



Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 8 October 2013 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

Councillors M Cargill (Mayor), Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), S Adams, L Cumberbatch, E Payne, C Neal-Sturgess, Y Morrison, , C Brannigan, N Knapman, J Styles, S Payne, M Gittus 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 and no later than 30 minutes after the start. This was declined by the resident present.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Ward District and County Councillors: Cllr Adams stated she had spoken on the Allimore Lane North development at both the West Area Committee meeting and the Regulatory Committee meeting when they were being considered and has attended planning training, where she was informed that planning training will be offered to Parish Councils in the future. She also thanked councillors for their support and kindness following the loss of her husband.

Cllr Gittus stated that the negotiations on Globe House were still complicated, but meetings with the Museum Service and the Police had taken place. The 'Shaping the Future' programme regarding the cuts on Warwickshire County Council services was going ahead, but there would be an increase in Council Tax as well. He also stated there were still some issues regarding the High Street speed limits and traffic calming plans. He had met with Sam Rath of Alcester Chamber of trade and Commerce as well as Brian King representing the Civic Society and the intention, with this as year 1, was to get the High Street speed limit in by year 2 and Kinwarton Road by year 3. The Moorfield site development for Extra Care Homes is progressing and the developer, Housing 21, has been asked to put forward a proper proposal. The Flooding problems at Oversley Park still continue with the Environment Agency taking a back step having given some advice. There is a meeting on 17th this month with Phil Ward of WRCC regarding land for affordable homes and information on the progress of the Maudslay site has been cascaded to councillors, it is expected to bring income into Alcester as well. Cllr Gittus also said that Macdonald's restaurant opening has highlighted the problem of pedestrian safety, particularly young people wanting to walk to the restaurant.

Cllr Eric Payne said he was keeping his report short to avoid repetition, however he had also attended the West Area Committee and the Regulatory Committee meetings where he also spoke regarding the Allimore Lane North development.

Apologies - 131001

Apologies were received from J Bunting, J Kenyon, C Gough and A Brown, whose reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.



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Minutes of recent Council meeting held on 3rd September 2013 - 131002

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd September 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr S Payne, seconded by Cllr C Neal-Sturgess and accepted by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 131003

Members were asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda. No declarations of interest were received

Mayor's Report - 131004

the Mayor, after thanking the Deputy Mayor for standing in during his annual leave period, gave a report on his recent activities, which included attending the planting of the 1 millionth tree at Sperrall, the Warwickshire County Council Chairman's 'At Home' celebrations, the British Legion Lunch, the installation of the new High Bailiff of Alcester and the Civic Service at Kenilworth. He also thanked councillors for their help with the Alcester Civic Service, which had been an excellent day and for which he had received many compliments, and also paid tribute to Jim Adams, Cllr Adams husband, who had recently passed away, stating he had very fond memories.

Council Membership - 131005

Cllr Professor C Brannigan, the newly elected Co-opted Member of Alcester Town Council, read aloud and signed the Acceptance of Office form which was countersigned by the Clerk

Community Committee - 131006

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Inequalities and Senior Citizens issues stating he had penned a letter to Warwickshire County Council relating to the contractual arrangements regarding the commissioning of services to older people following the National Statement regarding the 15 minute limit on the time social workers spend with a client, as this does not allow sufficient social interchange as more people need to be treated in their own homes. Cllr Knapman conferred with this having in place for several years. The other issue was about the level of care offered to new residents. The Alcester Cafe Alzheimer group were also keen to look at a day care and respite facility. Cllr Gittus stated he had received a grant application from the Alzheimer cafe for this purpose.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave a report on Resilience issues stating the last meeting was cancelled however this would not cause any problems as outstanding issues are still progressing.

Cllr E Payne gave a report on Business Support on behalf of Cllr Brown reading her following report:

A new shop is opening Saturday by the Holly Bush called Lanleys interiors, offering hand painted furniture, gifts and home accessories. This should compliment other gift shops, antique and vintage shops in the town. There is still no interest in the shop on Swan St. the original owner is taking over the Vinotec again until he finds new tenants. Cllr Brown will be attending Shakespeares England launch on the 22nd and has visited the Academy with a



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representative from the Chamber regarding Small Business Saturday on the 7th Dec.

Defibrillator news: they are now working on interest at the Rugby Club, Gary Williams has also raised nearly £900 at his birthday party which will help to pay for a box at Alcester Town football club to make accessible to public. The Court Leet also gave £300 to this cause.

Cllr Gittus added to the report stating he was looking at a scheme with Alan Ottey of Warwickshire County Council to look at the possibility of restarting a weekly Market on the High Street.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Alcester Community Trust Stating it would be discussed at the Community Committee next week.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating the youth worker for the junior youth club had not worked out and we had not been able to contact WAYC. The Deputy Mayor had invited someone to volunteer but more support was needed. The Alcester Youth Council had been well attended by pupils from both Alcester Academy and St Benedicts High School where dates for the Young Peoples Cinema Club were discussed, where members of the Youth Council would run the cinema, but adults would also be required. Cllr Styles also stated she had met with Alison Mainey who had stated there was some money from the County Council for Youth Community initiatives as well as some money for food week in October for the disadvantaged.

Cllr Morrison gave an update on Communication stating there had been a surgery at Globe House the previous Saturday, however following the confusion on the venue it had not been advertised and consequently there were no visitors. The next surgery will be held at the Jubilee Centre in November and future surgeries will alternate with Globe House. The next deadline for articles to go in the Newsletter is 15th November 2013 work has been done on a base plan for the screen in the foyer of Globe House

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on Broadband stating that since the Public Accounts Committee statement on this subject CSW had said that Warwickshire had done well but no information had been published.

