



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE  
ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

**Present**

Councillors K Cargill, M Cargill, A Foster, E Randle, V Blake, M Bowe, L Pusey, C Neal-Sturgess, K Soares, D Henderson, K Forbes, M Hempell and E Wilson.

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

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr K Cargill took the Chair.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was a presentation by two residents on their plans for preserving the Alcester "Rock Line". The Deputy Mayor confirmed that the Town Council had already agreed that the stones should be kept. It was agreed that the residents would seek quotes for the work involved and return to the Town Council with suggestions.

The residents were congratulated by Councillors for their efforts.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) had previously issued a briefing note regarding the proposed closer working arrangements between Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council. This paper was discussed, and concerns were expressed regarding possible reduction in services to residents and local accountability. Cllr Cargill assured Councillors that the plans aimed to use the best of both organisations and SDC were committed to doing their best for their residents.

Cllr Cargill confirmed that it had been agreed by SDC Cabinet that a financial contribution would be paid to SLM each month to enable them to open leisure centres in due course. He also reported that fast track applications were being processed for pavement licensing for the sale of food and drink.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) gave an update on local Covid-19 cases.

She reported that she hoped that the SPD on Climate Change would be adopted by SDC Full Council on 13<sup>th</sup> July. This would ensure that energy efficiency measures would form part of planning applications.

Cllr Foster thanked Cllr Juned for her recent help with an Orbit case.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Forman (Mayor) and Cllr T Forman.

**2. Minutes of Council Meetings**

The Deputy Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and approved by Council; as this was a remote meeting, they were then signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Deputy Mayor.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.



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**4. Virtual Public Meetings Protocol**

The draft Protocol prepared by the Town Clerk and circulated in advance was discussed. Cllr Foster asked for consideration to be given to recording Council meetings and posting the recordings online. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate options and report back to the next meeting.

**5. Local Council Award Scheme**

Councillors considered the documentation circulated in advance by the Town Clerk detailing the requirements for the Quality Award of the Local Council Award Scheme and indicating the Town Council's compliance with each element.

The Deputy Mayor proposed that Alcester Town Council had met the criteria to apply for the Quality Award. This was seconded by Cllr Soares and unanimously approved by Council. The Town Clerk was authorised to make the application.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess thanked the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk for their hard work in reaching this milestone which had been his ambition for many years.

**6. Code of Conduct Consultation**

Councillors considered the proposed national member code of conduct which had been received from the LGA. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should respond to the consultation indicating that Councillors would support a requirement for training to be incorporated into the Code. Councillors also supported the need for effective sanctions for breaches.

**7. Alcester Town Recovery Task and Finish Group**

Cllr Bowe reported that the Group had held five meetings. An online survey had been undertaken which had provided useful data to guide plans for assisting the reopening of the High Street. WCC had drawn up plans for a one-way temporary traffic system but this had been rejected due to lack of funds at WCC.

The Group had decided to concentrate on assisting with social distancing and had produced a temporary new layout for pedestrians. WCC had confirmed that no traffic order was required for this.

Pavements would be marked up with coloured arrows on 12<sup>th</sup> July. There was also a banner and poster campaign planned.

**8. Report on Alcester Community Resilience**

Cllr Soares gave a report on the ongoing community resilience effort. She reported that there had been a significant reduction in call volumes. This had resulted in a restructuring of the co-ordinating roles. She thanked Cllrs Bowe and Randle for the previous work as co-ordinators.

Cllr Soares reported that Cllr Foster and herself had hosted a Zoom meeting for the volunteers to explore their experiences. The feedback received indicated that most wished to continue as volunteers and wished to retain the network in some capacity. Many had indicated that the network had renewed their senses of community.



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**9. Report on Town Council operations during Covid-19 crisis**

The Town Clerk had circulated her report in advance which was discussed and approved.

In response to a question from Cllr Bowe, the Town Clerk confirmed that notices listing the guidelines for using the newly opened play areas had been installed on site and also on social media.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm  
Full Council Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 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](mailto:clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk) for details of how to join the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor closed the meeting.