



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

### **Present**

Councillors M Cargill (Mayor), Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), L Cumberbatch, E Payne, M Gittus, C Neal-Sturgess, J Kenyon, A Brown, N Knapman, J Styles, S Payne and 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. Mr Stuart Weaver a resident of Evesham Street, Alcester asked for clarification regarding the access from the Allotments on Bleachfield Street through land belonging to the Corinthian Court Complex and onto Stratford Road with respect to the Common Law on Easements particularly after 20 years use. The Clerk responded that investigations will be made on the issue.

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

Reports were received from the following District and County Councillors. Cllr Juned reported on the recent West Area Planning committee meeting for the Allimore Lane Development, stating the most recent one was deferred because a report from a recent planning appeal had been placed before the committee members and as a consequence the members requested more time to consider the information and a motion was passed to defer the meeting. She also stated the Draft Core Development Strategy becomes public on the 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr Payne agreed with all Cllr Juned had said he also stated he had attended a meeting of a task and finish group on housing allocation and the localism act. Cllr Gittus stated he had attended a site visit at Oversley Mill Park with the environment agency who was keen to hear their views and give everyone a say. He had also sat on the west area committee to discuss the first Allimore application and following a site visit the committee were disturbed regarding the environmental impact from the A46 Alcester bypass. He had also attended a number of meetings regarding the future of Globe House, which had become more complicated because of the lower valuation of the library building and the hire cost of the refurbishment of Globe House and higher expectations of stake holders. The latest meetings however have been postponed. The Contents of the comprehensive spending review are being digested at the moment and a report is likely to come forward this Friday.

### **Apologies - 130701**

Apologies were received from Councillors J Bunting, C Gough, S Adams, and Y Morrison, reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

### **Minutes of recent Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June - 130702**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and the Extraordinary meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Gittus, seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and accepted by Council.

### **Declarations of Interest - 130703**

No Declarations of interest were received



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### **Mayor's Report - 130704**

The Mayor gave a report on recent activities which included visits to other organisations including the Warwickshire Girls Guide Review at St Benedict's School, where long service awards were given to various officers, Warwick District Council Civic Dinner, and locally the re-launch of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Alcester Street Market as well as attending the West Area Planning Committee meeting.

### **Council Membership - 130705**

The Clerk reported on the status of the vacancy at Alcester Town Council stating the notice declaring the vacancy had been on our notice boards for the statutory time and we had received notification from the returning officer that no application for an election had been received and that the vacancy could now be filled by co-option. Councillors requested that the vacancy should be advertised on both the Council website and Facebook Page.

### **Community Committee - 130706**

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Inequalities stating he had met with John Hodges, chair of Alcester SCAN, concerning a possible seminar and workshop on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment of Warwickshire. He also stated he had a meeting with the Doctors at Alcester Health centre regarding patient participation.

Cllr Payne reported on Senior Citizens issues stating he also had a meeting with John Hodges on how the latest round of cuts may affect the 'Joined up' service provision.

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating the Resilience Committee had met, a First Aid course had been organised at the Jubilee centre. There were still issues with Oversley Mill Park, which can be best addressed by the Environment Agency responding to their questions. There had been thefts from outbuildings and garages in Oversley Green. BT had been selected to commission superfast broadband; however the rollout had now been delayed until 2017. Also there may be some good news on flooding victims as agreement on a mechanism to cap insurance premiums was progressing.

Cllr Brown gave an update on Business Support that information was now being finalised for the CLA Fair, which can also be utilised in the future. Alcester Hostelries are organised for visitors from the fair and a new events guide will also be available. Regarding the empty charity shop in the town an application has been received from someone wanting to open a cafe.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Alcester Community Trust stating some adjustments to the constitution had been made and along with other information it would be circulated before the next meeting of Trust Members before the next meeting which was in the process of being organised.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating the Alcester Youth Council had met the previous week. Five Boys from Alcester Academy are still active and very involved. The Council is very impressed with the new fence on Jubilee Fields, and they are coming up with some ideas for events e.g. A Wii night. They are drawing up a list of films for their cinema club and sending



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questionnaires round the schools. There is one more meeting before the end of the school year and an invitation was extended to all councillors to come and talk with them. Generally Cllr Styles said she was pleased with the progress. A meeting of Alcester Youth Project had been cancelled, however a meeting had been arranged with Alcester Academy who wanted to get more involved. The clerk read out an update on Communication which had been received from Cllr Morrison.

The Mayor has requested that the Surgery is held in Waitrose this month, where the emphasis will be on the relaunch of the NHP. The Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) web page has been set up, although at the moment there are a number of issues with the framework which S.D.C are currently working on, we are aiming to complete a Marketing drive at the weekend and are working to resolve any issues prior to then. In addition, for information, restricted access is available to this page when required. We now have Facebook and Twitter accounts set up, with links from the website. This will be particularly useful for communication purposes when developing the NHP. We now have Quick Response Codes for both the ATC website and the Neighbourhood Plan site. For those who are unaware QR Codes allow instant access to the website via a Smartphone or similar. It has been agreed with each Chair that the Jubilee Committee and the Communication Committees will be amalgamated into one Committee as many of the subjects were mutual and the members the same. There was no update on Alcester Olympics

Cllr Payne reported the Fields in Trust Plaques were now ready.

There were no propositions from the Community Committee

### **Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 130707**

Cllr Cumberbatch gave a report on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance stating he had spent 2.5 hrs with Cllrs Payne and Bunting walking round ATC controlled sites and is bringing forward to council a number of issues, in particular with reference to the sub committees and budget matters. A lot of seasonal work is required and there is a need to plan appropriately and set priorities also under review is the terms of reference.

Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment issues stating that the subcommittee had a meeting on the 19 June when they looked at work on trees and hedgerows particularly at ATFC ground. She reported that an Ash tree has died on our Stratford road land. Other information relating to work to be done on the weir field with respect to the river solution was discussed. She also reported that there had been support for a bee friendly town status at the garden walkabout. Cllr discussed the issues raised.

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments, stating that they will be looking into the access issue regarding Corinthian Court, the judging of allotments will be done shortly and the waiting list now stands at 2.

There was no update on the Cemetery.

The following proposition to Council from the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee was considered following an explanation from the clerk regarding the correct procedure which should have been used at the previous meeting.



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'Alcester would like to become the first bee-friendly town in the West Midlands and Warwickshire'.

The following amendment for the proposition was proposed by Cllr Gittus and seconded Cllr Payne and supported by full council which now reads:

'To explore the opportunity for Alcester to become the first bee-friendly town in the West Midlands and Warwickshire'.

### **Planning Committee - 130708**

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Planning Applications stating that there had been 11 applications but most of the committee business had been dominated by the Bloor homes application north of Allimore Lane.

Cllr Sturgess also gave an update on Neighbourhood Planning stating that after a meeting he would be coordinating efforts. All information will be put on the website and the work will be done by working groups breaking down into social-economic, socio-cultural, education and health.

There was nothing to report from SDC West Area Planning Committee meetings.

There was no proposition from the Planning Committee.

### **Scrutiny Committee - 130709**

There were no updates from the Scrutiny Committee

### **Presidium Committee - 130710**

There were no updates from the Presidium Committee

### **To receive a Report from the Clerk - 130711**

The clerk gave an update regarding Globe House stating that he wished to remind the Council that we had now been in control of the meet and greet facility for the past 2 years and the museum's lease expires in October 2013.

Cllr Cumberbatch stated that unless there is progress soon Council must consider alternative arrangements.

### **Payment of Accounts - 130712**

The Clerk gave a report on payment of accounts for June 2013 with explanations on certain items. Cllr Cumberbatch proposed acceptance of the payment of accounts which was seconded by Cllr Hine and approved by Council.

### **Correspondence - 130713**

The following correspondence was noted by Councillors and the clerk read aloud appropriate passages where required:

Campaign to protect Rural England – Spring 2013 Outlook Publication.

Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire – The Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

NALC – LCR Summer 2013 Publication.

Paul Lankester – Chief Executive SDC – Electoral review of Stratford on Avon

The Clerk reminded councillors e-mailed correspondence was assumed as read.

### **Notification of Future Visitors - 130714**

No further dates have been arranged

### **Notification of any further business for future meetings - 130715**

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 - 130716**



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The Mayor reminded councillors of the following meetings:

Community Committee Monday 8 July at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 16 July & Tuesday 30 July at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 22 July at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 6 August 2013 at 7.00pm

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House