

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting took place at the Alcester War Memorial Town Hall, Alcester on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 7pm.

Welcome and Chairman

The Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Andrew Foster, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 were confirmed as a true record on a proposition by Cllr Keith Greenaway and seconded by Cllr Mike Gittus.

Report from Alcester Town Council

The Mayor gave a report from Alcester Town Council which comprised reports from each standing Committee.

The Presidium report confirmed that a Community Engagement Strategy had been adopted together with new policies on Advertising, Equality & Diversity, Training & Development and Discipline & Grievance. The Town Council had received an unqualified report from its external Auditors with no matters reported which required attention. Following the sad loss of Cllr Eric Payne in October 2018, Kirsten Forbes had been co-opted as a Councillor.

The Facilities Committee report confirmed that the Town's play areas were all regularly inspected in accordance with recommended practice including an annual inspection by ROSPA. The footpath from the Birmingham Road to the Black Bridge has been repaired. The allotment judging was completed and prizes given at the Mayor's Awards Evening. A composteer at the cemetery had been constructed and a bench donated by Rotary had been installed at Moorfields Park. A new works van had been purchased, a new water supply and shed installed at Bleachfield Street North allotments and way marks showing the path to the Abbey Fields site had been installed in the Cemetery.

The Community Care Committee reported that a computer group has been established to assist older residents with IT issues. New speed watch sites had been approved and 9 Speed Watch sessions undertaken. Community outings had been arranged for older residents, including a cinema visit and a trip to the Motor Museum at Gaydon. A Health and Wellbeing Fair was held at the Jubilee Centre to coincide with the Stratford Engage Festival for over 55s and a Community Allotment had been launched. The Citizens Advice outreach service had been restored in Alcester, with thanks to Nina Knapman and Warwickshire County Council. Mental Health First Aid training had been arranged and attended by young people from all three secondary schools in Alcester, with a follow-up research project planned. Community Grants had been awarded to 16 local organisations and societies.

The Planning Committee reported that it has been consulted on 75 planning applications during the year, the most significant of which were SIG Roofspace, Alcester Heath; Lloyds Bank and Alcester Conservative and Unionist Club. The Reserved Matters application to build the first 160 houses on the Allimore Lane development had been approved by SDC on 13th March. The Planning Committee also has responsibility for the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan. Following a 6-week consultation period, the Submission Version of the Plan has been approved by the Committee and will be submitted to SDC once it is adopted by Full Council.

The Mayor explained that Town Councillors serve a four-year term of office which ends in May 2019. He thanked all those Councillors who were standing down for their service to Alcester over many years.

Accounts

Mr Steven Brown, Steward of the Manor of Alcester presented the accounts on behalf of Alcester Court Leet for the year ending 30th September 2018. The following balances were received:

High Bailiffs fund	£1358.28
Charity fund	£ 753.99
Depreciation fund	£4496.07
Amount distributed by Charity	£5075.00

Cllr John Bunting, on behalf of Church Street Properties, gave a report noting that £21,715 had been given in grants. He then presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018, the balances were recorded as:

Treasurers account	£37108.56
BIA account	£ 6168.33
National Savings Bank	£80576.83

Mrs Susan Juned, Chair of the Alcester War Memorial Town Hall gave a report on the trust. Vaughan Blake, the Treasurer reported that income was slightly reduced in the last year. Significant work had been undertaken on the floor, double glazing and rear staircase. The accounts showed assets of

Cllr Clive Neal-Sturgess, on behalf of Newport's School Foundation presented the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018 which showed assets of £341,642.43. Funds of at least £1million were expected following completion of the Allimore Lane development.

Mrs Wendy Mills, on behalf of Alcester Bunting and Lighting Executive reported that their accounts showed a balance of £7280.84 as at 31st August 2018. She thanked the Town Council, the Court Leet and the Food Festival for their continued support.

There were no representatives present from Moorfield Trust or Alcester United Charities at the meeting.

Alcester Organisations

The Mayor then opened the floor to the representatives from various Alcester organisations who presented on their activities during the year:

1. Mrs Eileen Barnes – Alcester Dementia Café
2. Mr Mike Clark – Alcester Scout and Guide Management Committee
3. Mr Bill Goodall – Alcester First Responders
4. Mr Peter Chadwick – Greig Trust
5. Mr Mike Gittus – Alcester Royal British Legion
6. Mrs Dorrie Manders – Alcester Neighbourhood Watch
7. Mr David Bryant - Alcester Vallet Twinning Association
8. Mrs Carole Zambonini – Alcester Dementia Daycare
9. Mr Gary Williams – Alcester Town FC
10. Cllr Alison Brown – Food Festival
11. Mrs Susan Juned – Alcester Youth Project, Litter Free Alcester, Alcester Heritage Trust
12. Mr Vaughan Blake – Rotary Alauna

The Mayor then concluded the discussions praising Alcester's many volunteers. He thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for their efforts in making the evening such a success. He closed the meeting at 8.20 pm and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.