

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 4 June 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, C Gough, N Knapman, Y Morrison, S Payne and Town Clerk C Wright

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was one member of the public present who did not wish to make a presentation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Alcester Ward District and County Councillors. Cllr Adams reported she was still the Chair of the Licensing Committee and sat on the regulatory committee.

Cllr Gittus stated that he was continuing on the SDC planning West area committee and WCC work and pensions and community safety. He reported that the mobile library was under review as there was a necessity for the library to continue making savings, the five library vehicles are to be reduced to three. This will give some repercussions for rural areas and will introduce other schemes e.g. books by post, the use of private libraries and electronic books.

Cllr Payne reported that he sat on Overview and Scrutiny, West area planning committee and JCNC for SDC. He had attended training on green belt planning and will provide slides for the Clerk and planning committee.

Apologies - 130601

Apologies were received from Councillors A Brown, J Styles and J Kenyon, reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

Minutes of Council meeting held on 14th May 2013 - 130602

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th May 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Morrison and approved by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 130603

Members are asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda: Cllr Hine declared an interest on a payment in item 12, Payments of Accounts.

Mayor's Report - 130604

The Mayor gave a report on his recent activities stating that he had had an interesting start with a meeting of various new mayors. He had attended the opening of the Jubilee Centre which he felt was continuing to be of great benefit to the community. He had attended an evensong at Coventry cathedral for the Queen's coronation ceremony.

Council Membership - 130605

Clerk gave a report on Current Membership of Alcester Town Council, stating he had received correspondence from Councillor Peter Carr offering his resignation as an Alcester Town Councillor. The Clerk received council's permission to place a notice on the Town Council notice boards giving electors in the Oversley Ward the opportunity to call an election during the statutory period after which the position could be filled by co-option.

Community Committee - 130606

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Inequalities stating that the two doctor's practices must have a patients group which reflect the requirement from the NHS. There is a possibility of money from the DoH for the commissioning process. The town must have two representatives on the clinical group so Cllr Cumberbatch will draft a letter to the practices so that they can draw up a format for people to put their names forward. Cllr Cumberbatch stated that doctors will be doing work to assess what health requirements will be needed to cope if the Bloor homes applications go ahead stating that it was a clinical commissioning problem following the demise of the PCT's in April. Concern was still raised about travel from the west side of the town however Cllr Cumberbatch re-iterated that the health clinic was not responsible for people's personal transport. Cllr Payne reported that he had been to the AED launch and he passed on Cllr Brown's thanks to all who had supported the AED program and despite all the effort we have been pipped by Shipston as the first Heart safe Town in the country.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Senior Citizens issues stating that there was still concerns over the bus services in Alcester with people finding it particularly difficult to get to the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch.

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues starting with concerns following the streetlights being switched off earlier in the evening and apparent increase in thefts from vehicles. He continued the Speed Aware initiative needs to be progressed with the organisation of teams to set up the equipment. Cllr Neal-Sturgess also stated that there was a need to explore a budget to support things like first aid training and on that subject we now have now fixed a date for the course which is 2 three hour sessions on separate evenings. He had also spoken to the first responders regarding training on defibrillators, which must be organised through the ambulance service. There had also been a review of flood resilience activities and a priority list will be drawn up with the Jubilee centre to be set up as a rescue centre at which point there would be a need to re-train the flood wardens. Cllr Gittus stated that he was keen to see if there was a possibility for further property protection support for Oversley Mill Park and Ragley Mill Lane.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Business Support stating that the Chamber of Trade had agreed to the improvements to finger poles and signage on the car park within the Mary Portas Budget. There had been meetings with Waitrose to work on other signs. Cllr Cumberbatch confirmed the visit to SECO had been agreed to take place on the 18th June at 2pm. Concern was raised again about the new exit from Waitrose car park which people believed should only be a left turn. Cllr Gittus stated that the issue had been raised and a review may be possible after 6 months.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Alcester Community Trust stating that there have been some modifications to guidelines to the status of community trusts in England. Alcester Community Trust needs to be independent and not operate as a sub-committee with different terms of references and articles, reporting back to the Annual Parish Meeting every year.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Youth issues stating that Alcester Youth Project had met and had asked for further information on the Skate Park.

