



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2016  
AT THE JUBILEE CENTRE, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

Councillors C Neal-Sturgess (Mayor), C Brannigan (Deputy Mayor), Y Morrison, E Payne, L Cumberbatch, M Nash, M Gittus, A Foster, A Brown, G Forman, K Greenaway, C Gough and J Styles.

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 S Adams (Ward member for Alcester Rural) reported on the decision by SDC to join the WMCA, although she herself had voted against it, SDC are now a non-constitutional member with a joining fee of £25k. Cllr Adams also reported on the dog microchipping event which is taking place in Alcester on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb at which the first 20 to register will be microchipped for free and all others will be just £5 (plus VAT) after. The Bidford Alcester Community Forum will be the 8 March and Cllr Adams put forward the problem of motorbikes off road around the Conway estate as one of the Police priorities. Finally, Cllr Adams reported on the flooding situation at the land north of Allimore Lane, she with Cllr Gittus had met with the contractors and Gallaghers who had identified that the culvert to Ragley Mill Lane was blocked and this is to be sorted.

Cllr E Payne (Ward member for Alcester Town) reported that he had attended a site visit with Cllr Gittus and the MP regarding the issues of parking in the town, as a result there is to be a study carried out. STW will also be carrying out clearing work at Fairwater Crescent. He had been involved with an issue with an Orbit resident who had been waiting several weeks for a new boiler, this consequently was then sorted and the resident seeking compensation. Finally he reported that he was disappointed that the ATC Planning Committee had the night before agreed to withdraw their objections to the application for Polkadot, he will be maintaining his objections and speaking at the West area Committee meeting the next night.

Cllr M Gittus (County Councillor for Alcester) reported that he had been involved with negotiations to establish Public access onto the open space and play area at the Redrow estate, which has now been formally identified as from the Kinwarton Farm Road end. There had been reported problems with the Gunnings Bridge river camera which he had been following up with Vision Link, a grant for a second camera at Oversley Bridge is also being investigated. With regards to the SDC decision to join the WMCA he stated that with no new evidence he was not convinced it was a step in the right direction. This week WCC are meeting to discuss their budget, the conservatives are likely to put forward the maximum 1.99% increase to address health issues, although it is likely to be contested. SDC will also be discussing their budget at the end of the month and it is hoped they will continue to make a saving whilst still providing a high level of service. Finally Cllr Gittus reported he had attended a Plough match at Kineton, at which heard a talk regarding agriculture issues facing farmers and the impact contract farms are having, an interesting yet depressing situation.

**Apologies - 160201**

Apologies were received from J Kenyon, M Cargill and J Bunting, whose reasons for absence were agreed by Council.



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**Minutes of Council Meetings - 160202**

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, which were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr Brannigan and approved by Council, they were then signed by the Mayor.

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, which were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Brannigan and approved by Council, they were then signed by the Mayor.

**Declarations of Interest - 160203**

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

**Mayor's Report - 160204**

The Mayor reported numerous events he had attended, which included a Hundredth birthday Party at Malin Court, WALC meeting, Leamington Civic Service and his own Awards Evening, which had had a new format and went very well. He also reminded Cllrs of his Charity Quiz evening which was coming up on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, tickets for which were available from Globe House and PSW.

**Alcester Town Council Presidium - 160205**

Presidium had met prior to the Special Full Council meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the budget for the upcoming year.

There were no draft minutes from the preceding month.

**Alcester Community Care Committee - 160206**

The Chairman confirmed he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

The Chairman Circulated a report to Cllrs outlining the issues which have arisen and the consequential projects making particular reference to the progress made by the Community Safety Sub Committee, the business champion and Youth Champion. He also reported that a Task and Finish group had been set up to look at dealing with elderly people, they are to report back to the meeting in March.

There were no propositions from the Community Care Committee.

**Alcester Community Facilities Committee - 160207**

As the Chairman was not present the Committee minutes from the preceding month which had been circulated and approved would not be signed until the next meeting.

Cllr E Payne continued to give a verbal report on the last meeting which included progress with Play Area equipment for Moorfields had been completed, including a replacement swings and an inclusive 'Gravity Rider' springer. The Committee had received 2 quotes and was seeking a third for the skatepark. There are no propositions from the Community Facilities Committee.

**Alcester Strategic Planning Committee - 160208**

There were no Committee minutes from the preceding month, the Chairman was also not present.

Cllr Brannigan reported that the Committee had discussed at length the issues of Housing needs in the town, especially in relation to the money which had been promised by Redrow as part of their affordable homes quota which it had been reported half had been spent elsewhere in the district. It was also agreed



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by Council that the Mayor, on behalf of ATC, would write to Mr Lancaster of SDC to raise the disapproval of the action.

