



## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 5 November 2013 at Globe House, Alcester**

### **Present**

Councillors M Cargill (Mayor), Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), S Adams, J Bunting, L Cumberbatch, E Payne, Y Morrison, C Gough, A Brown, C Brannigan, J Kenyon, 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 reported on the Stratford on Avon Guide which had pictures of Alcester, which also had a good guide on 'What to do in an Emergency'. She also reported on the South Warwickshire Foundation Trust stating they are expanding their Health Visitors having had their Community Contract extended for 1 year and they are going to bid for the George Eliot Hospital. The Central England Rehabilitation Unit will be good for the area. Stratford Hospital is still looking at further development and is working towards a seven day week as they have to expand to survive as one of the smallest hospitals in the country. Cllr Juned stated she had been re-appointed as the chair of Act-on-Energy and distributed a leaflet on how households can save energy. Cllr Juned also stated she has objected to the Planning Applications for the Land North of Allimore Lane and will be attending and speaking at the enquiry as well as attending the Forum being organised by Alcester Town Council regarding the consultation on the McCarthy and Stone development for retirement homes next to the Hospital. She also commented on the importance of the Stratford District Council Core Development Strategy and the need for the 5 year housing supply and the advantage having a Neighbourhood Plan in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charge, The way the District Council dealt with the Allimore Lane development decision to not defend the decision the West Area Committee had made and the Hopkins Precinct Play Area equipment which was obsolete. She also asked for support regarding the pavement parking issue and stated that Stratford District Council had invested in Car Electricity Charging Points. Cllr Gittus stated that High Street improvements were moving forward, tomorrow, 6<sup>th</sup> November, a meeting had been organised with Stratford District Council Officers to discuss reinstating a Weekly Market in the Town, work is also ongoing to determine the status of a Market Charter. There is also a meeting planned with District Council Planning Officers to progress development of the Old Infant School on Moorfields into a preferred Extra Care facility for the elderly. There is ongoing concerns regarding the future of Globe House and our proposals which were supported by the previous Leader of the County Council and he wanted to explain the position to the new Leader of the Council and had asked for a meeting. He also confirmed Cllr Izzie Seccombe, the new leader of



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the County Council has agreed to come along and talk to both the Town Council and other Parish Councils on a date to be confirmed.

Cllr Payne reported he had also done a statement for the Planning Appeal, he had attended the Alzheimers Cafe at the Jubilee Centre and went on the Wixford site visit with the West Area Planning Committee.

### **Apologies - 131101**

Apologies were received from C Neal-Sturgess, J Styles and N Knapman, whose reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

### **Minutes of recent Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 - 131102**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Gittus, seconded by Cllr Y Morrisson and accepted by Council.

### **Declarations of Interest - 131103**

Cllr Hine Declared an Interest regarding council purchases as expenses in the Payment of Accounts. The Clerk explained that the Council did not have petty cash or a credit card and as a consequence it was left to individuals to purchase items that benefitted the Council to be purchased so, which would then be recouped by expenses claims, as on this occasion.

### **Mayor's Report - 131104**

The Mayor made a statement to say the new Rector of the Alcester Minster was being installed on Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> and as a consequence the next Full Council meeting would be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> and there would be a Christmas Celebration here in Globe House on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor gave a report from on recent activities stating he was asked to comment on the escaped prisoner by a local radio station following reports he had been seen in Alcester and had worked at a local charity shop.

Recent events he had also supported included the Alcester High Bailiffs election and a lot of Civic Services and charity events.

The Mayor also stated we were in open negotiations with the Greig Trustees and we were now awaiting further response.

### **Community Committee - 131105**

Cllr Payne commented there would be a change to the title of the first subject stating it was now Health Inequalities and Social Care Cllr Cumberbatch then gave an update stating he was now a member of the South works Foundation Trust and he had written a letter to the General Manager of Community Services asking for assurances there would be no in services and the staff would stay here in Alcester. He reported he would attend the next meeting of SCAN where he would be giving a talk along with a solicitor on Care matters and finance for older people. He also stated Coventry and Warwickshire on Mental Health, an area that had been neglected in the past. Cllr Cumberbatch continued stating the Health Minister had announced 14 pilot projects to bring Health and Social Care together. The same structure has been in place in Northern Ireland for many years and this was probably the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> time this has been piloted, and even in Warwickshire they have been working together.



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Cllr Gough asked if we could send a letter, Cllr Cumberbatch replied he was prepared to write to Mr Lamb on that manner.

Cllr Eric Payne also stated that he and the Clerk had met with Adult Learning officers from Warwickshire to discuss with them their use of the Jubilee Centre. Cllr Neal-Sturgess stated there was no report on both Broadband and Resilience issues.

Cllr Brown gave a report on Business Issues stating the Welcome Cafe on Priory Road had been sold and would change to be a Dentist and the old Model Shop was in the process of being decorated. There were other movements of businesses within the town with Mavericks moving to the old 4X4 car showroom and Sweet Things taking over the Zig Zag shop. She also reminded councillors of Small Business Saturday, due to take place on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr Gittus commented on the number of A frames and furniture that had appeared on the street stating that the subject was difficult as Alcester was a Market Town however warning letters have had to be sent to 2 premises, this was to prevent accidents particularly involving partially sighted people. Concern was also raised that although we have excellent car parks the signage to the High Street is poor. Cllr Adams stated it had been an intention of the Alcester Town Working Group to investigate improvements on signage. Cllr Brown stated she had spoken to Waitrose who were still willing to move this sort of signage forward.

