



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Alcester Town Council was held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4th May 2021 by video conference.

The Outgoing Mayor, Cllr Gill Forman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present

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

1. Election of Mayor

Cllr G Forman confirmed that, in accordance with Standing Order 5e, Cllr Kathryn Cargill was automatically elected as Mayor for the year 2021-2022 by virtue of her role as Deputy Mayor for the year 2020-2021.

2. Acceptance of Office

Cllr K Cargill read and signed the acceptance of office as Mayor. As this was a remote meeting, the Mayor will attend the Town Council offices so that her signature can be witnessed by the Town Clerk.

Cllr M Cargill, on behalf of the Mayor, presented Cllr K Cargill with the chain of office.

The Mayor said that she was very proud to be elected as Mayor of Alcester. She recounted the difficulties of the past year during the Covid pandemic but said that the spirit of resilience shown by residents was inspiring. She looked forward to the restarting of the many Health and Wellbeing projects, the Totally Locally initiative and the development of the Greig Hall. She knew it would be an exciting and challenging year.

3. Presentation of Consorts Chain

The Mayor presented the consort's chain to her husband, Cllr Mark Cargill.

4. Election of Deputy Mayor

The Town Clerk reported that in accordance with Standing Order 5e, only one nomination had been received for the position of Deputy Mayor. Cllr Tim Forman was therefore elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2021-2022.

5. Acceptance of Office

Cllr T Forman read and signed the acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor. As this was a remote meeting, the Deputy Mayor will attend the Town Council offices so that his signature can be witnessed by the Town Clerk.

Cllr G Forman, on behalf of the Mayor, presented Cllr T Forman with the chain of office.

Cllr T Forman congratulated the Mayor on her election and wished her well in her year of office. He said that he was honoured and excited to be elected as Deputy Mayor and would do all he could to support the Mayor.

6. Presentation of Consorts Chain

The Deputy Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor's Consort's chain to his wife, Cllr G Forman.

7. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

The Mayor gave a vote of thanks to Cllr G Forman. She said that Cllr Forman had done a magnificent job over the last two years particularly considering that she had a full-time job and was also a District Councillor. She said that Cllr Forman had led the Council through the pandemic including the introduction of virtual meetings and leading the community resilience effort.

8. Reply by Retiring Mayor

Cllr Forman thanked the Mayor for her kind words. She said that it had been a very contrasting two years in office. The first year was busy attending events. She had particularly enjoyed meeting the Mayors and dignitaries from other towns. The highlights had been the Food Festivals, starting the 10k race and visiting France with the twinning association. The second year was hit by the Covid pandemic with all events being cancelled and everyone advised to stay at home. She was however delighted to be the Mayor who finally signed the lease for the Greig Hall. Cllr Forman thanked all the councillors for their support and their hard work during the pandemic and said that she knew that their support for residents would continue if required.

Cllr Forman reported that during her mayoral term, she had raised £2000 for her charities. This was not as high as planned due to the pandemic. The funds would be shared equally between Alcester First Responders and Ekica Fundraising.

Cllr G Forman thanked all the council staff in particular the Town Clerk, Vanessa Lowe and the Deputy Town Clerk, Sarah Duran. Finally, she thanked her husband Tim and her daughters and their families for their support and understanding.

9. Presentation of Past Mayor's Badge

On behalf of the Mayor, Cllr T Forman presented Cllr G Forman, with an Alcester Town Council Mayor's Badge.

10. Mayoral Charities for 2021-2022

The Mayor announced that during her Mayoral year, she would be raising funds for a charity called Marathon Kids UK which ran exercise programmes in primary schools. There was a brief presentation from Martina Verweij who explained that the charity was running a pilot project in Alcester to support teenagers in staying active. Earl and Lady Yarmouth were standing as patrons of the project which would be run at Alcester Academy. It was hoped that if the pilot was successful, it could be repeated nationwide.

There was a short recess in the meeting and Standing Orders were suspended until item 11 on the agenda.

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) confirmed that this was his last meeting as County Councillor for the Alcester Division as he was standing down at the election on 6th May. Cllr Cargill said that lessons had been learnt during the Covid crisis, but he felt that we should not dwell on the past but look forward to recovery. He thanked Councillors for their support during the past 4 years.

11. Apologies

Belated apologies were received by the Town Clerk after the meeting from Cllr K Greenaway and Cllr Susan Juned, District Councillor.

12. Annual Reports from Town Council Committees

The written reports from the Chairs of Town Council committees which had been presented in the Annual Report at the Annual Parish Meeting were noted. It was noted that the Annual Report is available on the Town Council website.

13. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 26th April 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, 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.

14. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items. Cllr Neal-Sturgess asked it to be noted that due to a conflict of interest, he had stepped aside for the recent Planning Committee meeting so Cllr Bowe would be reporting on the meeting.

15. Town Council Committees

Membership of Committees was confirmed as:

a. Community Facilities Committee

Cllrs G Forman, T Forman, K Greenaway, A Foster, L Pusey, M Bowe, E Wilson

b. Community Care Committee

Cllrs K Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, K Greenaway, K Forbes, A Foster, E Randle, D Henderson, V Blake, K Soares

c. Planning Committee

Cllrs C Neal-Sturgess, M Cargill, T Forman, K Cargill, M Bowe, M Hempell, K Forbes, V Blake, G Forman

d. Presidium

Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chair of Community Care, Chair of Community Facilities, Chair of Planning, Immediate Past Mayor

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be ex officio members of all Committees.

16. Town Council Representative

The Town Clerk reported that there had been one nomination for the vacancy on Alcester United Charities. Cllr Mike Bowe was therefore appointed to be the Town Council representative.

17. Presidium

Cllr G Forman, who had chaired the last meeting, 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 a proposition from Presidium:

"To adopt the Reserves Policy dated April 2021."

This was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr T Forman and carried by Council.

18. Community Care Committee

The Mayor 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.

The first phase of community grants approved by the Committee and totalling £5000 were noted as follows: Alcester in Bloom £1500; Alcester Town Football Club £800; Malt Mill Lane Residents Association £500; Oversley Green Residents Association £250; Girlguiding Alcester & Avon Villages District £800; Alcester Minster £650.

There were no propositions to Full Council.

19. Community Facilities Committee

There was no meeting in April.

20. Planning Committee

Cllr Bowe 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 Bowe gave an update on the applications considered by the Committee. There were no propositions to Full Council.

21. Greig Hall

Cllr Foster gave an update on the latest meeting of the Working Group. He wished Sheilagh Goode from the Friends of the Greig Hall, a speedy recovery following her accident. He reported that the website and social media for the Hall had been launched, both of which had been well received. He thanked Lyndsey Cargill for her work on both.

He also reported that a working party was being organised to tidy up the exterior of the building.

22. Town Council Representatives

There were no reports this month.

23. 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 G Forman and carried by Council.

24. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

25. Dates of future meetings

The Town Clerk confirmed that the regulations which permitted the Town Council to meet remotely would expire on 6th May 2021. As a result of this, future Full Council meetings would take place at the Eric Payne Community Centre to allow social distancing.

In the interests of public safety, committee meetings and working groups would continue by Zoom – such meetings would be advisory only with any actions or decisions ratified at Full Council.

Planning Committee - Monday 10th May 2021 at 7pm

Community Care Committee – Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7pm

Community Facilities Committee – Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7pm

Presidium - Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 7pm

All meetings by Zoom.

**Full Council – Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 7 pm
at the Eric Payne Community Centre**

Anyone wishing to attend virtual meetings should contact the Town Clerk on clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk for details of how to join the meeting.

The Mayor closed the meeting.