



Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 4 February 2014 at Globe House, Alcester

Present

Councillors M Cargill (Mayor), Y Hine (Deputy Mayor), C Neal-Sturgess, S Adams, 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 Gittus reported the County Council budget should be set on Thursday 6th February, however some of the probable outcomes are already known and Alcester Library may be at risk in its present form and as a consequence he and the Town Clerk had attended a workshop on Community Libraries and were in a programme of visiting existing Community Libraries in the District. He also stated he had attended a meeting of the trustees of our Roman Museum and a further meeting with a Stratford District Council Officer with regard to future occupancy of Globe House for both the library and the museum. Another meeting is planned with the heads of service once the County Council budget has been agreed. He also reported that Alcester Olympics was still raising money, particularly for the Bazilian Olympics when further events will be considered. Regarding the High Street the Traffic Regulation Order is in place and the 20 mph signs will appear shortly and lastly one of the Ancient Manor of Alcester signs has been unearthed in Kinwarton and been retrieved and is now in the Courtyard of Globe House.

Cllr E Payne reported on fake council tax calls from someone claiming to be from the council, however this was not genuine. An alert has been put on Facebook. He had also responded to a call from Malin Court who were concerned they may get flooded with the current bout of bad weather, explaining what measures had been taken to avert future flooding.

Cllr Adams reported there was now a scrap dealer licence system in place. Regarding the licence application for an off licence at Hopkins Precinct, the police have objected on 4 grounds and councillors must respond to the 2nd letter declaring a new date. She also stated she was pleased to report the Nature Reserve fencing had been reinstated.

Cllr Juned reported that she was surprised to find at the Stratford District Council Audit committee that Hopkins Precinct had been put down as a development area, the Churchill Homes development has gone to appeal despite planning officers objections and the cost of appeals to Stratford District Council has risen to £489 million in 2013-2014. There is a further consultation on the Core Strategy required by March and the number designated area applications for Neighbourhood Plans is rising. She is also working with Alcester Heritage Trust regarding the future of Globe House and that the Redrow development on Kinwarton Farm Road still has blocked drains.

Cllr Gittus also commented on the drainage issues particularly with the high pressure main from St Mary's Road and Severn Trent have acknowledged the problem. The costs of the Allimore Lane appeal are in the region of £145,000

Apologies - 140201



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

Minutes of recent Council meetings held in January 2014 - 140202

The minutes of the Council meeting held on on 7th and 28th January 2014 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr L Cumberbatch, seconded by Cllr C Neale-Sturgess and accepted by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 140203

Declarations of interests were received from Cllr Hine on item 15, payment of accounts

Mayor's Report - 140204

The Mayor gave a report on recent activities stating that there was very little to comment on as the past month had mostly been Council activities.

Alcester Town Council Precept - 140205

The Mayor read the following press report regarding the Precept which had been agreed at the Special Town Council meeting on 28th February 2014. 'Alcester Town Council have unanimously agreed to increase the precept by 4% for the coming period 2014/2015. This decision was not taken lightly but arrived at after serious discussion. The precept has not been raised for two years but with inflation, the new government pensions scheme and also the proposed increase in the minimum wage, it was felt the precept had to rise if services were to be maintained and staff wage increases paid for. Alcester town council gives excellent value for money providing many services not just for the citizens of the town but also the neighbouring parishes from which there is no contribution. This is a standalone precept allowing services to be maintained at their high level and is the equivalent to £4 per year per household'.

Dementia Friendly Status for Alcester - 140206

Cllr Gittus gave a report stating that Alcester Town Council should lead the way by becoming a Dementia Friendly Community, qualifying this with the obligations involved. Cllr Cumberbatch had prepared a paper on the subject and Councillors were asked to consider this Proposition and following discussion it was agreed the proposition should read 'Alcester Town Council recognizes the need to help people with with dementia and their carers to live well and access their communities'. 'Alcester Town Council also commits the town to become a Dementia Friendly Town'. This was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Gittus, seconded by Cllr Cumberbatch and there was a unanimous vote by Council to accept it.

Alcester Town Council Governance Review - 140207

Cllr Neale-Sturgess presented the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Planning committee with some explanation and Cllr Cumberbatch proposed we accept these terms of Reference, Cllr seconded this proposition and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

Town Centre Markets Governance - 140208

The Clerk reported their had been further meetings with the County Council officer and the Chair of Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce and that 3 options were available to the town for it to run a regular Market.



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The first option was to contract a Market Operator to run the market, who would provide and erect the stalls, market the stalls to operators, take away the stalls and clear up at the end of the market day's trading, whilst the Town Council would get a negotiated fee.

The second option is for the Town Council to contract someone to supply the stalls, then the Town Council would market the stalls to operators, the advantage being a possible increased profit from letting the stalls minus the cost of the supply of the stalls.

The third option is to purchase the stalls and run the market totally independently, which would mean erecting the stalls, marketing them for operators, packing up and clearing afterwards and having somewhere to store them with insurance cover etc.

The clerk reported that the last option was being investigated by Alcester Chamber of trade and commerce, who were also looking at funding for the purchase of stalls. The clerk would report back to council on progress.

Community Committee – 140209

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Social Care starting with a report on a problem experienced by a councillor who had visited the Health Centre with her spouse who had walking difficulties to find there was no wheel chair facility at the Health Centre, which had caused a lot of distress. He reported that this problem had been remedied and a wheelchair was now installed on the premises for patients to use. He also stated he had been an observer at the recent Springfield Mind Board meeting and he was interested in the manner Mental Health issues were being taken forward. He also reported the Community Nursing section of the Health Centre are staying in Alcester but we must be diligent and continue fighting for it to stay here as they serve Bidford and Studley as well

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating his disappointment that the Broadband rollout does not include urban areas and councillors agreed to support a letter to be sent on that subject.

