



Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

Councillors Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), L Cumberbatch, E Payne, C Neal-Sturgess, J Kenyon, J Bunting, Y Morrison, C Gough, 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, several members of the public were present, one asked to comment.

Andy Mann gave a report on behalf of the Eclipse Road Residents Group in response to the Planning Committee proposal regarding the Stratford on Avon District Council Core Strategy Document with particular reference to the current planning application for houses North of Allimore Lane regarding the less numbers in the Core Strategy.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Ward District and County Councillors. Cllr Juned also referred to the Core Strategy stating she was disappointed in the document and had abstained from voting, however did refer to the number of 300 for the Allimore North site. She also referred to the problem of motorists parking on pavements obstructing access for parents with prams and children as well as the disabled. Further reference was made to an accident near to St Benedicts School when police took over 1 hour to attend.

Cllr Payne reported he had no meetings during August, but he had been meeting with Housing Association and District council officers regarding housing and overgrown path issues.

Apologies - 130901

Apologies were received from M Cargill (Mayor), S Adams, M Gittus and C Brannigan, whose reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

Minutes of recent Council meeting held on 6th August 2013 - 130902

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th August 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Gough, seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and accepted by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 130903

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 - 130904

Cllr Hine gave a report on behalf of the Mayor on recent activities Stating: This has been a quiet month for civic duties apart from the Chairman of Stratford's charity event, riding for the disabled.

However there have been a number of negotiations proceeding including discussions with SDC and the developers for the next planning application for land North of Alimore lane. A report will follow shortly.

We entered into joint negotiations with Alcester Grammer school over the joint purchase of the land to the rear of the school, backing onto the river.



Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Unfortunately we were outbid but options are still being explored. Finally but with huge significance we have been in discussions with the trustees of the Greig Hall over our community right to buy offer. This is still at a delicate stage, there has not been as yet a negative response from the trustees and we are remaining positive that a conclusion can be found, which will be excellent for the town. A report is to follow.

Council Membership - 130905

Following apologies from the Newly elected Co-opted Member of Alcester Town Council the signing of the Acceptance of Office form was deferred.

Community Committee - 130906

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Senior Citizens issues Stating he had reports of problems relating to people coming out of hospital needing care, and there was no response from Social care and he was trying to talk to both doctors practices and there was urgent need for a forum to talk about quality of care in the town. This affects people we know and the people who are leading this are reluctant to even comment. We also have a problem with the growth of the Alzheimers club who need support to ensure they can move into the Jubilee Centre to cope with the increasing numbers successfully.

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues Stating the Resilience Committee had met at the end of August, the Emergency Plan was being updated and there was to be a Floodwarden Review on the 1st October. There is a consultation in progress on the scheme previewed a year ago to have a 20 mph along the High Street, upgrade and move the pedestrian crossing points with a priority scheme around the Town Hall.

Cllr Brown gave an update on Business Support stating she had attended the opening of Orangemabel on 24th August. Concern had been raised with the number of tables and A frames on the High Street particularly for old people. A number of councillors also raised their concerns regarding this. To remove uncertainty Cllr Payne was to consult with District Council Officers.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Alcester Community Trust stating that it had met and progress was still being made and some modification to the Draft Constitution had been completed.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating a paid Youth Worker had agreed to come to the next Junior Youth Club meeting and an article for the newsletter had also been submitted.

Cllr Morrison gave an update on Communication, thanking councillors for their contributions and stating the Newsletter had been completed and was with the printers. The Town Council Surgery would be held this Saturday at Globe House and the Big Screen that had been used by the Council at the CLA Game Fair, had been set up in reception and was ready for use. The Alcester Neighbourhood Plan Logo competition had also been launched.

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave an update on High Speed Broadband, stating there was little to report and he was not confident on the coverage

Cllr E Payne gave an update on Alcester Olympics stating the Tug of War competition had been held in August and was a success.

There were no propositions from the Community Committee



Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at Globe House, Alcester Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 130907

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on behalf of the Committee regarding Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance, stating a review of our facilities was being done along with a programme of work, there were currently no issues regarding ground maintenance, however this years climatic conditions had resulted in alot of tree maintenance.

Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment issues stating her sub-committee had produced a document which had been cascaded to the committee members for their consideration she also stated the wild flower area of the Weir Field is to be increased which would dovetail in with the wild poppy area. A bee strategy document was also cascaded amongst councillors

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating the inspections of each plot had taken place and awards would be made at the forthcoming flower show.

Cllr Brown gave an update on the Cemetery stating there was little to report except the proposed planting of poppies and wild flowers with advice from the environment sub committee

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

Planning Committee - 130908

Cllr Gough gave an update from the Planning Committee stating there had been 8 applications since the last meeting which included one from Minerva Mill, where the committee had followed advice from the case officer and a modification to the Churchill Retirement Homes application however the committees comments had not changed. The committee was also looking at possibilities for extra care units and specialised housing in Alcester, the latter qualifying for affordable homes.

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on the Alcester Neighbourhood Planning stating that it was still progressing though slower than planned until the Housing supply as detailed in the Core Strategy was more explicit and we had confidence in the numbers. Cllr Sturgess then read the following statement from Cllr Cargill in his absence

This note is to advise council that discussions, as mandated at the last closed session, have been ongoing between Alcester Town Council and Stratford District Council over the next planning application by the consortium for the Allimore Lane (South) scheme. We have been discussing technicalities of the scheme with a view to forming a strategy that both councils can participate in. Consequently, we have arrived at an agreement in principle that we will support the recently published core strategy. It can be asked as to why we should do this? After significant evaluation it is our opinion that this is the best deal we will get for our town. Note also that SDC have incorporated many of the comments from this council on these applications.

The proposal is to oppose the second, deferred, planning application. It is then expected to go to appeal along with the North scheme in November.

We have also held a 'no prejudice' meeting with the developers at a meeting hosted by SDC to discuss their views on their planning application vis a vis the core strategy. The meeting was amicable but in the end there was little change,



Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

in our view, to their original proposal to warrant bringing it to council. It was of interest that their interpretation of the core strategy is quite different to ours and we would like to believe that of the planning committee members.

We were disappointed but not surprised that there was little movement but we have at least established a dialogue and hope that this will eventually enable us to all work together to produce a scheme that better benefits the town as a whole.

Cllr Sturgess then asked council to consider for approval the following proposal: 'To support the Stratford on Avon District Council Core Strategy Document in Principle'. Cllr Sturgess gave a brief description on the process the Draft Core Strategy had to go through explain there were further levels of consultation to go through until it was presented to the Planning Inspectorate and if successful it will then have weight. Hope fully this all will happen within 2014.

Discussions then took place regarding issues relating to the consequences if we just adopt it without identifying the pitfalls particularly in relation to housing numbers. The general view though, was that Alcester's difficulty was that it was disadvantaged having to argue against developments whilst there was no Core development in place and there was still opportunity in the consultation process to influence other areas than the current planning applications that were slipping through due to no Core Strategy being in place. The above proposal was then formally proposed by Cllr Sturgess, the proposal was then seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and councillors voted almost unanimously with only Cllr Knapman abstaining.

Scrutiny Committee - 130909

There were no updates from the Scrutiny Committee

There were no propositions from the Scrutiny Committee

Presidium Committee - 130910

There were no updates from the Presidium Committee

There were no propositions from Presidium

To receive a Report From the Clerk - 130911

The Clerk gave an update regarding Globe House stating there was nothing more to report other than a further meeting had been arranged by Warwickshire County Council in October.

The Clerk gave an update regarding the Greig Hall stating there had been acknowledgement of the bid we had made and we will report back any progress.

Payment of Accounts - 130911

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

Correspondence - 130913

The clerk presented the following correspondence which was noted:

- a) CPRE – Annual Review and AGM.
- b) Alison Mainey (WCC) – Details of Police Commissioner Ambassadors
- c) CPRE – Countryside Voice publication

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



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Notification of Future Visitors - 130914**

The Clerk informed Councillors no further dates have been arranged.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 130915

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 - 130916

The Deputy Mayor advised councillors of the following meetings:

SDC West Area Planning Committee Monday 9th September 2013 6:15 pm St
Benedicts School

Community Committee Tuesday 10th September at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Wednesday 11th & Tuesday 24th September at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 23rd September at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 8th October 2013 at 7.00pm

All the above meetings are to be held at Globe House unless stated