There are no propositions from the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Alcester Communication Committee - 160209**

The Chairman confirmed she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

The Chairman outlined the issues which have arisen and the consequential projects, including the deadline for the Spring Newsletter, the Town Guide, the clubs and Societies day and updates to the pages of the website.

There was a proposition from the Communication Committee presented by the Chairman, Cllr Y Morrison to amend their Terms of Reference regarding changes to the agenda order, this was seconded by Cllr M Nash and approved by Council.

**Alcester Health and Wellbeing Board - 160210**

Cllr Cumberbatch the Board Chairman gave a report stating the Board had met and a full report would be given to the Community Facilities meeting in February, the minutes would also be made available to Cllrs.

At the meeting care of the elderly was the focus with the health practices being involved with different schemes of how to deal with this however both facing an end with the new financial year, it is important to ensure that funds are made available for Alcester and the surrounding area and a letter will be sent to the Clinical Commissioning group stating this. Cllr Cumberbatch also mentioned the SCAN group in Alcester which currently has a poor membership and it is essential to increase the numbers and keep this going.

There was a question regarding the negative statements currently being made about the loss of several doctors at the two practices, Cllr Cumberbatch confirmed that Dr Lambert was not leaving the Arrow Surgery despite rumours and that the replacements for the two leaving Drs at the Alcester Health Centre had been appointed, therefore although they were concerned about the apparent poor communication with patients was confident there would not be any effect on service.

Finally the clerk reported that the money from the digital inclusion grant had been received, a factsheet was circulated which highlighted the particular needs of elderly people which is what ATC will be concentrating on with the new Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator.

**Alcester Community Trust - 160211**

Cllr Cumberbatch the Trust Chairman stated that there was not much to report at the moment but that the minutes of the last meeting would be made available for Cllrs.

**Town Council Representatives - 160212**

Cllrs C Neal-Sturgess and Y Morrison confirmed that Moorfields trust had agreed to make a contribution towards the Moorfields play equipment however a proof of purchase would need to be sent to the secretary.

Cllr C Gough reported that Church Street Properties had agreed to make a contribution towards various projects (such as the ceiling in the depot club room) providing quotes could be shown first.

**Clerk to report on status of Various Projects - 160213**

The Clerk gave a report on the position of Globe House stating that the ATC



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office was now operational and the improved facilities in the board room had been tested, including a screen to allow for paperless meetings. Necessary items had been removed from the Jubilee Centre however the ATC archives would remain, although would have to consider more secure partitioning of the upstairs storage space should a trust take over the building. The secure IP line at the Jubilee Centre had been retained with the intention of creating a link between Globe House and the Jubilee Centre, or allowing remote access for the AHN from the Centre.

Following a question, the Clerk clarified that the staff at Globe House will ensure the office is open to the public Monday to Friday 9am-1pm, during that time the Planning and Facilities Clerks will be in the office with the Community Care and Mayor's Secretary having a hot-desk facility. When the H&W Co-ordinator is appointed they will have a desk in the office too as this will be a full-time position. During the afternoons the Clerk may be out of the office at meetings.

**Payment of Accounts - 160214**

The Clerk presented the Payment of Accounts for January, this was proposed to be approved by Cllr M Gittus, seconded by Cllr L Cumberbatch and agreed by Council.

**Correspondence - 160215**

A Letter had been received from a resident of Eclipse Road who was concerned about potential flooding behind her house following archaeological work being done by Gallaghers. As Cllr Y Morrison was a neighbour she had also got involved as Cllrs M Gittus and S Adams attended the site and talked to the contractors. The water which had collected on the scraped surface had since been pumped away and agreements for further preventative work to carried out, although it had not started yet.

**Notification of any further business for future meetings - 160116**

A request was made to Councillors for agenda items to be received by the Clerk no later than 7 days prior to the corresponding meeting

**Dates of future meetings - 160117**

The Following dates were brought to the attention of Councillors:

*Alcester Full Council Meeting Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016, 7 pm at the Hertford Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre*

*Alcester Community Care Committee Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 7pm at the Hertford Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre*

*Alcester Community Facilities Committee Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 7pm at the Hertford Room, Alcester Jubilee Centre*

*Alcester Strategic Planning Committee 1<sup>st</sup> February at 6pm & 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Board Room, Globe House, via Seggs Lane Entrance*

*Alcester Communication Committee Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 10:30am Board Room, Globe House, via Seggs Lane Entrance*

*Alcester Town Council Presidium Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 7pm in the Board Room, Globe House, via Seggs Lane Entrance*

*Further Committee meetings may be transferred to Globe House during subsequent months.*