



## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at Globe House, Alcester.**

### **Present**

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

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

Three Residents were in attendance and the Mayor invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda, the members of the public were reminded they may not take part in the Forum meeting or the Town Council meeting itself. Miss Tolman, a resident complained about the quality of the grass cutting at the cemetery as it was leaving clumps of grass around which were unsightly and grass cuttings are being left on the memorial stones. The Clerk responded on behalf of Council offering to attend the cemetery with Miss Tolman to investigate the matter.

Andrew Foster, a resident, asked the following question to be put to the Fire and Rescue officers.

'In December 2011 the portfolio holder for community safety stated 'the upgrading of the station would improve the services in the local community and improve fire cover in the south of the county'. Now only 2 years later and having spent £637,093 on the upgrade, how can downgrading the service to part time do anything than make fire cover in Alcester and the surrounding area worse?

To reassure residents would the Chief Fire Officer come to a public debate and discuss the concerns of the town's residents in a free and open debate'.

The Mayor thanked the visitors and moved on to the Town Council Forum

## **Alcester Town Council Forum**

### **Presentations**

**Please note a fuller account is included in the 'Forum Notes Appendix'.**

Representatives from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, Senior Fire Officer Jim Onions and Deputy Chief Fire Officer Gary Philips gave a presentation to Town Councillors on the proposed changes to the service provision, which included the implementation of an integrated risk management plan to match the annual budget available during a time of continued austerity. This was based on a response model which addressed urban and non urban needs, road accidents and house fires whilst meeting the peak period of demand during the day with a different level of service to night time periods when there was less demand. This would be achieved by operating from a small number of hubs in a dynamic way which will show more vehicles placed around the county in strategic locations. Work was also being done with neighbouring services to ensure cover continues from outside the county in the event of serious emergencies.

Alcester Town Councillors were then requested by the Mayor to ask questions of the Fire Officers to enable the Council response.

Cllr Adams asked about new locations for hubs that had been mentioned, particularly those close to motorways for traffic accidents and the impact this would have on Alcester's perceived response time with a reduction in service.

Cllr Gough asked if the expansion of Alcester with its new developments had



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been taken into account and if this would change the risk for Alcester to become a hub.

Cllr Morrison asked if rush hour periods had been taken into account regarding the daytime peak period.

Cllr Cumberbatch asked if work towards cross border support was ongoing, with Alcester being so close to the Worcestershire boundary shouldn't any decision on Alcester wait until this work is complete. He also asked about the closure of the Young Fire fighter group, which had been very popular in Alcester and had supplied future fire fighters.

Cllr E Payne stated there were more than 700 homes being built in the immediate district and queried why Alcester is not being considered as a hub and whether these developments had been taken into consideration.

Cllr Gittus reminded everyone this type of consultation had not been done with either the police or the ambulance services even though they have adopted this type of model. He also asked how the service were going to provide the right front line officers in the right place at the right time.

Cllr Knapman commented that a review of the system is well overdue, however with this proposed change who is monitoring the success and failures. She also queried whether the service were confident they wouldn't have to look at further savings once this current round had finished.

Cllr S Payne made the observation that this consultation made the project look like a Fait a Complit and enquired when the plan was to be reviewed, especially with the prospect of further large scale development in the local area.

Cllr Brannigan stated his concerns and asked how this will make Alcester a safer place to live

Cllr Cargill asked what period had been used to form these statistics to determine these locations for the fire tenders to be sited and also what restrictions did the attendance by only four officers attending make on a serious situation.

Cllr Bunting asked if travelling fire officers making a journey to a hub would have sufficient services such as free parking, particularly at locations such as Leamington Spa

District Councillor Juned remarked on the variation in callout times, she also questioned if breathing apparatus would be used if there were only four man crews and that the 'On-line' information does not explain the use of the retained stations clearly.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess asked for clarity on the 20 minute rule and how accurate was the set time for Alcester of 10 minutes.

The Fire and Rescue officers answered all the questions put and congratulated the Council on a well run meeting

The Mayor Cllr Hine thanked the officers for attending and the councillors for their contributions and allowed a short comfort break before resuming to allow time for the officers and public to leave.

