



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2015
AT THE JUBILEE CENTRE, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors C Brannigan (Deputy Mayor), A Foster, J Bunting, M Cargill, A Brown and G Forman, E Payne, K Greenaway, J Kenyon, Y Morrison, C Gough and M Gittus.

Also the Town Clerk C Wright and Deputy Clerk K Wright

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There were no members of the public present.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr E Payne (District Cllr representing the Alcester Town Ward) reported on the situation regarding Combined Authorities and the SDC decision not to join the WMCA that Cllrs are still seeking clarification and more information on the best decision to make. He also noted meetings regarding the 5yr land supply in relation to planning were ongoing. He had attended another site meeting with the McCarthy & Stone developers at the proposed site in Fields Park Drive and WCC Highways department, who still have issues with the proposed access into the site, Cllrs are also concerned about the access via Fields Park Drive, they are awaiting a response. He had also attended a training course with Orbit, keen to w build relationships between the two organisations. Following a complaint Cllr E Payne had received from a resident of Jubilee Court, WCC have now placed a T-bar at the entrance to the access road, however at the same time a T-bar was requested for the end of the access road to the Jubilee centre and fields, but this has not been completed. He also received a complaint regarding the work by Severn Trent Water in the High Street during which the footpath was completely blocked forcing residents to walk into the road with no protective barriers, which is being investigated further. However also reported that Severn Trent Water had agreed to install a CCTV monitoring system on the Spittle Brook following a request from a resident.

Cllr M Cargill (District Cllr and Chairman of the SDC west area planning Committee) also reported on the meetings regarding the Combined Authority noting that it had been a good debate by SDC Cllrs. He also noted the Special Cabinet meeting regarding the Core Strategy and 5 Year Land Supply, stating that although the figures did not match the current rate of 720 homes per year was considered adequate for the housing the district is like to see. He also mentioned the CIL consultation which is currently in process, however this will not be brought in until the Core Strategy is in place, which is likely to be June 2016. Finally he reported that Bidford Bridge is now open to vehicles again.

Cllr M Gittus (County Cllr for the Alcester ward also a District Cllr and Chairman of SDC) gave a report regarding Children's transport which had been discussed recently by WCC, a review of the current situation had taken place to assess if any savings could be found in particular transporting severely disabled children to nursery places, which could be many miles from their homes as it is parent choice not allocated by location. However it was agreed to postpone making any savings in this service. Cllr Gittus also reported that the hourly Webcam feed at Gunnings Bridge had been updated and it had been noted that due to flood peaks rising very quickly and additional sensor had been added to pick up any unusual levels to send more regular updates to those following the feed. It was also reported that the work to install the 20mph signs from the High Street to Kinwarton Road had started, however not completed to date and this would be



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chased up. Phase 2 of the 20mph zone had been circulated for consultation, which includes extensions down St Faiths Road and School Road as requested by residents. Finally reported that he had attended a meeting regarding Cllr allowances which also raised the issue that there may be many people who would consider becoming a Cllr but are prevented by the amount of time which is required and juggling these responsibilities with family life and other jobs, an issue which Cllr Gittus hopes will be resolved in the future.

There were questions from Cllrs regarding items in the reports, in particular whether Alcester will see any of the WCC funding for 'Safer Routes to School', which has been unsuccessful so far, if the Gunnings Bridge webcam could be altered in some way to allow visibility of the water level gauge, which will be put to the company managing the webcam, and also if there was any update regarding the Syrian refugee situation, the report from the SDC Cabinet meeting will be circulated.

Cllr S Adams (District Cllr representing the Alcester & Rural Ward) could not attend the meeting, there were no reports received.

Apologies - 151101

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Neal-Sturgess (Mayor), J Styles, M Nash, L Cumberbatch, whose reasons for absence were agreed by Council.

Minutes of Council Meetings - 151102

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th October, which were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Y Morrison, seconded by Cllr C Gough and approved by Council.

Declarations of Interest - 151103

There were no declarations.

Mayor's Report - 151104

The Deputy Mayor reported that despite his health issues the Mayor had served the community well and attended many Civic events during the past month, including the Warwickshire High Sheriff's Civic Service and also the new Alcester High Bailiff's Civic Service.

