



## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at Globe House, Alcester.**

### **Present**

Councillors Y Hine (Mayor), C Neal-Sturgess (Deputy Mayor), M Cargill, E Payne, Y Morrison, L Cumberbatch, M Gittus, A Brown, J Kenyon, J Bunting, S Adams, , J Styles, S Payne 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.

Mrs Susan Juned thanked the Town Council for supporting the 'Litter Free Alcester' group. She also raised concern on planned development for the area around Hopkins Precinct that had been mentioned at a recent presentation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk answered on behalf of the council stating Alne Bank House had been put out to tender by the County Council and the Town Council were hoping to influence the future use by calling for Specialised Housing to suit people with disabilities, further to that is only what is mentioned in the District Council's Core Strategy.

Mr David Moulson gave a short talk on the benefits of the Museum firstly as an essential attraction for the town with 5,000 visitors per year, it also has school visits and as a charity can attract funding.

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

The following reports were received from Ward District and County Councillors: Cllr Cargill stated he had spent all day at the Planning Enquiry for the Churchill Homes application, having spent a lot of time preparing for it with Cllr Knapman. He had also attended training sessions.

Cllr Adams stated she had spoken against the application for change of use of a premise at Hopkins Precinct to go from Retail to a Take Away Food establishment. She reminded Councillors that Hopkins Precinct was the secondary retail centre in Alcester and remains very important. She had also chaired a Licensing Committee.

Cllr E Payne also stated he had spoken against the Hopkins Precinct change of use application. He also reported he was now on the West Area Planning and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. He had also attended the Home Choice Plus meeting and had talks with the Head of Service regarding Grass Cutting, and had received assurances that a 'complete cut' is imminent.

Cllr Gittus reported he supported the change of use at Hopkins Precinct as the premises had been empty for 4 years. He reported Warwickshire County Council had obtained £3,600,000 towards improving the road surface in lieu of so many pot holes. He had attended the meeting of the Oversley Green Residents Association meeting where a presentation of the Neighbourhood Plan was done. Crime in the County still continues to reduce even though part time lighting had been enforced in some areas. He attended a Flood Workshop which had been very practical and the attendees were able to give concise local knowledge, pinpointing where issues can happen. Road Surfacing improvement programmes are underway at the moment as well as the High Street improvements. He is also looking for some small Flood Grants to support such things as a generator for our Emergency Evacuation Centre.



## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at Globe House, Alcester.**

The Fire Service Review is continuing and they are already looking at the National Aspect with respect to the Fire Service. Regarding Globe House Cllr Gittus stated he had talked with the head of the Library Service and the project to move the library into Globe House was still on course, Stratford District Council are confident about receiving a letter from the Charity Commission shortly regarding the Greig Centre. Sherwell Drive Electrical Sub Station repositioning on the footpath at the corner of Sherwell Drive and Cross Road from Minerva Mill is being investigated as the current proposed position is unacceptable and an alternative position on a patch of land next to it is being considered, but ownership of the land has to be confirmed first. Cllr Gittus also mentioned details of the Armed Forces day next year and the Service to mark the start of the First World War in August. He also answered questions on the speed bumps put in as part of the High Street road improvements.

### **Apologies - 140701**

Apologies were received from N Knapman, C Brannigan and C Gough whose reasons for absence were agreed on a unanimous vote.

### **Minutes of recent Council meetings held in June 2014 - 140702**

Councillors were asked to consider for approval the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Gittus, seconded by Cllr S Payne and approved by council.

### **Declarations of Interest - 140703**

Cllr Hine declared an interest on an item on payment of accounts.

### **Mayor's Report - 140704**

The Mayor gave a report on recent activities, which included representing the Town Council at Cherry Trees, the Royal British Legion Tea, Warwick District Council Civic Service and she asked the clerk to thank the Alcester grammar School Pupils that had taken part in getting people to do a Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire.

### **Alcester Town Council – Financial Regulations - 140705**

The Clerk explained there had been amendments to Alcester Town Council's Financial Regulations and that a copy had been printed and was before them and that he wanted Councillors to read them before the next meeting and let him know any further areas that may need changing.

### **Alcester Town Council – Standing Orders - 140706**

The Clerk explained Alcester Town Council's Standing Orders had also been amended to make them compatible with the Financial Regulations and the same request applied as in the previous point.

### **The Care Act - 140707**

Cllr Cumberbatch gave a report outlining the serious effect this Act may have on County Council budgets and indirectly the Community of Alcester. This was accompanied by printed matter for every councillor.

### **Birmingham Road, Alcester - Tree-work - 140708**

Following a report from the Clerk to consider the acceptable specification for WCC tree-work required along Birmingham Road Alcester, this matter was referred to the Planning Committee.

### **Health and Safety Issues during minor works in Alcester Centre - 140709**



## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at Globe House, Alcester.**

The Clerk gave a report regarding recent and current work undertaken in the central area of Alcester which was considered dangerous by residents and visitors. The clerk explained that a near miss from roofing materials, which had fallen from a set of scaffolding erected over Market Way had resulted in someone in a very distressed state coming into the Council offices with the complaint. The Health and Safety Executive are no longer accessible for complaints, which have to be directed to the County Council, who responded by inspecting the works involved.

### **Community Committee - 140710**

The Chair of the Community Committee asked the following people to give reports.