### **District and County Councillors' Reports**

The following reports were received from Alcester Ward District and County Councillors:



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District Cllr Adams reported she had attended a tour of the District to visit the sites mentioned in the Core Strategy document that had been very interesting. District Cllr E Payne stated he had received a complaint regarding grass cutting which he had passed on to the District Council Streetscene department, and that he had confirmation that food waste can be deposited in the grey waste bin as well as the green,

District and County Cllr Gittus stated firstly he was disappointed with the public response to this evenings meeting. He then continued he had also attended the Core Strategy Site Visit, Hopkins Precinct had been mentioned in the Core Strategy as an area for redevelopment, Dementia Friendly Week was fast approaching and Alcester Cafe have a number of events organised, he was disappointed in the speed bumps that had been installed in Henley Street close to Gunnings Bridge. Stobarts former Refrigerated Depot in Kings Coughton has a new organisation interested in using and keeping it as a refrigerated depot. He was investigating the use of the A435 as a motorway diversion route during the night and Warwickshire Highways are looking at sponsorship schemes for roundabouts.

District Cllr Juned stated she had also attended the Core Strategy site visit and although Alcester has had its permissions she is now concerned it will miss out on such things as the Community Infrastructure Levy. She is also meeting soon with respect to the possible development at Hopkins Precinct.

**Agenda - Standing Orders Applied**

**Apologies - 140501**

Apologies were received from A Brown and J Styles whose reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

**Minutes of Council Meetings - 140502**

To consider the approval of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (Annual Meeting).

**Declarations of Interest - 140503**

No declarations of interest were received.

**Mayor's Report and Presentation of Grants - 140504**

To receive a report from the Mayor and presentation of the Town Grants to Local Organisations stating the Community Committee of Alcester Town Council at a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 agreed to approve 21 Community grant applications under Section 137 These were:

	<i>2014</i>
<i>Voluntary Action Stratford-upon-Avon</i>	<i>£1000</i>
<i>Citizens Advice Bureau</i>	<i>£1000</i>
<i>Alcester Christmas Lights (prev. ABLE)</i>	<i>£500</i>
<i>Alcester Darby and Joan</i>	<i>£200</i>
<i>Alcester Male Voice Choir</i>	<i>£1000</i>
<i>Alcester in Bloom</i>	<i>£1500</i>
<i>Alcester Horticulture Society</i>	<i>£100</i>
<i>Alcester Olympic Committee</i>	<i>£500</i>
<i>Town Criers competition</i>	<i>£200</i>



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<i>Malt Mill Lane Gardening club</i>	<i>£150</i>
<i>Royal British Legion</i>	<i>£100</i>
<i>Oversley Green Residents Association</i>	<i>£350</i>
<i>Stop Listen Play</i>	<i>£150</i>
<i>Alcester Children's Activities</i>	<i>£150</i>
<i>Alcester Town Hall</i>	<i>£500</i>
<i>The Wednesday Lunch Club</i>	<i>£500</i>
<i>Alcester Silver band</i>	<i>£500</i>
<i>Alcester Singers</i>	<i>£150</i>
<i>Royal British Legion (Church Service)</i>	<i>£500</i>
<i>Alcester Cadets</i>	<i>£600</i>
<i>Alcester Town Football Club</i>	<i>£350</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£10,000.00</i>

**Reports from Town Council Committees - 140505**

The Mayor asked formally for written annual reports from the 2013-4 Chairs of Town Council Committees for inclusion in the Annual Report to be received in time for the June Meeting from:

The Immediate Past Mayor (on behalf of Presidium)

The 2013/4 Chair of Recreation, Environment & Open Spaces

The 2013/4 Chair of Community

The 2013/4 Chair of Planning

**Town Council Led Committees/Steering Groups - 140506**

The Mayor asked councillors to consider the reappointment of members for the Principal Committees:

Recreation, Environment & Open Spaces(Chair To be confirmed at the first meeting) Lennox Cumberbatch, John Bunting, Eric Payne, Alison Brown, Sue Adams, Nina Knapman, Jim Kenyon, Steve Payne, Mark Cargill, Mayor Y Hine, Deputy Mayor Clive Neal-Sturgess

Community (Chair To be confirmed at the first meeting) Eric Payne, Sue Adams, Mike Gittus, Yvette Morrison, Alison Brown, Julie Styles, Chris Gough, Jim Kenyon, Lennox Cumberbatch, Steve Payne, Chris Brannigan, Mayor Y Hine, Deputy Mayor Clive Neal-Sturgess

Planning(Chair To be confirmed at the first meeting) Chris Gough, John Bunting, Mike Gittus, Nina Knapman, Yvette Morrison, Julie Styles, Chris Brannigan, Mark Cargill, Mayor Y Hine, Deputy Mayor Clive Neal-Sturgess

**Review of Terms of Reference - 140507**

The Mayor invited councillors to review the Terms of Reference for each committee prior to the next meeting for adoption by council

**Review of Town Council Policies for the year 2014-5 - 140508**

The Clerk stated a review of Town Council Policies would be ongoing during the coming year and the matter had been deferred for this meeting.

