



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 4th AUGUST 2020**

Present

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that SDC and WCC were starting to get back to "business as usual". He reported that the changes to the social distancing road/pavement layout in Stratford had been agreed and would be implemented shortly.

He reported that that satisfaction ratings for SDC had slipped slightly and he would welcome comments from Councillors on how SDC could improve.

He reminded Councillors of the difficult financial situation at SDC but confirmed that the government had announced that it would allow losses to be offset over the next 3 years which would assist.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that a joint review by SDC and Warwick DC was being undertaken in advance of the government White Paper on local government reform expected in September.

New planning rules had been announced which would mean that full planning applications would not be required in specific circumstances. Cllr T Forman asked a question of clarification regarding this proposal and Cllr Juned explained that the rules largely covered the change from retail to housing.

Cabinet had met to discuss the allocation of CIL funds. The project for natural flood management on the upper reaches of rivers coming into Alcester had not been approved in the first tranche but the Cabinet had agreed to review it in three months' time.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Foster and Cllr K Soares.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7th July 2020. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Pusey, seconded by Cllr Bowe and approved by Council; as this was a remote meeting, they were then signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Mayor.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

4. Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that some official duties had now recommenced. She had enjoyed judging the scarecrow competition in Oversley Green and the quality of the entries had been excellent. She had met the residents who had organised the Alcester Rock Line and had discussed potential sites for their permanent installation.



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The Mayor notified Councillors that the annual judging of the allotments would take place on 14th August.

5. Virtual Public Meetings Protocol

The two versions of the draft Protocol prepared by the Town Clerk and circulated in advance were discussed. The Mayor proposed that the version (without the paragraphs coloured blue) was adopted. This was seconded by Cllr M Cargill and passed by Council.

6. Stratford-on-Avon District Council (Public Spaces Protection) (Dog Fouling) Order 2020

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would respond to SDC in support of this Order.

7. Planning Committee

Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported that two virtual Planning Committee meetings had been held to discuss applications firstly for the Swan Hotel and secondly for the proposed Aldi supermarket. The Planning Committee had unanimously agreed to lodge an objection to the Aldi application.

The Town Clerk updated Councillors on the start of the Allimore Lane development following a virtual meeting with the Planning Manager of Bloor Homes. Bloors had agreed to update the Town Council quarterly on their progress.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month. As this was a remote meeting, they were signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of Cllr Neal-Sturgess.

8. Alcester Town Recovery Task and Finish Group

Cllr Bowe had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting. He reported that the T & F Group had now held its final meeting and any outstanding tasks were being passed back to appropriate Committees and Working Groups. He thanked the members of the Group for their support and hard work. He urged all Councillors to engage with local businesses as they would be requiring ongoing support in these difficult times.

Cllr M Cargill thanked Cllr Bowe for his efforts in chairing the T & F Group and the Mayor thanked all Councillors who had been involved.

9. Report on Alcester Community Resilience

Cllr Blake gave a report on the ongoing community resilience effort. Although there were only a small volume of calls now, there was clearly still a need so the phone line would remain open. Cllr Blake thanked Cllr Foster for setting up the group. It was agreed that there was an outstanding task to follow up how best to engage with the volunteers in the future. The Mayor thanked everyone involved and confirmed that she was having ongoing discussions with the Town Clerk as to what sort of event could be run in the New Year to thank the volunteers.

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

The Town Clerk had circulated her report in advance which was discussed and approved. It included confirmation that the Town Council offices had reopened on 3rd August.



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After a discussion, Cllr T Forman proposed that the Standing Committee meetings should restart in September 2020 such meetings to be held by Zoom. This was seconded by Cllr Neal Sturgess and carried unanimously by Council.

11. Payment of Accounts

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

12. Correspondence

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

13. Dates of future meetings

Full Council Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7pm
Committee meeting dates to be advised.

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.

14. Abbey Fields

The Mayor proposed that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number(s), which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated. This was seconded by Cllr K Cargill and carried by Council. The meeting was closed to the public and continued in confidential session.

The Mayor closed the meeting.