



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2021**

Present

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

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 he was continuing to distribute his update sheet on Covid-19 which he hoped was useful. He reported that he was the chair of the A46 Partnership and had contacted all local MP's to try and progress the bid to progress this scheme. SDC were proceeding with the rollout of Covid-19 grants – £6m had already been distributed. He reported that WCC is starting a loan scheme for businesses as part of its post Covid support package. He also informed Councillors that WCC was launching a consultation on its new Local Transport Plan. In response to a question from Cllr Neal-Sturgess, Cllr Cargill agreed to check how the LTP will integrate with the CWLEP cross regional border transport plan.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that proposals were being drawn up for a full merger of SDC with Warwick District Council. She was keen to ensure that services remained efficient and effective for residents. Cllr Juned explained the proposed changes to parking charges and the suggested amendments from the Liberal Democrat Group. She reported that SDC was to provide up to £8 million to a joint councils capital programme for the purposes of delivering a Materials Recycling Facility to handle recycled waste. Cllr Juned was pleased to report that the joint GP's local vaccination centre at Studley Village Hall was doing excellent work. As regards case work, Cllr Juned had dealt with some fly tipping in Rope Walk and continued to request drain clearance when required.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr K Greenaway.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th January 2021. 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.



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2021**

4. Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that she had been pleased to judge the Window Wanderland entries. She reported that the standard of the window displays this year had been excellent.

The Mayor asked Councillors to ensure that they sent apologies if they could not attend a meeting.

Finally, the Mayor was delighted to announce that Alcester Town Council had been approved as a Quality Council. She explained that out of the 9,000 parish and town councils in England, only 122 had been approved as such. She thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for achieving this award.

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 arising from the minutes.

There were the following propositions from Presidium:

5.1 "To adopt the updated Financial Regulations dated February 2021."

The Town Clerk answered a number of questions from Cllr Bowe on the proposed changes. Cllr Neal Sturgess then proposed that the updated Financial Regulations were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Bowe and carried by Council.

5.2 "To adopt the updated Scheme of Delegation dated February 2021".

This was proposed by Cllr K Cargill, seconded by Cllr T Forman, and carried by Council.

5.3 "To adopt the CIL Allocation policy dated February 2021".

Cllr Bowe proposed that the policy was adopted with amendments. This was seconded by Cllr Soares and carried by Council.

6. Community Care Committee

There had not been a Community Care meeting in January but Cllr K Cargill was pleased to confirm that Mrs Rebecca Gribben had been appointed as the new Youth Club leader. She also confirmed that the Holiday Lunch Club would be running in the February half term holiday.

Cllr Bowe explained to Councillors that the hot meal scheme for isolated and vulnerable residents had run successfully for the past two weeks but funding had only been agreed for a further two weeks. Cllr Foster proposed that funding was approved at £400 per week for a further four weeks. This was seconded by Cllr Randle and carried by Council. Cllr Bowe will liaise with Pantry Ann's to confirm whether they are available to continue the service for this period.

7. Community Facilities Committee

Cllr T Forman confirmed that he was satisfied that 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. Cllr Forman reported on the issues discussed by the Committee. He confirmed that the Committee had discussed the oak tree on Jubilee Fields which had been damaged by an arson attack. A professional tree survey had been



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2021**

commissioned to advise on appropriate safety work. It had been agreed that no urgent work was required to the cemetery footpath at the current time.

8. Planning Committee

There had not been a formal meeting during January as applications had been dealt with by email. Cllr Neal-Sturgess gave a report on the applications which had been discussed at the Planning Committee on the previous evening. The most significant application had been for the Oversley Mill service station, to which the Committee had agreed to submit an objection. Cllr Neal-Sturgess also reported that Andrew Winstone, the planning manager for Bloors had made a presentation to the Committee on progress on the Allimore Lane site. It was anticipated that the sales office would open in April 2021 with first occupation in July 2021.

9. Greig Hall

Cllr Foster gave an update on the latest meeting of the Working Group. He explained that volunteers were being recruited and progress was being made on a new website. The Town Clerk confirmed that legal matters were still proceeding well and explained that it might be necessary to call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council to authorise execution of the new lease.

10. Town Council Representatives

United Charities – Cllr K Cargill reported that former Town Councillor Julie Smith had been appointed as a new Trustee. The Trust was in a comfortable financial position and a plan had been agreed for repair and renovation work.

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 L Pusey, seconded by Cllr T Forman and carried by Council.

12. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

13. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 22nd February 2021 at 7pm
Community Care Committee – Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7pm
Community Facilities Committee – no meeting in February
Presidium Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7pm
Full Council Tuesday 2nd March 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.