



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 2nd MARCH 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, E Randle and K Greenaway.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

The meeting was attended by The High Sheriff of Warwickshire, Joe Greenwell, CBE, DL. The High Sheriff reported that he had met earlier in the evening with the Mayor and the Town Clerk to present an award to Mrs Anita Hellyer for her exceptional service during the pandemic in organising the Holiday Lunch Club and the Cook and Eat Your Tea project. The High Sheriff thanked the Town Council for all its work during the past year in supporting the community of Alcester.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that votes had now been passed at both Stratford DC and Warwick DC to explore proposals for working together going forward. The SDC budget had been approved including a £5 increase for a Band D property. Elections would be proceeding for County Councillors in May 2021 with postal voting being encouraged. The SDC consultation on changes to parking arrangements, including the removal of over 65's parking permits, is continuing.

Cllr Juned also reported that the museum was planning to run a Live and Local event on a date to be confirmed. Litter Free Alcester are planning a clear up probably in June 2021. The Alcester Youth Project are very pleased to support the Youth Club with its reopening plans.

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that as part of the joint working arrangements between SDC and WDC, a joint s151 officer is to be appointed and there will be more integration in the management team. He also reported that there has been a good uptake of the green bin subscription scheme. The joint project between 8 councils for a material recycling facility is entering its final stages. The cost has increased but the specification has improved. Finally, he reported that WCC is considering starting a housing company to deliver more affordable homes.

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 meetings held on 2nd February 2021 and 16th February 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Forbes, seconded by Cllr K Cargill 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 been pleased to be able to present the Reg Grummett trophy to the allotment award winner, Mr Harrington. The presentation had taken place at the allotments to enable social distancing. She had met with Mark Williamson of the Stratford Herald who had written an article about the new NHS and Key Workers bench.

The Mayor had been delighted to attend the online meeting earlier in the evening with the High Sheriff to present an award to Anita Hellyer.

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 was the following proposition from Presidium:

"To consider for approval the Annual Risk Assessment of the Council"

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

6. Community Care Committee

Cllr K Cargill confirmed that she was satisfied that 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. Cllr Cargill gave an update on the new Youth Club and thanked Alcester Youth Project for their financial support. She also thanked the team for running the Holiday Lunch Club in half term.

There was a proposition from the Community Care Committee:

"To approve expenditure of £9500 plus VAT to set up and maintain for a period of 12 months a Totally Locally website for Alcester."*

After a discussion, this was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and carried by Council.

Cllr Wilson proposed that the Council take the opportunity to look at tidying up the High Street in readiness for the reopening of the shops. It was agreed that this proposal would be passed on to the Business and Tourism Working Group. At the suggestion of Cllr Bowe, it was agreed that the hot meal delivery service would be extended to the end of March 2021.

**Cllr Foster declared an interest in this proposition and did not take part in the discussion or vote.*

7. Community Facilities Committee

There was no meeting in February, but Cllr T Forman reported that quotes were being obtained for footpath upgrade work in Jubilee Fields and Moorfields.

8. Planning Committee

Cllr Neal-Sturgess 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 Neal-Sturgess summarised the recent planning applications which had been considered by the Committee. He confirmed that there would be a Zoom planning committee on 15th March to consider the amendments to the Aldi application. Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported the extremely good news that SDC had



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advised that the Neighbourhood Development Plan referendum would be proceeding on 6th May 2021.

9. Greig Hall

Cllr Foster gave an update on the latest meeting of the Working Group. He reported that Cllr Soares had given a very helpful presentation to the Group regarding future possible public consultation initiatives. Completion of the lease has been delayed due to the lack of an Energy Performance Certificate which needed to be produced by SDC before completion. As regards building works, a sub-group has been formed to advise the Working Group on a schedule of works. Cllr Foster aims to update the Business Plan and bring that to Full Council in April.

10. Town Council Representatives

Moorfields – Cllr Hempell reported that the charity had approved a number of grants at its meeting on 8th February. The Clerk, Graham Taylor had resigned from his post. An Extraordinary Meeting will be held on 8th March when alterations to the constitution will be considered.

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 T Forman, seconded by Cllr Hempell and carried by Council.

12. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

13. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 15th March 2021 at 7pm

Community Care Committee – no meeting in March

Community Facilities Committee – Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7pm

Presidium Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 7pm

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7pm

Full Council Tuesday 13th April 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.