



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 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, K Greenaway and K Forbes.

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) had submitted a written report to Councillors in advance of the meeting. She reported that she was due to attend a meeting with various stakeholders regarding a River Arrow and Alne catchment project which would be seeking to use natural land management projects to improve flooding and biodiversity. She also reported that SDC had taken action to deal with what has become known as "fleecehold" whereby residents of new housing developments have to contribute increasing amounts to the maintenance of communal spaces. In future, SDC had agreed to take on public open spaces in new housing developments.

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) informed Councillors that SDC were seeking a Judicial Review of the decision by the government to place Stratford upon Avon in Tier 3 (Very High Alert) of the Covid restrictions. Cllr Cargill explained that the Tier 3 restrictions had been imposed due to the aggregation of Stratford with the rest of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, which all had higher recorded rates of Covid.

Cllr Foster asked a question concerning the additional financial support which would be available to hospitality businesses which had been required to shut.

Cllr Cargill agreed that more support was necessary and was being requested.

Cllr Forbes asked when we would know the outcome of the Judicial Review, but Cllr Cargill explained that this was unknown.

As regards County Council matters, Cllr Cargill reported that he was seeking to replace the low fencing along the old Stratford Road and had arranged for some pavement patching.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies as all Councillors were present.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3rd November 2020. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr Randle 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.



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4. Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended a scaled down Remembrance Sunday event and had laid a wreath on behalf of the Council. To maintain social distancing and in accordance with government guidance, the usual parade and ceremony had not taken place and other wreaths had been laid by town organisations during the weekend.

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.

There was a proposition from Presidium:

"To approve the Privacy Policy, Subject Access Request Policy and Security Incident Policy all dated November 2020."

After a query from Cllr Bowe, a small amendment was made to the Security Incident Policy. The amended policies were proposed to be adopted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr K Cargill and carried by Council.

6. Community Care Committee

There had not been a Community Care meeting in November, but Cllr Cargill reported that the Committee had given its approval to the purchase of supermarket vouchers for 212 children identified by their schools as in need of additional assistance during the Christmas holidays. The cost of this would be £6360 which would be paid out of the Community Resilience ear marked reserves.

Cllr Cargill also reported that the holiday lunch club would be operating in the school Christmas holidays.

7. Community Facilities Committee

Cllr T Forman confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed by the Town Clerk on his behalf. There were no questions about the minutes.

There were two propositions from the Committee:

7.1 "To approve the updated Cemetery Rules and Regulations dated November 2020."

7.2 "To approve the Burial Fees from April 2021"

Both propositions were proposed together by Cllr Greenway, seconded by Cllr Pusey and carried by Council.

Cllr Greenway asked if the Committee could consider the problem of the path through the Cemetery at its next meeting. The path is very wet and difficult to use. The Town Clerk will ask the Committee Clerk to put it on the agenda.

8. 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. The Committee had also met on the previous evening and Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave a summary of the issues discussed which would be reported in the next minutes in due course.



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9. Greig Hall

Cllr Foster gave an update on the latest meeting of the Working Group. It had been agreed that the Working Group would be a transitional body until a new management group was formed in due course. Cllr Foster reported that a draft lease had been received from SDC which was with the Town Council's solicitors for consideration. The Town Clerk explained that the Council was taking a long lease of the site, which should be considered similarly to a freehold purchase and it was therefore important that the transaction was dealt with correctly to protect the Council's interests. Cllr Foster confirmed that a site visit had been arranged for the 8th December and a further Working Group meeting for 11th December.

10. Town Council Representatives

Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) - Cllr Neal Sturgess reported that he had attended the WALC AGM. He had been reappointed to the Stratford Area Committee, the County Committee and the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP.

United Charities - Cllr T Forman reported that the finances of the trust were healthy. The quinquennial survey had been undertaken which showed the properties to be in good condition. Christmas hampers were being provided for residents.

Moorfields - Cllr Foster reported that the trust was without two trustees at present as there was no Rector or Low Bailiff in post. The Trust had supported the Christmas supermarket voucher scheme.

Town Hall - The Mayor reported that the AGM had been held. Cllr S Juned had been elected as Chair with the Mayor elected as Vice-Chair.

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

12. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

A letter had been received from the Alcester Baptist Church regarding the toy service which had already been emailed to Councillors.

13. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 21st December at 7pm (if required)

Community Care Committee - 15th December at 7pm

Community Facilities Committee - no meeting in December

Presidium Tuesday 15th December at 6pm

Full Council Tuesday 5th January 2021 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.