Cllr Morrison gave an update on Communication stating that the Council surgery had taken place on the previous Saturday with one complaint regarding fireworks at 2:30 in the morning. There had also been a concern regarding a homeless couple with a young baby and a difficulty regarding the out of hours contacts. Discussion continued regarding this issue and ways of being able to help people in similar situations were to be investigated. It was also stated that the Mayor's blog was now on the website every week.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on Broadband stating that there would be an announcement on the 6th June regarding the preferred contractor but there seems to be progress with work already started at Minerva Mill.

Cllr Gittus gave an update on Alcester Olympics stating that although there was a minimal profit thanks to all the lady volunteers at the recent Tug of War event they were looking forward to the next event.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Fields in Trust stating that another funding opportunity is being investigated

There were no propositions from the Community Committee

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 130607

Cllr Bunting stated that there had been no recreation and open spaces committee meeting this month, however he did state that the fence had been put up on Jubilee fields and the dog signs have now arrived but temporary signs were put up. They are also now compiling a list of additional improvements for Jubilee fields as there is no equipment to the disabled and no picnic area close to the play equipment.

Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment stating that a lot of what is going on is actually in the Newsletter however she had a concern regarding the bee population and following discussions the proposal that Alcester would like to become the first bee-friendly town in the West Midlands and Warwickshire was proposed by Cllr Bunting, seconded by Cllr Gittus and passed by Council.

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating that all the plots have been allocated and inspected and 2 letters have been sent to individuals who had not kept their allotment up to date.

Cllr Bunting gave an update on the Cemetery stating that he had inspected it with Jan and in particular the older graves with curb stones were being looked at with respect to trying to tidy up the cemetery.

Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

There were no further propositions to Council from the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee
Planning Committee - 130608

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating that Allimore lane had been a prominent part of most meetings of late with discussions relating to the Town Council's response at the SDC West Planning Committee meeting. Otherwise there had been very few planning applications.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on Neighbourhood Planning stating that it was in the process of being re-launched with himself taking the lead, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are to chair the designated Neighbourhood Forum and its Steering Group.

Cllr Cargill gave a report on SDC West Area Planning Committee meetings stating that the whole community came together and swayed the committee by putting forward a case to dispute the scheme. The developers contribution had only concentrated on the case put forward by the planning officer and offered no positive attributes towards Alcester.

There were no propositions from the Planning Committee

Scrutiny Committee - 130609

There were no any updates or propositions from the Scrutiny Committee.

Presidium Committee - 130610

There were no any updates or propositions from the Presidium Committee.

To receive a Report from the Clerk - 130611

The Clerk gave an update regarding Globe House stating that there had been a meeting with the Museum and Library representatives present which had showed a positive response from all, this would be followed by a further meeting in the latter half of June with the Heads of both Stratford District Council Property Services and Warwickshire County Council Property Services. The result from this meeting will be reported back to Council at the next meeting in July.

The clerk gave an update regarding the Greig Hall stating a Chartered Surveyor had been appointed and a meeting arranged for 5th June at the Greig Hall for valuation purposes. The Clerk will report back as information becomes available.

Payment of Accounts - 130612

The clerk gave a report on payment of accounts for May 2013 which Cllr Cumberbatch proposed to be accepted, Cllr Knapman seconded and were approved by Council.

The clerk gave a report regarding progress with accounts and payroll software stating that use of the payroll software was progressing however we were still running the old system for accounts and will be introducing the new system to run alongside for a period of time until confidence has been proven.

Correspondence - 130613

None to date, however the clerk reminded Councillors that most correspondence is now e-mailed and is assumed as having been read.

Notification of Future Visitors - 130614

No further dates have been arranged

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 130615

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

Dates of future meetings – 130616

The Mayor reminded councillors of the following meetings:

Community Committee Monday 10 June at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 18 June & Monday 1 July at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 24 June at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 2 July 2013 at 7.00pm

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House