



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020  
AT GLOBE HOUSE, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

Councillors G Forman (Mayor) K Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, T Forman, M Cargill, E Wilson, K Greenaway, A Foster and E Randle.

**In attendance** Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk and Cllr S Juned, District Councillor.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was a presentation from two residents raising concerns about the lack of equality on the Court Leet in that women were not allowed to become jurymen or officers.

The Mayor made the following statement:

“The Town Council has no role or authority over outside bodies in the town and therefore will not be making any comments in relation to the Court Leet.

All Councillors are entitled to their personal opinion in relation to the Court Leet, or indeed any other organisation in the town, but any statements made by Councillors are in their capacity as residents of the town and are not endorsed by the Town Council.”

**District and County Councillors’ Reports**

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that the planning application for the Croft Lane power station would go before the SDC Planning Committee in March. He is working with residents in Haselor and Walcote to prepare for the Committee.

The SDC Site Allocations Plan has been delayed due to issues relating to housing in Southam.

Cllr Cargill congratulated the NDP team on the Examiner’s positive report.

Cllr Cargill has agreed to organise the rota for the speed gun and is currently investigating inconsiderate parking in Alcester. He was pleased to report that the pavements in Roman Way and nearby were finally being resurfaced.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that £20,000 was included in the SDC budget for an upgrade to the Hopkins Precinct play area subject to matched funding being secured. The Alcester Youth Project has agreed to fundraise for this project.

Cllr Juned had reported to the ATC Planning Committee on the new SPD on Climate Change which was currently out for consultation.

She reported that the SDC Climate Change Task and Finish Group were due to report to the SDC Cabinet.

Cllr Juned had contacted Orbit regarding the damage to verges in Castle Road as reported during the public participation session at the previous Full Council meeting. Orbit were requesting evidence of the cause of the damage. The Town Clerk suggested that Cllr Juned explain the situation in the next newsletter to encourage residents to keep photographs in future.

Cllr Foster mentioned that he had received complaints about green moss on Blackthorn Way which he had referred to Orbit. He asked Cllr Juned to chase progress.

Cllr Foster also asked Cllr Cargill if there was any progress with WCC on the footpath to the Greig. Cllr Cargill reported that he had not received any update.



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**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs V Blake, M Hempell, M Bowe, K Soares, D Henderson, L Pusey and K Forbes. It was noted that Cllr Bowe was attending a training session on behalf of the Planning Committee.

**2. Minutes of Council Meetings**

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Randle, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

**4. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported on the various events which she had attended during the past month including the Alcester Heritage Trust AGM, the Mayor of Stratford's Quiz and the Mayor of Solihull's Civic Dinner. She had particularly enjoyed judging Window Wanderland and hoped that the event would continue next year. She had attended the WMCA Thrive Mental Health Star Awards 2020 with the Town Clerk and Wendy Sherwood, Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, as ATC had been nominated and shortlisted for an award for the Young People's Mental Health project.

The Deputy Mayor reported that she had attended a degree congregation at Warwick University and had been delighted to open the Repair Café.

The Mayor reminded all Councillors to reply to invitations to the Civic Dinner.

**5. Presidium**

The Mayor confirmed that she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. There were no questions about the minutes.

There were the following propositions from Presidium:

5.1 "To adopt the updated Discipline and Grievance Policies dated January 2020"

This was proposed by Cllr T Forman, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

5.2 "To adopt the Proper Use of Email Policy dated January 2020"

This was proposed by Cllr K Cargill, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried by Council.

Cllr Foster requested that the ATC Equality and Diversity Policy be reviewed by Presidium following the issue raised in the public presentation session earlier in the evening. The Mayor agreed to this request.

**6. Finance**

The Town Clerk presented the management accounts for the third quarter of 2019-20 which were approved.

**7. Community Care Committee**

Cllr K Cargill confirmed that she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

She gave a summary of the issues discussed at the Committee including an update on H&Wb events. Cllr Cargill reported that almost 40 repairs had been



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completed at the first Repair Café and thanked those councillors who had attended. The next Repair Café was on 20<sup>th</sup> February from 2 – 6 pm at the Eric Payne Community Centre. The Carers Café had now moved to Church House with the next event on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Cargill asked the Town Clerk to convene a meeting to discuss issues regarding the Youth Club.

There were no propositions from the Committee.

Cllr Foster thanked Alcester Community Trust for its financial support for Window Wanderland.

**8. Community Facilities Committee**

Cllr T Forman confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

Cllr T Forman gave a summary report on issues discussed at the Committee and confirmed that he would be asked residents for input into new play equipment at Collins Way via the newsletter. It was noted that the AGM of the Cross-Parish Cycle Way Group was being held during the following week with Cllr Wilson and Cllr T Forman attending.

There were no questions about the minutes and no propositions from the Committee.

**8. Planning Committee**

Cllr Neal-Sturgess confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes which were then signed.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave a summary of the applications considered by the Committee including an extensive planning application at Oversley Mill Services\* to which the Committee had lodged an objection.

There were no propositions from the Committee.

*\*The Mayor declared an interest in this application as an employee of the applicant.*

**9. Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan. He reported that the Examiner's Report had been received and considered by the Steering Group. All the recommended modifications had been approved. The Town Clerk had updated the Plan and submitted this to SDC so that they can arrange the Referendum. Cllr Neal-Sturgess thanked the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk for all their work in connection with the NDP.

**10. Greig Working Group**

Cllr Foster explained that a Greig Working Group meeting had been scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Juned will be invited. In the meantime, initial discussions had taken place with SDC regarding a lease to ATC of the Greig Hall but matters are at an early stage at the moment. Cllr Foster reminded councillors that the Feasibility Study would need to be reviewed and updated and recommended that further visits be arranged to other similar venues.

**11. Town Council Representatives**

Health and Wellbeing Board – Cllr M Cargill reported that at the recent Board meeting there had been a focus on social prescribing with a presentation from Amanda Cogley, the Social Prescriber for Alcester.



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Newport's School Foundation – Cllr Neal Sturgess reported that the trustees had met. There were still issues with banking arrangements with HSBC.

United Charities – Cllr K Cargill reported that she had been elected as Vice Chair and that the trust's finances were healthy.

Church Street Properties – Cllr T Forman reported that the trust had given a donation to the Repair Café. The Trustees were keen to be kept informed about progress with the Greig Hall.

Royal British Legion – Cllr Mark Cargill had attended the recent Open Meeting as representative of ATC. This had reviewed the arrangements for the Remembrance weekend.

Town Hall – The Mayor reported that various maintenance issues were in hand. There were still outstanding issues regarding the drainage gully on the road and ensuring that fire escape doors were not blocked. There is a Heritage Open Day scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

**12. Payment of Accounts**

The Town Clerk presented the Payment of Accounts for the preceding month. The accounts were proposed to be approved by Cllr T Forman, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried by Council.

**13. Correspondence**

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read. There was no further correspondence to report.

**14. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7pm  
Community Care Committee Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 7pm  
Community Facilities Committee Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7pm  
Presidium Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7pm  
Full Council Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at 7pm  
All meetings at Globe House

The Mayor closed the meeting.