



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

Following the instructions of the Prime Minister's address on 23 March 2020, all Town Council meetings will be held remotely until further notice.

Alcester Town Council will be using Zoom software to facilitate the holding of meetings. All meetings will be recorded using the Zoom software.

Participating:

Cllr. K Cargill, Cllr G. Forman, Cllr A. Foster, Cllr K Soares, Cllr C. Neal-Sturgess,

In attendance: Mrs V. Lowe Town Clerk, Mrs J Theobald, Committee Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr E. Randle, Cllr D. Henderson

2. Declaration of Interest – non recorded

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Last Meeting

None recorded.

4. Community Grants

Letters of thanks for grants received were received from Arrow Action Group, Alcester Bunting and Lighting and Citizen's Advice SW.

5. Community Care Committee Terms of Reference

An addition was made to the objectives "To liaise with community groups and volunteers to enhance our community resilience."

6. Alcester Health & Wellbeing Projects

The Clerk gave an update.

6.1 Alcester Repair Café – plan to open end of September

6.2 Computer Club and Carers' Café – currently no plans to reopen

6.3 Holiday Lunch Club – The project ran twice a week for 6 weeks during the school holiday. Between 40 - 50 free hot meals per session were given out to local school children from the Eric Payne Community Centre. Funding for the project came from grants sourced from Tesco Community Fund and the Government Emergency Fund. The Committee thanked Anita Hellyer, Ali Mainey, Wendy Sherwood and Jenny Theobald.

6.4 Cook and Eat your Tea Project

Based on a successful project which ran some years ago, Anita will teach participants to cook a two-course meal which they will then stay and eat following the lesson.

Each session will be for 4 weeks and designed to include a cross section of the community. Session 1 – ‘Teenagers’ followed by ‘Lad’s night in’ aimed at single men, ‘Family Tea Time’, ‘Nifty In The Kitchen’ (over 60s) and ‘Parent of Toddlers’. Six cooking stations, ensuring social distancing, will be provided for each Group. There is currently enough budget in the Community Fund to start the programme and offers have been made to provide fresh meat and seasonal fruit and vegetables.

6.5 Angling in Alcester

Sport England is giving grants to promote fishing post Covid, and Angling Trust, a national organisation, has offered to run courses, for people in Alcester. It is proposed that one course will run before Christmas and one after. Following Covid guidelines, the free of charge courses will take participants to Hanbury by mini-bus. The Committee agreed that the courses would benefit disadvantaged people in Alcester.

6.6 Cllr Foster raised the concerns of residents living in Malin Court who are feeling increasingly isolated during lockdown with no community activities available at their residence. The Town Clerk will pass the enquiry to the Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator who will contact the residents to look into possible areas of support.

7. Alcester Community Resilience

7.1 Following the success of the project to support local isolated people by providing hot meals and telephone companionship during lockdown, a review of whether to continue the scheme with the easing of restrictions came under discussion.

In general, the Committee felt that the project should be ‘paused’ rather than disbanded as family and friends were now returning to work and, dependent on lockdown restrictions, many vulnerable people may be isolated again and need help. Volunteers will be contacted to ascertain if they are still available to continue if required.

7.2 Community Safety Group – Reconvening the Community Safety Group was discussed. Suggestions were put forward to merge the Resilience Group with the Community Safety Task Group to include members of the community as well as councillors. Lessons learned from the Coronavirus situation would be added to the Emergency Plan. Cllr Neal-Sturgess and Cllr Soares will discuss the way forward with members of the task group and Town Councillors will be contacted asking for support.

8. Business and Tourism Working Group

Cllr Foster proposed that a working group be reinstated to strengthen relationships with the business in the town, particularly the effect of post Covid on High Street retail and hospitality sectors. Past members of the Working Group to be contacted to gauge interest and Town Councillors contacted to offer the opportunity to get involved.

9. Depot Youth Club

The future of the youth club is in doubt until a youth leader is found, a necessary requirement for insurance governance and funding. The current volunteers do not want to take on additional commitments associated with youth leadership. WCC's Local Development Officer has offered to contact the Henley Youth Leader and invite her to a meeting with the Town Clerk and H&Wb Co-Ordinator to discuss the way forward. Funding sources to be looked at for employment of a youth leader.

10. Date of next Meeting

7pm on Tuesday 13 October 2020