



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 14th APRIL 2020**

Present

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

1. Apologies

None.

Due to personal circumstances, apologies were received by the Town Clerk from Cllr D Henderson after the meeting.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd March 2020. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Soares, seconded by Cllr T Forman and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Mayor.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess confirmed that he was satisfied that Planning Committee members approved the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March, which were then signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of Cllr Neal-Sturgess.

Cllr K Cargill confirmed that she was satisfied that Community Care Committee members approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March, which were then signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of Cllr Cargill.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

4. Report on Alcester Community Resilience

Cllr Foster gave a report on the ongoing community resilience effort. He reported that over 150 volunteers had been recruited who were being organised by co-ordinators for each ward or parish. As at 13th April, 250 contacts had been made by phone or email. The main services being delivered were hot food delivery, shopping, medication collection, dog walking and companionship calls. The Crisis Fund created from funds received from Moor Fields Charity could also provide financial assistance for those in most need.

Cllr Foster reported that the support and goodwill from the community had been overwhelming but that demand was expected to continue for many weeks. There was a discussion about the level of ongoing financial support which may be required for many residents.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would make arrangements with Pantry Ann's regarding the finances for the hot meal service once the current arrangement expires. She will seek agreement from Councillors by email as required.

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the community resilience effort particularly Cllrs Foster, Randle and Bowe.

5. Report on Town Council operations during Covid-19 crisis

The Town Clerk had circulated her report in advance which was discussed and approved. The report will be updated as the situation develops.



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6. Alcester Town Council meeting dates

It was agreed that a Full Council meeting would be held on the first Tuesday of each month in the normal pattern, with all meetings being held remotely, until further notice.

It was agreed to cancel all monthly Committee meetings until further notice. *(An extraordinary meeting of the Community Care Committee was subsequently agreed – see item 9 below).*

7. Delegation to Town Clerk

It was agreed to delegate all operational decisions relating to matters resulting directly or indirectly from the Covid-19 crisis to the Town Clerk for a period of six months or in her absence, to the Deputy Town Clerk. All such decisions will be reported to Councillors monthly.

8. Neighbourhood Development Plan

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Development Plan referendum had been cancelled. The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 defer all elections and referendums until 6th May 2021.

9. Community Grants

The allocation of community grants made by the Community Care committee at its meeting on 9th March was noted. It was agreed that in view of the Covid-19 crisis, the allocation would be referred back to the Committee. The Town Clerk will call an extraordinary meeting of the Community Care Committee on 21st April 2020.

10. Payment of Accounts

The Town Clerk presented the Payment of Accounts for the preceding month. The accounts were proposed to be approved by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Soares and carried by Council.

11. Correspondence

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

12. Dates of future meetings

Community Care Committee Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 7pm

Full Council Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 7pm

All meetings will take place remotely using Zoom software. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Town Clerk on clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk for details of how to join the meeting.

The Mayor closed the meeting.