



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2020**

Present

Councillors G Forman (Mayor), K Cargill, M Cargill, T Forman, E Randle, V Blake, M Bowe, C Neal-Sturgess, D Henderson, M Hempell, A Foster, K Soares, E Wilson, L Pusey and K Greenaway (after item 4).

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 S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that Covid 19 was still having a major impact on SDC finances. The Council had hoped for a 3-year government settlement, but the settlement would only now cover one year. The discussions on Unitary authorities had been put on hold for now. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were considering the Infrastructure Funding Statement and the Site Allocation Plan but these decisions were being made with the backdrop of possible Government planning reforms which was producing considerable uncertainty.

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) agreed with Cllr Juned that SDC's financial situation was of considerable concern. SDC did not want to cut services but options were limited. In response to a question from Cllr Bowe, Cllr Cargill gave information regarding the level of reserves held by SDC and explained that if no action was taken, these might be depleted by 2023-24. Cllr Juned pointed out that many of the services provided by SDC were statutory and therefore could not be cut. Cllr Cargill confirmed that WCC had agreed to fund vouchers for children who qualified for free school meals during holiday periods. He also confirmed that the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme was still available to those in need.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr K Forbes.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6th October 2020. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Soares 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 had no matters to report.

Cllr Greenaway joined the meeting.

5. Presidium

The Mayor confirmed that she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed by the Town Clerk on her behalf. There were no questions about the minutes.



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The Town Clerk gave a presentation to Councillors to explain the Public Sector Equality Duty and there was a discussion about this topic.

There were no propositions from Presidium.

6. Finance

The Town Clerk presented the monthly management accounts, balance sheet and bank reconciliation up to 30th September 2020. She explained that these were the half yearly figures. In view of the pandemic, some budget items were considerably increased and some decreased, but overall she confirmed that she had no particular concerns at this stage in the year. There were no questions from Councillors.

7. Community Care Committee

Cllr K Cargill confirmed that she was satisfied that the Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month. As this was a remote meeting, the minutes were signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of Cllr Cargill. Cllr Cargill gave an update on issues discussed at the Committee meeting including the completion of the first "Cook and Eat Your Tea" programme. She reported that the Repair Café were working with the Well Connected computer club, to try and produce Perspex screens to allow the computer club to restart. Cllr Foster reported on the Alcester Community Resilience Group which had held a Zoom meeting immediately prior to the Full Council meeting. He reported that the Group had agreed to continue although requests for support were well down. The Group planned to focus on loneliness and befriending. They were looking to work with other organisations including the Christmas Day lunch team and U3A. Cllr Foster said that the Group would like the support of another Town Councillor and asked Councillors to let him know if they could assist.

There were no propositions from the Committee.

8. Community Facilities Committee

There was no Community Facilities meeting in October.

9. Planning Committee

Cllr Neal-Sturgess confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes which were then signed by the Town Clerk on his behalf. Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported that the Committee had met virtually with Bloors regarding their application to amend some of the details of their planning permission at Allimore Lane. Following the very positive meeting, the Planning Committee had withdrawn its objection. He also reported that the application for the Hertford Road garage block was due to be decided at SDC Planning Committee on the following day. The Committee had made written representations.

There were no propositions from the Committee.

10. Greig Hall

Cllr Foster gave an update on the latest meeting of the Working Group. The updated Terms of Reference were approved by Council. The Town Council members of the Working Group were confirmed from November 2020 as Cllr Foster (Chair), Cllr M Cargill, Cllr Neal-Sturgess, Cllr Bowe, Cllr G Forman (as Mayor) and Cllr K Cargill (as Deputy Mayor). The Town Clerk reported that the



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draft lease had not yet been received from SDC. Cllr Soares offered to help with future community engagement exercises.

11. Health and Wellbeing Board

Cllr M Cargill gave an update on the quarterly meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board which had been held on 12th October. He reported that the Board planned to focus on mental health issues and carers. The Board was keen to ensure that residents were aware of the help available.

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 Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr K Cargill and carried by Council.

13. Correspondence

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

14. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 9th and 30th November at 7pm

Community Care Committee – no meeting in November

Community Facilities Committee – 17th November at 7 pm

Presidium Tuesday 24th November at 7pm

Full Council Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7pm

All meetings to be held 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.