Cllr Cumberbatch gave an update on Health and Social Care stating the Government now has a policy to make Mental Health facilities more accessible which should benefit Springfield Mind. They are also making the Health and Social Care Sectors work more closely together, however our Community Nursing team have been moved to Stratford. Concern was raised by councillors regarding use for the empty space this will leave at the Health Centre.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on Resilience issues stating the Workshop they attended gave a few ideas on what future work is required. He also stated that the work on Broadband is accelerating and due to changes in planning rules BT no longer need planning permission for Broadband cabinets. The Resilience committee had met on a revised schedule however only 3 people attended, so this will be reviewed. They are looking at grants for mobile CCTV units to place at critical areas to monitor town flooding.

Cllr Brown gave an update on Business Support stating there had been good feedback from the traders regarding the 1940's weekend

Cllr Morrison gave an update on Communication, reminding councillors the deadline for the Newsletter was 19<sup>th</sup> August and the next Council Surgery would be Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August in Church House.

Cllr Styles gave an update on Youth issues stating disappointment over the Youth Cinema attendance and Alcester Youth Council would be meeting again on 9<sup>th</sup> July when it will be the last meeting for a number of year 11 students. Funding options are also being explored for a Youth Shelter to try and reduce some of the anti social behaviour at the Jubilee Centre from young people sheltering under the roof. A suitable location is also being considered in talks with partners.

Cllr E Payne gave an update on The Jubilee Centre stating its popularity was still growing with events such as the Golden Oldies Film Club, the Royal British Legion and the World War 1 wartime photos of Alcester were all very well attended and we now have a list of extra bookings for August.

There were no propositions to Council from the Community Committee.

### **Recreation, Environment & Open Spaces Committee (REOS) - 140711**

The REOS Committee Chairman, Councillor Cumberbatch gave a report stating the primary complaint he was receiving was about the lack of grass cutting in the town and what were the Town Council doing about it.

He also reminded councillors of the Bee Friendly launch on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July Cllr Cumberbatch then asked members to consider the proposition as per REOS



## **Minutes of a meeting of the Alcester Town Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at Globe House, Alcester.**

minutes:-

The Recreation, Environment and Open Spaces Committee has agreed that the allotment charges should be increased to £36 per annum for Alcester Parish Residents and £48 per annum for all others. These charges should come into effect in January 2015. The Committee now seeks the approval of the Full Council on this matter. Cllr Cumberbatch proposed the proposition which was seconded by Cllr Gittus and approved by council.

### **Planning Committee - 140712**

The Clerk gave a report on behalf of the Planning Committee Chairman stating there had not been any major applications, however there had been a pre application talk by an organisation who wanted to replace a large detached dwelling on Allimore Lane with three smaller detached dwellings a site visit had been organised to view an application from Marla Tubes on Arden Industrial Estate even though it was in Kinwarton, concern was raised over the reduction in car parking spaces.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on Strategic Planning Matters stating the questionnaires done by Alcester Grammar School students on their Community Day had been reasonably successful with over 120 results, a breakdown of the answers in graphical form had been put before members. He also reported on the presentation to the Oversley Green Residents Association, where the Malt Mill Lane centre had been full and there were constructive comments from residents. He also commented on the recent WALC meeting, however the talker that was booked to talk on the Community Infrastructure Levy did not turn up although the matter will be discussed in Stratford District Council Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

There were no propositions to Council from the Planning Committee

### **Presidium Committee - 140713**

There were no updates from the Mayor, who asked the clerk to give reports on the following:

The Clerk gave a report regarding Alcester Town Council's Future Occupancy at Globe House stating that a sketch of where each organisation will be in the occupied areas of Globe House and a breakdown of the costs in relation to the area proposed to be occupied by the Town Council had been placed before members, for their consideration. The clerk explained this was not for a decision as there was no binding documents at this stage, but it would be beneficial if Councillors would agree in Principle to the project to give confidence to the County Council officers concerned for it to be taken before Warwickshire County Council Cabinet in September. Cllr Cumberbatch proposed the project be accepted in principle, which was seconded by Cllr Gittus and passed by Council. The Clerk gave an update on the Greig Centre stating that The Stratford District Council Officers dealing with this subject had not received confirmation from the Charity Commission regarding the removal of the Greig Hall Company as a charity, however they remained optimistic. He also explained that subsequent to the receipt of such information the Town Council have to negotiate a lease with the District Council.

### **Payment of Accounts - 140714**

The Clerk gave a report for approval by Council on payment of accounts for



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June 2014, and following some clarification on certain items the accounts for payment were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Morrison, which was seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by Council.

### **Correspondence - 140715**

The following correspondence were noted by councillors, e-mailed correspondence was taken as read.

- a) LCR Publication – Summer 2014-06-26.
- b) CPRE – New Outlook Publication.
- c) WALC – Letter of thanks for renewal and Statement on Standards of Service.

### **Notification of Future Visitors - 140716**

The Clerk stated no Future Visitors had been organised to date, however councillors were in agreement for future meetings to include a 'Forum' part before the main meeting inviting guests from organisations which impact on Alcester.

### **Notification of any further business for future meetings - 140717**

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 – 140718**

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the forthcoming meeting dates.

Community Committee Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7.00pm

Planning Committee Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 at 7:00 pm

Recreation Environment & Open Spaces Committee Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7.00 pm

Presidium Committee Meeting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at 7:00 pm

Alcester Town Council Meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at 7.00pm

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