Cllr Brown gave an update on Business Support stating the ramp up the red campaign for Valentines day to support the Heart Foundation has been attracting a lot of attention. The old Zig Zag shop may become a jewellers and the Moat House Inn closed last week. The events guide is complete and will be delivered to addresses next week.

Cllr S Payne gave an update on Speed Aware stating that the previous contact was now part of the group that had been transferred to the West Mercia Police and he would ensure an article is in the Newsletter.

Cllr Morrison had sent a written report that was read by Cllr E Payne on Communication issues which stated the Newsletter was to be completed by 21st February and discussions had been ongoing about putting the screen display in the Post Office. The surgery would be held next Saturday with Cllr Hine and the Mayor in attendance. We had received complaints about cars parking at the top of Malt Mill Lane obstructing access for pedestrians, which was causing distress for our older residents. The Community Cinema advert will be in the magazine on a monthly basis and the next newsletter would not be folded.



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Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating she and the clerk had a meeting with the Head and Deputy Head of Alcester Academy to discuss possibilities for the Alcester Youth Council Youth Cinema and Junior Youth Club, which may be run at the Academy, Cllr Styles is also able to talk to parents at open evenings. There was also a meeting of Alcester Youth Project last month. Cllr Payne gave an update on Fields in Trust, stating there had been an application to Fields in Trust for funding towards inclusive play equipment. Cllr Payne also gave an update on Community Grants stating that the money remaining in the budget for grants had allowed a further grant to be made to Alcester Town Football Club for Goalposts, two more applicants, the Alcester Food Bank and Alcester Heritage Network were to come to do a presentation to the Community Committee before a decision is made.

Cllr Payne gave an update on The Jubilee Centre stating it was progressing well with bookings. The laptops and battery charging unit are now in use with both the Warwickshire County Council and Orbit training schemes.

There were no propositions to Council from the Community Committee:

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee - 140210

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance stating he had completed a draft on a vision, aims and objectives strategy for the committee which would be brought for council approval on a 12 month strategy

There was no update on Environment

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating that a skip had been provided for the North Bleachfield Street site to help with the clearing of rubbish.

There was no update on the cemetery.

Cllr Kenyon brought forward a proposition to Council from the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee to support a charge on the land currently occupied by the Alcester Town Football Club being placed on the land by Sports England in the event of a grant coming to the football club from them. The Clerk also commented that this did not appear to be contrary to the policy of the Town Council as the conditions of the charge dictated the land should be used for recreation purposes during the conditional period of the grant which was similar to why the Town Council became the Principle Tenant in the first place. The Clerk is to write to the Football to the football club stating the Town Council's support.

Planning Committee - 140211

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating there had not been any major applications that need to be brought to the attention of full council and that the Committee had taken the step to form into smaller subcommittees to deal with individual problems such as the Churchill homes response.

A report on Strategic Planning Matters and in particular the response to the latest Stratford District Council Core Strategy document was given by Cllr Neale Sturgess stating that a Draft Neighbourhood Plan Framework was nearing completion which could then be used in discussions with local groups who had been selected to support the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan.



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Councillors considered the Alcester response at the Licensing Committee meeting at Stratford District Council, The Mayor and Cllr Cumberbatch are to speak at the license committee meeting.

Councillors were asked to consider the draft response for the Churchill Homes Planning Inquiry, which had been prepared by Cllr Neale Sturgess which was agreed with minor modifications.

There were no further propositions to Council from the Planning Committee

Scrutiny Committee - 140212

The mayor Cllr Cargill made a statement that the future role and the necessity of the Scrutiny Committee was being reviewed

Presidium Committee - 140213

The Mayor also made the statement that the future role of the Presidium Committee was also being reviewed and that its terms of reference would be put before council in the near future

To receive a Report From the Clerk - 140214

The Clerk gave an update regarding Globe House stating there would be no further progress until the Warwickshire County Council Budget had been set, however should closure of Libraries be announced the opportunity of starting a community Library in Globe House was being investigated and a number of commercial opportunities within the building were being looked at seriously within the building.

Payment of Accounts - 140215

The Clerk gave a report and the Mayor asked for approval by Council on payment of accounts for January 2014. These were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Brown, which was seconded by Cllr Styles and approved by council.

Correspondence - 140216

The following two items were noted by councillors:

Clerks and Councils Direct – January Publication

CPRE Warwickshire – New Outlook January Publication

The Clerk read a letter re Parking on Church Street Footpath from Mr I Brookie of Malthouse Lane. Cllr Gittus advised councillors the parking of cars in such a position is an offence and should be put in the hands of the police.

Notification of Future Visitors - 140217

The Clerk informed Council no future visitors had been arranged.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 140218

The Mayor made a request to councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to next meeting.

Dates of future meetings - 140219

Community Committee **Monday 10th February 2014 at 7.00pm**

Planning Committee **Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 7:00 pm**

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee **Monday 24th February 2014 at 7.00pm**

Scrutiny Committee TBA

Presidium Meeting **Tuesday 6th February 2014 at 6:00 pm**

Alcester Town Council Meeting **Tuesday 4th March 2014 at 7.00pm**

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