Cllr Gittus stated there was no update on Alcester Olympics except there would be a charitable stall present at St Nicholas Night in December

Councillors were asked to consider the following proposition from the Community Committee:

To approve the application for a grant to employ a youth worker to support the Junior Youth Club. This was agreed by All Councillors.

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 131007

Cllr Cumberbatch gave a report on behalf of the committee stating there would be a change to the title of the committee along with changes to the terms of reference in the near future. He also stated the two trees in Moorfields are due to be planted in November and that a programme of work is due to be agreed following the Playground Inspections.

Cllr Knapman gave an update from the Environment Sub Committee stating the Wild Flowers had been a success and work was ongoing. The final version of the Bee Strategy was close to completion.



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Cllr gave an update on Allotments firstly thanking Cllr Cumberbatch for giving the awards at the Alcester Horticulture Show and that letters were being sent to unused allotment holders.

Cllr Brown gave an update on the Cemetery stating she was to have a site meeting at the cemetery with Cllr Cumberbatch to look at the care and upkeep of the cemetery.

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

Planning Committee - 131008

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on recent Planning meetings, he also stated that the Neighbourhood Plan itself had not progressed however the Designated Neighbourhood Area had been published by Stratford District Council and a meeting had taken place with Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce with himself and Cllr Brannigan presenting the basis of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Neale-Sturgess also stated that a lot of time had been spent on the Statement of Case for the forthcoming Planning Inspectorate Appeal to be held on November 26th.

Cllr Gittus confirmed that the Designated Neighbourhood Area application had been published by the District Council with a Press Release.

Cllr Knapman reported on the difficulty accessing information on the new Stratford District Council Planning Web site. This was acknowledged by Cllr Gittus who stated it had been brought to the attention of the Portfolio Holder. There were no propositions from the Planning Committee

Scrutiny Committee - 131009

There were no updates from the Scrutiny Committee

Presidium Committee - 131010

The Mayor gave a report relating to a letter from the Stratford District Council Planning Manager to the Planning Inspectorate dated 27th September 2013, which stated they were not defending the refusal decisions made at the District Council West Area Planning Committee meetings in May and September. Cllr Cargill continued stating this placed the Town Council in a difficult position as a Rule 6 participant.

The following reports were received from Presidium Committee Members:

Cllr Cumberbatch stated that from a National Perspective the South East of England was facing a housing shortage as identified by the Rowntree Foundation referring to a shortage of approximately 1 million homes. The District Council also currently only has a Draft 5 year Housing Supply Plan. At this stage both appeals are being referred to the Secretary of State. Our submission is to support the 4 points of refusal as made by the Stratford District Council Planning Committee, however the actions of the District Council since have made our position confusing. He also stated we have to attend and our evidence has to be substantive and we can't ask the mayor to make a presentation unless it is.

Cllr Payne stated his disappointment on how things had evolved but we have no other option than to get the information we have on the impact this will make on Alcester before the inspectors.



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Cllr Neal-Sturgess also responded that the District Councillors on the Planning Committee had put the refusal into 4 categories and Presidium had tried to align our objections to these 4 categories and the District Councils decision to not defend has placed our statement of case in jeopardy. We must however continue to get our opinion before the planning inspectorate and we may influence the outcome.

Cllr Gittus stated he concurred with the comments made, he had sat on the first District Council Planning Committee and had felt it had been refused on good planning grounds but he could see why independent advice is necessary. The Town does need to get its opinion before the inspectorate, however the Town Council must also ensure it doesn't expose itself to unnecessary expense. Various councillors also stated their disappointment with the manner that these two applications were managed by Stratford District Council, which left the Town Council with no way to object to the final decision not to defend the refusal.

The following proposition was made on behalf of the Presidium Committee: 'To support the Alcester Town Council Statement of Case forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with the Rule 6 Status requested by Alcester Town Council' and this was passed unanimously by all councillors.

To receive a Report From the Clerk - 131011

The Clerk gave an update regarding Globe House, stating that the latest meeting had been postponed by the County Council until clarity on the Spending Review was given.

The Clerk gave an update regarding the Greig Hall stating a letter had been sent to the Trustees asking for a purchase price from them for the site the Town Council had made an offer on. Any further progress would be reported back to Council.

Payment of Accounts - 131012

The Clerk gave a report for approval by Council on payment of accounts for September 2013 and after some explanations they were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cumberbatch, which was seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and accepted by Council.

The Clerk read the report from the Internal Auditor on the 2012-3 Accounts
The Clerk read the report from the External Auditor on the 2012-3 Accounts
No problems were observed.

Correspondence - 131013

The following correspondence was read by the clerk and noted by Councillors
WALC Annual General Meeting Wed 13 November 2013 7:30 pm.

SDC – Flood Defence Assistant Grants 2013-10-03

Lloyds TSB Bank – Bank Name Change notification to Lloyds only

Action for Market Towns – Towns Alive 13 event 6/7 November Congleton.

Mrs J Moore, Station Road – Parked Lorries preventing egress from Station Road.

All e-mailed correspondence was taken as read.

Notification of Future Visitors - 131014

No further dates have been arranged



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Notification of any further business for future meetings - 131015**

Request to councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

Dates of future meetings - 131016

The Mayor reminded the councillors of the following meeting dates for their diaries.

Community Committee Monday 14th October at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 22nd October & Monday 4th November at 7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 28th October at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 5th November 2013 at 7.00pm

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