**Reports from Town Council Representatives - 140509**



## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at Globe House, Alcester.**

The Mayor reminded councillors of the necessity to receive written annual reports from the present Town Council Representatives on External Committees for inclusion in the Annual Report (Reports received in the Annual Parish Meeting will be taken as read)

St Nicholas School Board of Governors – Not Available

VASA – Not Available

Alcester Town Hall Management Committee – Annual Parish Meeting

Alcester United Charities – Annual Parish Meeting

Moorfield Charity – Annual Parish Meeting

Newport School Foundation – Annual Parish Meeting

Church Street Properties – Annual Parish Meeting

### **Town Council Representatives - 140510**

To consider for appointment/reappointment Town Council Representatives for:

St Nicholas School Board of Governors – Cllr Cumberbatch

VASA – Cllr Hine

Alcester Town Hall Management Committee – Cllr Cumberbatch

Alcester United Charities: Cllrs S Adams, E Payne and S Payne

Moorfield Charity: Cllr A Brown and Cllr Y Morrison

Newport School Foundation: Cllrs Hine, J Bunting and C Neal-Sturgess

Church Street Properties: Cllrs Bunting and Gough

The Above members were agreed by unanimous show of hands

### **Other Community Led Committees - 140511**

Councillors were asked to consider re-appointment of members for Alcester Community Trust, who were Lennox Cumberbatch and Steve Payne which was agreed by a show of hands

### **Fire and Rescue Service Provision Consultation - 140512**

The Clerk agreed to put together notes from the Forum part of this meeting to form Alcester Town Council's Response, which would be cascaded to councillors before the next meeting.

### **Presidium Report on status of Various Projects - 140513**

The Clerk gave a report on a meeting regarding the future of Globe House, held on May 8<sup>th</sup>, stating that management duties for the building had been agreed, however the County Council Head of Property Services had still not finalised all the financial arrangements and as a consequence could not present a solid enough case to the County Council Cabinet for approval. He had though agreed a date for completing this work which was May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Clerk gave a report regarding the Greig Centre, stating he had received an up to date status report from the District Council officer dealing with this matter that the winding up of the Charity was still with the Charity commission and was going through their due process. No date for completion of the process was given. Councillors raised concern that this matter would go beyond the date specified by the District Council Cabinet. Cllr Gittus stated the District Council Officer concerned had been the authority if sufficient progress had been made and the officer was confident on reaching a satisfactory solution.

The Clerk gave a report on the Alcester Jubilee Centre, stating it had exceeded expectations with regard to its income generation which was being monitored on a regular basis.



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Alcester Neighbourhood Plan

### **Payment of Accounts - 140513**

The Clerk gave a report and asked for approval by the Council for the Payment of Accounts for April 2014

The Clerk stated the request for approval of the Alcester Town Council Internal Controls and Financial Regulations would be deferred to the next meeting when councillors would be asked to approve a document that had been cascaded to councillors as a NALC draft document and had now been redrafted as an Alcester Town Council document.

### **Correspondence - 140514**

Local Government Boundary Commission- Stratford on Avon Electoral Review Fields in Trust – 2013 Impact Report

Zurich Municipal – Policy Reminder

Warwick University – Community Newsletter

William Gillies – Local Resident request for a SkatePark

Dalcour Maclaren – Fairwater Crescent Rising Main Renewal.

Sue Bates – Alcester Victoria Band – Mid-Summer Prom Concert request

### **Notification of Future Visitors - 140515**

The Clerk announced no further visitors have been organised for May 2014

### **Notification of any further business for future meetings - 140516**

The Mayor made a request to Councillors for agenda items to be received no later than 7 days prior to the corresponding meeting

### **Dates of future meetings - 140517**

The Mayor made members aware of the following meeting dates which were noted by members.

Community Committee Monday 12 May at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm.

Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm

Presidium Meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.00pm

All the above meetings to be held at Globe House