Alcester Town Council Presidium - 151105

The minutes of the Presidium meeting will be signed at their next meeting. The Deputy Mayor reported that items discussed did appear on the agenda, however the members had also discussed the budgets for each of the Committees which are all relatively on track, and in particular funds for the projects the Community Facilities Committee have reported on.

Alcester Community Care Committee - 151106

Cllr C Brannigan requested that the minutes of the October Community Care Committee meeting be signed at the next Committee meeting. He did however report that following the meeting Councillors had been informed that there will now be a Games Fair held at Ragley Hall in 2016 to be organised by another company. He also reported that the Alcester Community Trust, the Alcester Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Alcester Court Leet had expressed interest in the organisation of the clubs and associations day.

Cllr C Brannigan also reported that the Community Safety subcommittee were still looking for more volunteers and a flood forum will be organised. Also the Alcester Youth Council, run by Cllr J Styles, will be looking at a project focused on Health and Wellbeing.



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Alcester Community Facilities Committee - 151107

Cllr J Kenyon confirmed he was satisfied his Committee members had approved the minutes. He then signed the Committee minutes from October.

Cllr J Kenyon reported that ROSPA had carried out an inspection of the town Play areas and had identified various problems which needed addressing and the Committee had agreed to these.

Cllr J Kenyon presented the following proposition from the Community Facilities Committee:

To support the expenditure for a swing, an inclusive springer, and repairs to safety surfacing on Alcester Town Council Play areas.

Cllr J Kenyon added that the total cost for these projects was £12800, however funding towards this had been offered by Moorfields trust, Church Street Properties and Cllr M Gittus (through WCC). In addition it was reported that the calculations had been received from Redrow Homes for the Sec106 agreement from the new houses on Kinwarton Farm Road. This calculation came to just over £140000, to be spend on projects to improve Jubilee Fields (previously known as Conway fields at the time of the agreement). The majority of this money has been earmarked for the building of a skate park, new quotes for this are being sought, and also to tarmac the path from the edge of the fields by the Greig Hall up to the Jubilee Centre. The committee are to decide how any money left over should be spent, including projects to improve the rest of the paths in Jubilee Fields or improving the existing play equipment.

The proposition as put forward was seconded by Cllr C Gough and unanimously agreed by Council.

Alcester Strategic Planning Committee - 151108

Cllr M Cargill reported that as the last meeting had been only 24 hours before, the minutes would be signed at the next planning Committee meeting.

Cllr M Cargill informed Council that the Churchill Retirement Living application had been refused by the SDC West Area Planning Committee on the 15th October, and there were four points which SDC would defend when the application goes to appeal, a date for which has not been set.

He also mentioned the Allimore Lane development as recently there had been a number of complaints received as the archaeological team had turned up with large articulated vehicles carrying heavy machinery and had accessed the site via Allimore Lane, which carries a weight restriction, and then proceeded to work for long hours 7 days a week for just over a week. The District and County Councillors had been following up these complaints, with regards to the access, there were no conditions placed upon the archeological team, unlike the construction vehicles which will be prevented from using the Allimore Lane access. WCC had inspected the lance since and could find no evidence of any harm done and the team have been made aware of the issues. With regards to the excessive hours, it was reported that the team had felt it was best to get the surface scraping part of the job done as quickly as possible, which they felt was better to be done in long hours 7 days a week rather than drawn out over a longer period of time but with shorter working hours, however it was felt by Councillors that there should have been more communication with local residents regarding this. There was also some confusion with how long the whole process will take. Various local groups and schools have expressed an



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interest in being involved with the archeological digs which will follow, especially as it was reported that several Roman dated items have been found already. With regards to the actual planning of the Allimore site, there has been no further communication from the developers or SDC; however this will be chased up.

Alcester Communication Committee - 151109

Cllr Y Morrison requested her Committee members to indicate their approval of the minutes which had been previously circulated but no replies received. She then signed the Committee minutes from October.

Cllr Y Morrison reported that the next Newsletter deadline was 13th November, and reminded Cllrs that articles should be sent in before that date.

As reported at the last full Council the Committee had wanted to update the Cllr's profiles on the website however there had only been a few updated therefore Cllr Y Morrison again reminded Cllrs that it was an action they wanted completed before their next meeting on the 10th November.

Finally Y Morrison reported on the issue of advertising in the town and that the Committee are currently working on a policy as a guideline for those putting up advertising boards in the town which will be circulated once completed.

