



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st JUNE 2021
AT THE ERIC PAYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk, Cllr S Juned (District Councillor)
Cllr P Daniell (County 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 Litter Free Alcester had completed a litter pick around the town including the Greig Hall site over the Bank Holiday weekend. She was pleased to report that she had managed to secure matched funding which would enable the contract for new play equipment at Hopkins Precinct play area to go out to tender. Cllr Juned had reported a number of pavement repairs in Alcester and potholes at Hopkins Precinct to WCC for attention. She reported that a new draft housing strategy had been reported to the SDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee last week which stated that the district had the highest housing prices in the West Midlands and more people on the housing waiting list than all other district councils in Warwickshire combined. It also suggested that homelessness was likely to increase when Covid support measures were withdrawn. This report is due to go to Cabinet next week. Finally, Cllr Juned reported that she had supported several Orbit tenants in seeking compensation for multiple boiler breakdowns. She had requested a Task and Finish Group to be set up by SDC to examine housing issues.

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor for Alcester) introduced himself having been elected in May. He confirmed that he would continue to send a weekly report to the Town Clerk for onwards transmission to Councillors. He had also produced an action list detailing various pending issues which required attention. He reported that he was working on two particular projects - an Alcester alert system for High Street retailers and the introduction of SmartWater which can help identify stolen property. Cllr Foster asked Cllr Daniell to investigate the safety issues relating to St Faith's Road and in particular the need for the road to be gritted in icy weather by WCC. Cllr Juned added that there was also a problem with parking on pavements at this location. Cllr Wilson suggested that corresponding with the school about accident prevention might be helpful. Cllr T Forman will notify Cllr Daniell of the pending footpath repairs which have already been reported to WCC.

Cllr Daniell left the meeting.

M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that SDC Cabinet had some concerns regarding the housing report referred to above. He had met the new Police Sergeant, Dave Ebbs and had discussed recent anti-social behaviour around the Greig Hall. He had also arranged for the Fire and Rescue service to visit to give advice on fire safety issues at the Hall.



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1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs K Forbes, E Randle, D Henderson and K Soares.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th May 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr T Forman, seconded by Cllr Bowe and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended the flag raising event at Centenary Field to mark the centenary of the Royal British Legion. She also reported that she was having weekly meetings with the school and Marathon Kids regarding her mayoral charity project. A questionnaire had been sent out to all the young people to seek their views. It had been agreed that both boys and girls would benefit from the scheme which was due to start the following week.

5. Presidium

The Mayor confirmed that she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. There were the following propositions from Presidium:

5.1 "To adopt the updated Scheme of Delegation dated May 2021."

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

5.2 "To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to authorise expenditure up to a total value of £90,000 plus VAT on the First Phase works for the Greig Hall as approved by the Greig Working Group at its meeting on 21st May 2021."

Cllr M Cargill gave a brief explanation regarding the purpose of this delegation which was to enable building work to be commissioned promptly without further reference to Full Council. The Town Clerk will take instructions from the Greig Working Group and three quotes will be obtained in accordance with the Financial Regulations. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had already received donations which covered the proposed expenditure. Cllr M Cargill proposed that the motion was approved. This was seconded by Cllr Pusey and carried by Council.

6. Annual Return

The completed Annual Return had been circulated in advance. The report from the Internal Auditor, Mrs S Griffiths had also been circulated in advance.

The Clerk confirmed that all financial documentation had been made available to the Internal Auditor who had attended Globe House on 13th May to complete the audit. Council considered the Internal Audit procedures for the year 2020-21 and agreed that they were adequate and effective.

There were no questions regarding the documentation supplied.

7. Approval of Annual Governance Statement

The statements on the Annual Governance Statement were considered and approved. The Mayor asked Councillors to confirm that they were happy for her



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to sign the Statement. This was agreed unanimously. The Statement was signed by the Mayor as Chair of the Meeting and the Clerk. (*Minute reference – Annual Return*)

8. Approval of Accounting Statements

The Accounting Statements which had been prepared and signed by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer were considered and approved. The Mayor asked Councillors to confirm that they were happy for her to sign the Statements. This was agreed unanimously. The Statements were signed by the Mayor as Chair of the Meeting. (*Minute reference – Annual Return*)
The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for her efforts in dealing with the audit this year.

9. Community Care Committee

Cllr Blake confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. He gave a summary of issues dealt with by the Committee including a report on the current H&Wb projects. There was a proposition from the Committee: "To approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Community Care Committee."

This was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried by Council.

10. Community Facilities Committee

Cllr T Forman confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. Cllr Forman gave a summary of issues discussed by the Committee. There were the following propositions from the Committee:

10.1 "To approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Community Facilities Committee."

This was proposed by Cllr G Forman, seconded by Cllr Pusey and carried by Council.

10.2 "To approve expenditure of £11,370.91 plus VAT to Wicksteed Leisure Limited in respect of new play equipment for the Collins Way play area and the Moorfields play area in accordance with the revised quotation dated 24th May 2021"

Note: this replaces the expenditure on these items of £10,420.35 plus VAT authorised at the Full Council meeting on 26th April 2021.

Cllr Forman explained that the quotation had increased following a full site survey which revealed that additional work was required. The motion was proposed by Cllr G Forman, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

11. Planning Committee

Cllr Bowe confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. Cllr Bowe gave a summary of the issues considered by the Committee including a presentation by Bloor Homes on their development. He explained to Councillors that consultation had started on the South Warwickshire Local Plan which would be significant for the town.

There was a proposition from the Committee:



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"To approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee."
This was proposed by Cllr T Forman, seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and carried by Council.

13. Greig Working Group

Cllr M Cargill gave an update to Councillors on progress. He confirmed that contact was being made with the many volunteers who had offered to help. Cllr Bowe had kindly arranged for the boards covering the windows and doors on the front of the building to be painted to improve the look of the Hall. New signage had also been put up. The Police Design Out Crime team had made a site visit and had given advice on crime prevention measures. The aim remained to open the Hall by April 2022.

14. Town Council Representatives

There were no reports this month.

15. 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 Pusey and carried by Council.

16. Correspondence

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

17. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 14th June at 7pm
Community Care Committee Tuesday 15th June 7pm
Community Facilities Committee – no meeting in June
Presidium Tuesday 29th June at 7 pm
All Committee meetings to be held by Zoom

Full Council Tuesday 6th July at 7 pm at the Eric Payne Community Centre