



Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 7 January 2014 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

Councillors M Cargill (Mayor), Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), C Neal-Sturgess, J Bunting, E Payne, L Cumberbatch, C Brannigan, J Styles, C Gough, A Brown, N Knapman, J Kenyon, S Payne, M Gittus and Town Clerk C Wright

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

No residents were present

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Ward District and County Councillors: Cllr Susan Juned reported she had had a meeting with the District Council's Head of Property Services to discuss renewing the Play Area Equipment on the Crooks Lane recreation area and would welcome support from Alcester Town Council. She also stated she had responded in support of the application for funding from the New Homes Bonus towards the Car Park of the Jubilee Centre. She continued stating the forthcoming District Council Cabinet meeting will announce increased housing numbers for the emerging Core Strategy and an increase in time until 2031. Warwickshire County Council are also inviting tenders for on street parking enforcement but it is unlikely Stratford District Council will bid. There is also a Stratford District Council Cabinet meeting on 13th January when an announcement on the Core Development Strategy will be made. She also stated there had been blocked drains on Kinwarton Farm Road which may affect Alcester.

Cllr Gittus stated there was not a great deal to report, he was addressing ongoing issues with the County Council budget and in particular the implication it may have with respect to the Library servicing Alcester and he was to see the head of service but there was big savings to be made, he was also attending a seminar and Library workshop in a fortnight. He was also very disappointed with the Core Strategy report, as were many District Councillors, on the 6th February the County Council the budget proposals will be presented and considered at length, considerations will be made on essential items and the other parties will also be presenting their budgets.

Other Town Councillors asked questions particularly regarding the Core Strategy and the cuts that may come from the County Council, which Cllr Gittus answered to his best knowledge.

Cllr Payne stated he had nothing to add to what had already been said.

Apologies - 140101

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

Minutes of recent Council meeting held on 10 December 2013 - 140102

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th November 2013 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Gittus, seconded by Cllr A Brown and accepted by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 140103

No declarations of interests were received



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Mayor's Report - 140104

The Mayor gave a report on recent activities which included various visits to Civic Church Services but other than that there was very little to add.

Alcester Town Council Governance Review - 140105

The clerk gave the background relating to the reason for a change in the existing Committee Structure to cope with changing needs particularly to cope with the urgent need for the Alcester Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk also gave a brief history regarding the creation of the existing committees and their purpose, which gave rise to the achieved objectives, in particular the Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Scheme, the Severn Trent Flood Alleviation Scheme, the Health Centre, the Depot Youth Club and associated facilities for Young People and The Jubilee Centre. The Clerk concluded the Neighbourhood Plan was probably the most important project currently being undertaken by the Town Council and in his opinion a separate Committee of the same status as the other main committees was required.

The Mayor and Cllr Cumberbatch gave reports on their understanding of the current position and with the conclusion a general Strategy Committee would be more appropriate, but after discussion it was agreed the Presidium Committee should include the Council Strategy as one of its main objectives. It was then proposed by Cllr Knapman proposed, seconded by Cllr Kenyon and Council agreed in principle that the Strategic Planning Committee should be formed, but that the Terms of Reference for both the new Strategic Planning Committee and Presidium should be placed before Full Council for consideration before a full decision is made.

Town Centre Markets Governance - 140106

The Clerk asked the Council to consider further actions regarding Alcester Town Council's Market Authority Status. After discussion it was agreed a consultation on future markets should be undertaken with the retail businesses in the Town Centre. Concern was also raised by councillors on who would run the markets, Cllr Gittus explained that the Town Council is at an early stage in the process and this was another step to get a regular market resurrected here in Alcester.

Community Committee - 140107

The Chair Cllr E Payne stated there had not been a further meeting since the last full council meeting and there was very little to report.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave a brief update on Health and Social Care stating that the Alcester Health Centre had confirmed the hub unit there can take the Breast Screening lorry and it will be there in future.

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating there had been yellow flood alerts and the committee were concerned that the River Alne was able to rise very quickly and there were possibly avoidable reasons for this which should be investigated. The River Arrow on comparison rises very slowly.

There was no update on Business Support

There was no update on Speed Aware

There was no update on Communication



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Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating that the Christmas Cinema Club had been unattended, and a meeting with Alcester Academy is being arranged to discuss this matter and the Junior Youth Club.

There was no update on Fields in Trust

There was no update on Community Grants

There was no update on The Jubilee Centre

There were no propositions to Council from the Community Committee:

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 140108

There was no update on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance

Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment issues stating the planting of small trees at the Football Club has been scheduled Sunday at 10:45 am.

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating the fees were coming in and there had been a few not taken up.

There was no update on the Cemetery

Cllr Cumberbatch stated the next meeting would be used to set priorities.

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

Planning Committee - 140109

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating there were none that needed to be brought to councils attention, however there remains a Licensing Issue for an Off-licence at Hopkins Precinct and the committee have responded with objections.

There were no propositions to Council from the Planning Committee

Scrutiny Committee - 140110

There were no updates from the Scrutiny Committee

Presidium Committee - 140111

To receive any updates from the Mayor

To receive a Report From the Clerk - 140112

The Clerk gave an update regarding Globe House, stating that no further progress was possible until details regarding the financial cuts on County Council services were clearer, which was being considered in February.

Payment of Accounts

The Clerk gave a report for approval on payment of accounts for December 2013, which were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Cumberbatch, seconded by Cllr Hine and approved by council

Correspondence - 140114

The following correspondence was noted by councillors:

Stratford upon Avon and District Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Review and a Letter from P D Joseph, Strategic Planning Director of Bloor Homes.

Notification of Future Visitors - 140115

The Clerk No Future Visitors .

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 140116

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



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Dates of future meetings – 140117

The following meeting dates were noted by Councillors.

Alcester Town Council Financial Meeting Tuesday 28th January at 7.00pm

Community Committee Monday 13th January 2014 at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 21st January 2014 at 7:00 pm

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Monday 27th January 2014 at 7.00pm

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 7:00 pm

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 4th February 2014 at 7.00pm

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

DRAFT