Alcester Health and Wellbeing Board - 151110

The Clerk reported that it had been another positive meeting, however it was disappointing that none of the local GP's had been represented and it would be difficult to move forward without the help and support of the doctors who serve the community.

The Clerk also reported that funding had been promised by WCC from their transformation fund towards a Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator position. ATC would manage this post and a job description was currently being agreed to take to WCC. Cllr M Gittus added that the timescale was likely to be February for this to be in place. This initiative is being watched carefully by WCC and other neighbouring Authorities as it may be replicated elsewhere.

Cllr A Foster also commented on the maternity services at the Alex Hospital in Redditch which are to close this week and the impact this will have on local residents. Although the Redditch MP is taking the lead on reviewing the situation, Cllr Foster requested that Alcester's District and County Councillors also monitor the situation in relation to how the local people are coping with this lost service.

Alcester Community Trust - 151111

Cllr G Forman reported that the group had met again and discussed the 10km race, which had been a great success and one that the group wanted to run again next year with the hope of attracting a thousand runners. The artisan market will be on the 15th November and also the 20th December, but will then have a break until March at which point there may be a change of date to hopefully avoid any clashes of dates with other events in the town.

With regards to the concerns previously raised by Cllrs, a presentation is being put together for January with financial information.

Members only Website page - 151112

Cllr Y Morrison reminded Cllrs to test the members page so that everyone can be kept up to date with any information.

Town Council Representatives - 151113



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Cllr J Bunting reported that Church Street Properties had met and were pleased to have received the 4th of 5 installments of the loan given to ATC towards the building of the Jubilee Centre. They had also agreed to donate £500 towards the repairs to the sensory garden in the Church grounds and agreed in principle to make a donation towards an ATC facilities project if they received details quotes. The group also discussed the damage being done to one of their property's boundary wall by the neighbour's tree, they have since put in a planning application to remove the tree which has been seen by the ATC Planning Committee.

Cllr M Cargill reported that the United Charities group had met and that all their residences were full and had happy residents. He with others will also be visiting the properties soon.

Cllr J Bunting reported that the Newport Foundation had met and had agreed to give a grant to a local student studying photography. He also noted that the group had not heard anything further regarding the Allimore development.

Clerk to report on status of Various Projects - 151114

The Clerk gave a report on the position of 'The Globe' project stating that the work was going well and completion of the building work is still expected to be 21st Dec. He, with Cllr M Gittus, had attended meetings to discuss the signage at the Globe, there will be a large prominent name on the outside and signage inside of the organisations that will be there, there will also be a decorative feature just inside the main doors.

The Clerk reminded Cllrs about the cover on Thursday mornings in the Library with those who had attended stating that they had not been inundated with enquiries, however for those who had made an effort to find ATC it is very important someone be there. Cllrs requested that a more obvious signage was needed at the Library to make it clearer where they were, this will be organised with the Library.

Payment of Accounts – 151115

The Clerk presented the Payment of Accounts for October, also a bank reconciliation for the 6 month period was circulated, this was proposed to be approved by Cllr M Gittus and seconded by Cllr J Kenyon and agreed by Council.

Correspondence - 151116

- a. *WALC AGM Wednesday 4th November* – A representative from ATC will attend.
- b. *SCAN meeting Thursday 12th November 10:30am in Alcester Town Hall.*
Noted.
- c. *Clerks and Councils Direct Publication* – Available in the office for anyone wishing to read it.

The Clerk also reminded Cllrs that it was the Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service this Sunday (8th November), Cllrs are to meet at 10:30am at Bleachfield Street.

Notification of any further business for future meetings - 151117

The Deputy Mayor reminded Councillors that agenda items must be received by the Clerk no later than 7 days prior to the corresponding meeting.

Dates of future meetings - 151118

Alcester Full Council Meeting Tuesday 1st December 2015, 7 pm at the Hertford Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre



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Alcester Community Care Committee Tuesday 10th November 7pm at the Hertford Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre
Alcester Community Facilities Committee Tuesday 17th November 7pm at the Hertford Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre
Alcester Strategic Planning Committee 16th & 30th November 7pm at Depot Club Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre
Alcester Communication Committee Tuesday 10th November 10:30am Depot Club Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre
Alcester Town Council Presidium Tuesday 24th November 7pm at the Hertford Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre