

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, J Bunting, C Gough, S Adams, 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. Three members of the public were present but declined to comment.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Ward District and County Councillors. Cllr Juned stated on two matters, firstly the proposition for the Core Strategy which had included 300 houses for Alcester, she couldn't support this however accepting that a core strategy was needed she abstained from voting; however the vote was almost unanimous. Secondly the boundary changes for district council wards will include 3 Cllrs for Alcester however 1 includes Temple Grafton and Exhall with Oversley green.

Cllr Adams stated that she had voted for the core strategy and was not against the total of 300 houses which will keep the town alive. She also commented on licensing stating that the town council's concerns regarding open vessels at 59 High Street was upheld, she also stated her concern on the number of tables appearing on the High Street outside buildings.

Cllr Gittus stated he supported the Core Strategy with the corrected Allimore Lane allocations. He also commented on community grants and the Transport seminar. He stated that the part time lighting was to be reviewed in November, the resurfacing of roads was in progress around the town but savings were still to be made in a September consultation.

Cllr E Payne stated he had also supported the Core Strategy as it was imperative to move forward. He had intended an inspection of properties on the Conway estate with an Orbit representative and had presented trophies at St. Nicholas School.

Apologies - 130801

Apologies were received from Councillor Y Morrison, whose reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

Minutes of recent Council meeting held on 2nd July 2013 - 130802

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd July 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Gittus, seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and accepted by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 130803

Members were asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda.

Cllr Hine declared an interest relating to the payment of accounts.

Mayor's Report - 130804

The Mayor gave a report from on recent activities stating he attended twice at the CLA game fair and talked to their representatives regarding a possible bus from Stratford railway station in the future, he had also met with SDC officers regarding the Draft Core Strategy and the Greig Hall, which will be reported on later in closed session.

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Council Membership - 130805

The Mayor readout the procedural advice on co-opting new members and then asked for nominations for the position of a new Co-opted Member of Alcester Town Council. Cllr Neal-Sturgess proposed Mr Chris Brannigan with a statement of recommendation; Cllr Kenyon seconded the proposition stating his knowledge of the candidate. Cllr Brown proposed Mrs Gill Foreman with a statement of recommendation; Cllr S Payne seconded the nomination stating his knowledge of the candidate. The Mayor announced there would now be an election, and following a ballot, Mr C Brannigan was elected.

Community Committee - 130806

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Inequalities and Senior Citizen's issues stating that following the Churchill retirement homes planning application the issue of care and accommodation of care and accommodation of the elderly had come to the fore. He reminded Cllrs that retirement homes do not provide any care facility and that currently Alcester has various locations providing retirement units which total 252. The Churchill and McCarthy and Stone Applications which are currently either in the application or pre-application stage would add a further 89 units. These cannot be justified with the current stock facility however the Town does have a need for 67 units to be provided with extra care facilities. Cllr Cumberbatch also stated that this was of great concern to WCC who were in need of ATC support for the development of the old School on Moorfields where they hope an extra care facility could be built to provide the majority of this much needed capacity. Other Town Cllrs made comment in support of providing an extra care facility. Cllr Gittus added as the WCC Cllr concerned that Moorfields was owned by the WCC therefore there was an obvious benefit in using that land.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating that J Mattocks was now in charge of emergency equipment stored at the fire station and that the stocking of the Jubilee Centre as a rescue centre was now complete. The recent first aid course had been well attended and was a success, there is a revision taking place of the emergency plan and a refresher meeting for flood wardens will be held on Wed 18 September. There hasn't as yet been any feedback from the Environment Agency on Oversley Park. Cllr Sturgess also reported that the speed aware equipment was now at Globe House and that Cllr S Payne has now agreed to organise this project.

Cllr Brown gave an update on Business Support stating that the response from the Town Public Houses with respect to visitors during the CLA game fair was very good and that we had been asked if the signs placed on local roads could be left up. She also stated that there was now healthy competition between coffee houses on the High Street with new signs that have appeared. Cllr Cumberbatch reported that the CLA group will meet shortly and that to his knowledge the bus service provided at the CLA game fair had been active and that most of the public houses and restaurants were satisfied with their results. Cllr Brown also reported on empty shops stating that Our Place was now empty following the move of the model shop to larger premises.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Alcester Community Trust stating that work was still being done on the terms of reference, members have met and

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their personal information has been put the Clerk and he will report back on progress.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth an issue stating there has been a bit of a crisis with volunteers with 2 moving away from the area from the Depot and one retiring from the Junior Youth Club. Alcester Junior Drama was also having problems. A meeting was called with members from the Depot, Alcester Youth Project, Alcester junior Drama and the Junior Youth Club plus Cllr E Payne on behalf of the Community Cinema. It had been decided to tackle the problem as a whole. Warwickshire association of youth clubs had been contacted as the Depot had paid to be a member, they supply a paid youth worker for a 10 week period for £750 and Alcester youth project confirmed that they had the funds to support this. This would mean that the junior youth club would open in Sept however this is not sustainable and a number of ways were discussed how to solve the volunteer problem which included a presence in Waitrose, flyers for different groups and an article in the Sept Newsletter. Town Cllrs were very supportive and other possibilities were also considered.

Cllr E Payne gave an update on Communication stating that the July Surgery had been held at Waitrose which was well supported and that the closing date for articles for the Newsletter was the 23 Aug.

Cllr S Payne gave an update on Broadband stating that he had enjoyed an information session by CSW which was also supported by BT, who gave a detailed description of the poor Broadband in Area and concentration however their concentration was on conurbations. South Warwickshire will have between 2 and 24 MG, however some areas don't have 2 MG. No timescales were available for improvement. At the meeting the leader of SDC had said he was not getting as much investment as their input should generate but the overall position was positive.

Cllr Gittus gave an update on Alcester Olympics stating that the Tug of War event was still on for the 26 Aug but did not involve any organisation from ourselves except for some refreshments which would be provided to raise funds for the youth club. Cllr Brown raised concern as it was the same day as Alcester Ale trail.

There were no propositions from the Community Committee however Cllr Gittus asked if it was pertinent to endorse the scheme as was presented by Cllr Cumberbatch. Cllr Cumberbatch thanked Council and said he would write formally that ATC strongly held the view to support the need for an extra care facility and both Cllr Gittus as WCC Cllr and Cllr Cargill as Mayor said they would support it.

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 130807

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance stating that he had brought his thoughts to Presidium on a revised terms of reference which will go to the September Council meeting, which will allow 6 months of this Council year to firm up the terms of reference, a corrected name for the committee and how often they meet. This committee is also the largest spenders and needs to make a statement about the budget.

Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment stating she was concerned about the new trees that have been planted on Moorfields during the very hot

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weather; this will now be monitored following the recent rainfalls. She also stated that there was a need to process the Bee Friendly status and a need to raise its profile in the Town. The clerk stated that Mrs F Wright had donated 10,000 Poppy seeds in remembrance of her Grandfather who died during the First World War.

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating that judging had been done and awards would be given at the Horticulture show in Sept. 2 problem allotments had been identified and the open spaces clerk will write to the allotment holders.

Cllr Brown gave an update on the Cemetery stating that consideration had been made about planting the poppies but there was nothing further to report. She will shortly be looking at the overall Cemetery plan.

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

Planning Committee - 130808

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating that The Committee looked at 17 Planning Applications over the month. Consisting of 6 internal/external changes, 4 extensions, 4 new builds, 2 trees and one advert. The most contentious of the applications seen had to have been the Churchill retirement which ATC have objected to, based on the fact Alcester has no need for this type of development. Other applications which have raised issues are Oversley Castle which Wixford are objecting to strongly and conservation issues with the Minerva Mill application.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Neighbourhood Planning stating that the Neighbourhood plan designation Area application has been in draft form for quite a time following the Council's agreement to designate the Parish boundary as the area. Following the completion of the boundary review we have now included the new boundary map in the document.

Council were asked to consider for approval the proposition from the Planning Committee which was proposed by Cllr Sturgess and seconded by Cllr Cargill, 'To approve the Designated Area Application for the Alcester Neighbourhood Plan'. All Cllrs were in agreement.

Scrutiny Committee - 130809

There were no updates or propositions from the Scrutiny Committee

Presidium Committee - 130810

Cllr Cargill gave an update from the Presidium Committee stating that the items discussed at the meeting were due to be discussed in closed session.

To receive a Report from the Clerk - 130811

The Clerk gave an update regarding Globe House stating that there had still not been a date set for a further meeting with WCC. He raised this concern with the head of property services at SDC as the October deadline for renewing the lease of the Museum was now getting critically short and that he was also concerned that new budget arrangements may be considered before any agreement had been made, putting the project in jeopardy. Cllr Cumberbatch asked if this was time to put in a formal letter to the DC and CC stating our concern and that we wished to sort this out urgently, Cllr Gittus stated that the Museum had sent a letter of support to the leader of the CC and that we were now waiting for a

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draft of the distribution of space on how the building could work. The clerk confirmed he too had sent a letter of support to the leader of the CC which had been acknowledged.

Payment of Accounts - 130812

The clerk gave a report on payment of accounts for July 2013, Cllr Gittus proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Sturgess.

Correspondence - 130813

The following correspondence was presented to Cllrs and noted:

Stratford District Council – Waste and Recycling Collection Service.

Warwickshire County Council – Waste Core Strategy – Adoption Statement.

Clerks and Councils Direct – July Publication.

Gary Levine – Letter in support of becoming a Bee Friendly Town.

Alcester War Memorial Hall – Conservation Plan.

Cllrs were also informed by the Clerk that Adrian Ashby had passed away and Cllrs agreed that a letter of condolence should be sent.

Cllrs were reminded that all E-mailed correspondence was assumed as read.

Notification of Future Visitors - 130814

No further dates have been arranged

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 130815

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 - 130816

The Mayor reminded councillors of the following meetings:

Community Committee Monday 12 August at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 13 August & **Wednesday** 28th August at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee **Tuesday** 27th August at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 3 September 2013 at 7.00pm

SDC West Area Planning Committee 9 September 2013 (time to be agreed)

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House

Alcester Town Council Closed Session

Due to the sensitivity and confidential nature of certain information members of the public will be asked to leave the Council Chamber and Alcester Town Councillors only will be asked to remain.