



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

Present

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Four members of the public were present. Mrs M Baylis requested when the double yellow lines would be painted on Fields Park Drive and when the surface of the path in Riverside would be improved and could a litter bin be put in Alne Bank Road. She also asked for up to date information when Severn Trent were replacing the sewerage pipe from the above area to the Sewerage works. Councillors Gittus and Payne responded on the yellow lines and the litter bin. The Clerk and the Chair of Open Spaces responded on behalf of the path, which was confirmed as Town council property and the Mayor responded on behalf of the Severn Trent Sewerage problem.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The following reports were received from Ward District and County Councillors: Cllr E Payne gave his report stating new litter bins had been installed by Stratford District Council in Church Street replacing damaged ones and a new bin had been installed by the Town Council outside the Methodist Church following an initiative by a resident. He also reported his efforts on behalf of residents affected by low water pressure from a fault in School Road which had subsequently been solved by Severn Trent Water.

Cllr M Gittus gave a report firstly by stating that two important items were to be discussed later during standing orders and he would leave his report on them till later. He also stated the position regarding the Old School site in Moorfield Road had had a Flood Risk assessment done on it and he had asked Warwickshire County Council to put in an outline planning application to see what the outcome was. The present position of a boarded up building is unacceptable and if development is not possible it affects the valuation of the land. He then stated that negotiations to bring the Library and Museum together here in Globe House were progressing well, and now we have to be persuasive with Stratford District Council who own the site.

Cllr Juned stated she had also visited houses in the area affected with low water pressure and had supplied residents with information on how to complain. She also commented on the Stratford District Council Cabinet Meeting on 10th March when the future of the Greig Hall was to be discussed and that members had been briefed on the three options they were to make a decision from. She had also attended the Budget meeting where she supported the proposed use of District Council owned land and had attended the Licensing Committee meeting for the Off-Licence on Hopkins Precinct with other District Councillors. She is also supporting working with the County Council on the inclusion of the Library at Globe house.

Cllr E Payne read out a report on behalf of Cllr Adams which stated that she was very worried following the Licensing Committee Decision and she was also objecting to the Indian Takeaway application at Hopkins Precinct. She had also



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responded to the Police Priorities request at the Community Forum for more police presence in that area.

Apologies - 140301

Apologies were received from J Bunting, S Adams and C Brannigan whose reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

Minutes of recent Council meetings held in February 2014 - 140302

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th February 2014 were proposed to be accepted by Cllr L Cumberbatch, seconded by Cllr A Brown and accepted by Council with a minor amendment.

Declarations of Interest - 140303

Declarations of interests were received from Cllr Knapman on item 7, Churchill Homes Planning Enquiry

Mayor's Report - 140304

The Mayor gave a report on his recent activities, stating he had attended the Unitary Authority Debate at Shire Hall, a meeting with senior officers of Warwickshire Library Service, the Alcester Heritage Trust Annual General meeting where he spoke about the future partnership with Alcester Library, the Rotary Big Breakfast and visited Coleshill to hear their bands.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites - 140305

Cllrs were asked to consider Alcester Town Council's response to Stratford District Councils request for Gypsy and Traveller sites in accordance with Local Planning Regulations. Cllr Neale-Sturgess commented that Stratford District Council have to have a policy response by 28th March and we are required to answer three questions. It was agreed that councillors should respond over the next few days and it was proposed by Cllr Gittus, and seconded by Cllr Morrison, that the Planning Committee should be given the power to respond on behalf of the Council, which was passed by council. Cllr Gittus reminded councillors that a response can be made on an individual basis as well.

Licensing Issues - 140306

To consider Alcester Town Council's response to the Stratford District Council License Committee's Decision regarding an Off-licence at Hopkins Precinct. The Clerk informed councillors that he had taken legal advice regarding the possibility of overturning the decision, but that it was highly unlikely and costly. Cllr Gittus stated he had used a different route but had come to the same conclusion. Cllr Cumberbatch stated he had written to the Democratic Services asking how the conditions that had been placed on the Off-Licence would be monitored and adhered to. Further discussion took place and it was clarified that the decision was made because there was little evidence of alcohol abuse in the area and the clerk will clarify if this area is covered as an Alcohol Restriction Zone.

Churchill Homes Planning Inquiry - 140307

Cllr Neale-Sturgess gave a brief report stating that he had sought advice regarding the need for retirement homes in Alcester, however this was unhelpful. The Councillors were asked to consider for approval the 'Churchill Homes' Planning Inquiry response. Cllr Hine proposed the Council should formally register as an interested party, which was then seconded by Cllr



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Cumberbatch and approved, Cllr Knapman's declaration of interest was noted. Cllr S Payne then proposed for approval the Alcester Town Council Statement of Case, which was seconded by Cllr Hine and approved by Council.

Town Centre Markets Governance - 140308

Councillors were asked by the Clerk to consider for approval the Alcester Town Council Market Application forms and conditions both for Commercial and Charitable Markets. The Clerk recommended though that a decision was not necessary today as it could come back the following month for approval giving councillors extra time to consider them.

Community Committee - 140309

There was no update on Health and Social Care

Cllr Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating that maintenance crews were again in attendance at the 'Big Tank' fixing stirrers, however the sewerage farm is currently under capacity for the towns needs.

Cllr Brown stated there was little to report on Business issues within the town
Cllr S Payne gave an update on Speed Aware stating training was being organised through West Mercia Police and contacts were being made on a wider network of people for training.

Cllr Morrison gave an update on Communication stating concerns had been raised at the recent Surgery regarding traffic near the Health Centre, Dog Fouling on Bleachfield Street and a request for a new dog bin in Allimore Lane. The Newsletter did hit its deadlines, however Cllr Morrison reminded councillors that it is in progress from an earlier date and that it was advisable to get information in early to avoid any disappointments. She also stated that she was looking into the cost of the newsletter to see if savings could be made.
Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating the Alcester Youth Council cinema club is starting at Alcester Academy, fliers have been circulated to the Primary Schools and they are hoping for a good turnout. She had attended 2 parents evenings at Alcester Academy and talked to year 8 and 10 Students and will also attend a parents forum in June.

Cllr Payne stated there was still no response from Fields in Trust on a recent grant application.

Cllr Payne gave an update on Community Grants stating that 2 local groups had given a presentation on their activities to which the committee awarded grants out of this financial years allocation.

Cllr Payne also gave an update on the Jubilee Centre stating that quotes for the work to build the toilets and store had been received and we had received support to help fund it. This will be considered at the next Community Committee meeting.

There were no propositions to Council from the Community Committee.

Recreation, Environment & Open Spaces Committee - 140310

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Recreation Facilities and Ground Maintenance stating we had received the necessary number of quotes for the skate park with their respective plans which will be used for consultation. The committee is reviewing its recreation programme regarding upgrading Town



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Footpaths and inspecting Pollarded trees on the Cemetery following the winter storms. The Committee is also looking at how it can apply its budget for 2014-5. Cllr Knapman gave an update on Environment issues stating some areas for poppy seeds had been identified and they hope to bring further proposals for planting Wild Flowers.

Cllr Hine gave an update on Allotments stating that Allotment Inspections would be undertaken Tuesday next week and that the Waiting List was down to zero. Cllr Cumberbatch added that the fees for next January tenancies were under review.

There was no update on the Cemetery

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

Planning Committee - 140311

Cllr Neale Sturgess gave an update on Strategic Planning Matters explaining there were two maps in Councillors folders showing the immediate area around the town within walking distance demonstrated by a 1 kilometre radius which was shown in such a manner as it was a primary objective that the centre of the town remains the centre. The second map showed the same area with the flood plain in view which determined the areas within the circle which may be suitable for certain forms of development which had not yet been determined. These areas would then be investigated and considered accordingly. The Allimore Lane North development will be going ahead and had been shown in a different colour along with the Redrow Development. Cllr Cumberbatch commented on the large amount of work that had gone into this made the proposition that Council should give their approval for the Strategic Planning Committee to take this forward in principle. This was seconded by Cllr Gough and approved by council.

Cllr Gough gave an update on Planning Applications stating it had been a busy month as was shown by the previous agenda items that had been discussed and he had nothing further to add regarding the Licensing Issues or the Churchill Homes Planning Inquiry response.

There were no propositions to Council from the Planning Committee

Scrutiny Committee - 140312

The Mayor informed councillors the future role of the Scrutiny Committee was being reviewed

Presidium Committee - 140313

the Mayor stated there were no updates as the matters were to be discussed in the next item of the agenda

To receive a Report From the Clerk - 140314

The clerk gave an update regarding Globe House stating that following the County Council budget meeting Cllr Gittus had approached the Library Service who informed him the proposal for the Library to come into Globe House was now a priority once more. Cllr Gittus commented on the positive nature of the discussions.

The Clerk gave a report on the Greig Centre, stating that the Hannah Susan Greig Memorial Company Limited had run out of money and were considering



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insolvency. This was to be discussed at the next Stratford District Council Cabinet Meeting and the meeting papers had indicated three options that were under consideration. Following discussions it was agreed that Option 2 which allowed for Stratford District Council to take over the management of the Sports Hall immediately to keep it operational, was preferred option both from the Towns Council's perspective and it was a better option for the Community of Alcester. The Mayor agreed to speak on behalf of the town if necessary, however Cllr Gittus and Cllr Payne would be speaking as Stratford District Councillors.

Payment of Accounts - 140315

The Clerk gave a report and asked for approval from the Council for the payment of accounts for February 2014. This was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neale-Sturgess which was seconded by Cllr Gough and approved by council.

Correspondence - 140316

The Clerk reported items of correspondence were being dealt with under agenda items 5, 6 and 7, and no other correspondence had been received other than e-mailed correspondence that was taken as read.

Notification of Future Visitors - 140317

The Clerk reported no Future Visits had been arranged.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 140318

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 - 140319

The following dates were noted by councillors:

Community Committee Monday 10th March 2014 at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 18th March and 31st March 2014 at 7:00 pm

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

Presidium Meeting Thursday 6th March 2014 at 6:00 pm

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 1st April 2014 at 7.00pm

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