There was no update on Alcester Community Trust

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating she had sent an e-mail regarding the Alcester Youth Council Cinema on Fridays and there was a report that the Baptist Church were also starting a Youth Club.

Cllr Morrison gave an update on Communication stating there had been Council Surgery at the Jubilee Centre the previous Saturday and there had been 3 observations brought to the Councils attention regarding, the Allimore Lane development, Dog owners using the area within the fencing on Jubilee Fields and a huge confusion over the High Street to Henley Street Road Closure. Cllr Gittus responded saying it had been a mistake to mstate November 7<sup>th</sup> in the newspaper notice. Cllr Brown asked if the correct dates could be put on the information screen in the High Street when they are known.

There were no updates on Broadband

Cllr Gittus gave an update on Alcester Olympics stating they would be running a 'Burger Stall' at the St Nicholas Night to raise funds for possible future events.

There were no propositions to Council from the Community Committee:

### **Recreation & Open Spaces Committee – 131106**

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance stating the priority was still to look at the condition of the Play Areas. He also stated that assistance was being given to the Resilience committee to free up space in the containers for the storage of Emergency Equipment



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Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment Issues stating completion of the bank reinforcement had been hampered due to recent heavy rain which had resulted in further eroding of the bank.

There was no update on Allotments

There was no update on the Cemetery

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

### **Planning Committee - 131107**

Cllr Gough gave an update on recent Planning Applications giving the following report. During the past month the Planning Committee have looked at 10 Planning applications

These included two new builds:

One which the committee supported at Tibbets Close beside the River Arrow which involved an interesting land swap scheme.

And the other behind the Priory which also included a LBC for the conversion of the old Cycle factory. The committee attended a site visit for the committee felt was an overdevelopment of the site as well as disappointingly too little documentation supplied with the application which meant that they could not support the application as it was.

We are still waiting for SDC planning officer's decisions on these.

The other planning applications included 2 tree applications, 3 extensions and 2 for businesses in the Town.

The planning applications for Oversley Castle, having been altered during the month went to the SDC Planning Committee, who after a site visit to assess the access, are to make their decision tomorrow.

There was also an amendment for the Churchill Retirement Living development, however this did not alter the committee's statement of objection and we have just had notification that the Planning Officer has refused this application. The reasons for this included:

1. Inappropriate design for the character of the area
2. Will cause significant harm to the Conservation area
3. Inadequate archaeological site evaluation
4. Lack of affordable homes
5. Unsustainable in social and environmental terms

This may have some impact with the proposed McCarthy and Stone development, for which a pre-application public consultation has been arranged for this Thursday: 10-5 at the Alcester Member's Club then a meeting with Councillors here (Globe House) at 7pm.

Propositions from the Planning Committee

The Planning Committee have been discussing the High Street Development, and as part of this Cllr Mike Gittus attended to present his plans to the Committee.

It is therefore the Planning Committee's proposition to Full Council:



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1. To fully support the traffic calming measures as put forward by Cllr M Gittus.

As proposed by Cllr C Neal-Sturgess and Seconded by Cllr C Brannigan

2. To support in principle plans for weekly markets in the town.

As proposed by Cllr Y Morrison and seconded by Cllr L Cumberbatch  
Cllr Sturgess gave an update on the Alcester Neighbourhood Plan stating that plans for a suitable committee are still top priority but

To receive a report on SDC West Area Planning Committee meetings

To consider any propositions to Council from the Planning Committee

### **Scrutiny Committee - 131108**

There were no updates from the Scrutiny Committee

### **Presidium Committee - 131109**

To receive a report from the Mayor relating to the Attendance at the Planning Inspectorate Enquiry 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

### **To receive a Report From the Clerk - 131110**

The Clerk gave an update regarding Globe House stating there had been no further progress on discussions with the County Council, however we have been offered a further extension to the current lease position by the District Council for a period of twelve months. Councillors raised their concerns at the lack of progress and welcomed the 12 month extension but also agreed that another plan should be considered over the next few months to ensure our management facility is maintained.

The Mayor gave a short update regarding the Greig Hall stating that the door was still open for negotiations.

### **Payment of Accounts - 131111**

The Clerk gave a report for approval by Council on payment of accounts for October 2013. This was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cumberbatch, which was seconded by Cllr Adams and approved by Council.

### **Correspondence - 131112**

The following correspondence was read by the clerk and noted by Councillors

Alcester Baptist Church – Annual Toy service Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013

English Serenata – Concert at Meadow View 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Alcester in Bloom – Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Clerks and Councils Direct - Publication

McCarthy and Stone invitation to Public Consultation Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### **Notification of Future Visitors - 131113**

Representatives of McCarthy and Stone are to make a representation on 7<sup>th</sup> November at an Alcester Town Council Forum at 7.00pm re. their pre application plans for a retirement home off Fields Park Drive in Alcester.

### **Notification of any further business for future meetings - 131114**

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 - 131115**

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



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Alcester Town Council Forum Meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm

Community Committee Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November & Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at  
7.00pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting TBA

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.00pm

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