



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2020
AT GLOBE HOUSE, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors G Forman (Mayor) K Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, T Forman, M Cargill, E Wilson, K Greenaway, V Blake, M Hempell, A Foster, M Bowe, K Soares, E Randle, D Henderson, L Pusey and K Forbes

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was a presentation from a resident raising concerns about the state of the verges on Castle Road following recent building work. Cllr Mark Cargill, as County Councillor offered to deal with this issue in conjunction with Cllr S Juned, as the Ward Member.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that the court case between SDC and the Greig Trustees had been concluded on 11th December 2019 with judgment being given in favour of SDC. Cllr Cargill reminded Councillors of the long history of this site and thanked the late Cllrs Eric Payne and Lennox Cumberbatch and former Cllrs Mike Gittus and Sue Adams for their commitment to ensuring that the Greig Hall was not demolished. More recently Cllr Cargill wished to thank Mrs Sheilagh Goode for her efforts in raising the profile via the Friends of the Greig Hall and the Home2Home shop. Finally, he thanked David Buckland and Tony Perks, the SDC Chief Executive and Deputy, for their commitment to fighting the legal case.

Cllr Cargill explained that £500,000 was in SDC's budget for refurbishment of the leisure facilities. Negotiations would now proceed between SDC and ATC regarding the Memorial Hall.

Cllr Cargill gave an update on the SDC budget for 2020-21. He explained that the long-term financial plan for the Council indicated that new sources of income would be required in anticipation of the withdrawal of central government funding by 2025. This had necessitated the introduction of charging for green waste removal. Cllr Cargill reminded Councillors that although SDC was the collection authority for council tax, it only received 7.8% of the tax, with 77% being passed to WCC, 3.4 % to parishes and 11.5% to the Police.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies as all Councillors were present.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd December 2019. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr K Cargill, 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.



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2020
AT GLOBE HOUSE, ALCESTER.**

4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported on the various events which she had attended during the past month including St Nicholas' Night. She had been pleased to attend the Lord Mayor of Coventry's Civic Dinner. She thanked Rotary for their donations to her mayoral charities. She had been delighted to attend the Alcester Academy Teachers' Awards evening and congratulated the school on being made an Ambassador school, only one of 17 in the country. The Mayor reported that she and her consort, Cllr T Forman had been given an award by Alcester Men's Social Club.

The Deputy Mayor reported that she had given the reading at the town carol service in the absence of the Mayor.

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.

The budget for 2020-21 which had been previously circulated by the Town Clerk was discussed and the Town Clerk answered questions from Cllr Bowe and Cllr Randle regarding staff salaries.

There was the following proposition from Presidium:

"To agree a budget of £313,378 for the financial year 2020-21. Taking into account anticipated income of £33,758, to request a precept from Stratford-on-Avon District Council of £279,620 for the year 2020-21."

This was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Bowe and carried unanimously by Council.

6. 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 congratulated Wendy Sherwood on her recent appearance on BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire. The community grants scheme would open shortly with a deadline for applications of 28th February.

There were no propositions from the Community Care Committee but Full Council was asked to note that the Community Emergency Plan (in the form recommended by the CSW Resilience Team and Warwickshire County Council) has been completed and approved by the Community Care Committee. This document contains sensitive data and will be kept confidentially and securely by the Town Clerk and the Chair of the Community Safety Working Group for use in the case of an emergency. The document will be updated as required.

7. 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 reported that the tree survey results had now been received which were being summarised by Cllr Wilson. The survey had identified only 5 trees which needed attention with two being high priority. These were being actioned.



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2020
AT GLOBE HOUSE, ALCESTER.**

As regards the issues with the water supply at Bleachfield Street North allotments raised in the public participation session at the last Full Council meeting, the Committee had taken advice and had arranged for double check valves to be fitted to all taps at the site to avoid potential contamination. The Allotment Association had confirmed that they would ensure that the system would be left empty when the water was switched off and flushed through when it was switched back on. Signs had been installed confirming that the water was not for drinking.

There were no propositions from the Committee.

8. Planning Committee

Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported that the Committee minutes had already been signed. He gave a summary of the applications considered by the Committee. There were no propositions from the Committee.

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan confirming that the Examiner's Report was expected shortly.

10. Greig Working Group

Cllr Foster explained that Cllr M Cargill had already confirmed the legal position regarding the Greig Hall. The Greig Working Group would reconvene shortly. The Town Clerk offered to circulate the Feasibility Study to councillors. Cllr Foster thanked Cllr M Cargill for his commitment to securing the site back into public ownership.

11. Town Council Representatives

There were no reports this month.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess informed councillors that in the latest WALC newsletter which had been circulated by the Town Clerk, there were details of new online training available to councillors.

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 Soares, seconded by Cllr K Greenaway and carried by Council.

13. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

The following correspondence was noted:

Letter from Ross Greig, Chair of the Greig Trustees dated 9th December 2019

Letter from Bevan Brittan LLP Solicitors dated 17th December 2019 re:

Stratford-on-Avon District Council v The Hannah Susan Greig Memorial Co. Ltd

There was no other correspondence to report.

14. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 6th January and 27th January 2020 at 7pm

Community Care Committee Tuesday 14th January 2020 7pm

Community Facilities Committee Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7pm

Presidium Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 7pm

Full Council Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7pm

All meetings at Globe House

The Mayor closed the meeting.