayor's Secretary and it was made clear that the Mayor himself does not receive any wages, only a fixed sum allowance of £350 to cover costs once elected.

The Distribution of Grants for the year 2012-2013 were read out by the previous Mayor, Cllr L Cumberbatch, who stated that there was a sum left over to be considered at a later date, the matter was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Y Hine and seconded by Cllr J Styles

14. Correspondence - 130514

The Clerk read out the correspondence received in the past month and reminded Councillor that they are kept in the office if they wish to view any.

a. Letter from April Moore of Stretton on Dunsmore - Noted

b. Church Street Properties – Grant for Kitchen Works at the Jubilee Centre - Noted

c. Zurich Municipal – Policy Reminder - Noted

d. Warwick University – Community Newsletter - Noted

e. Western Power Distribution – Letter Re Power Cuts and Improving the Electricity Network - Noted

f. Clerks and Councils Direct – Newsletter - Noted

g. CPRE – Various Publications - Noted

15. Notification of Future Visitors - 130515

The clerk informed Councillors of the visitors to be presenting to Council at the Forum meeting 20th May at 7pm:

CLA Game Fair 2013 – Richard Abbey and colleagues

Ali Mainey WCC – Community Development Role

16. Notification of any further business for future meetings - 130516

A request was made to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to the corresponding meetings

17. Dates of future meetings - 130517

Councillors were asked to note the following dates for their diaries (all of which are to be held at Globe House this coming month):

Community Committee Monday 13 May at 7.00pm

Forum Meeting Monday 20 May at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Meeting Tuesday 21st May and Monday 3rd June at 7.00 pm.

SDC West Area Planning Committee Tuesday 23 May at St Benedict's time 6:15pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 28 May at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 4 June at 7.00pm