



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 6th JULY 2021
AT THE ERIC PAYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors K Cargill (Mayor), M Cargill, V Blake, M Bowe, C Neal-Sturgess, A Foster, L Pusey, K Greenaway, E Wilson, D Henderson, K Forbes and E Randle
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 in person but a letter had been received from Mrs Rhoda Lingard regarding disabled access to shops on the High Street. There was a discussion between Councillors and the Town Clerk was asked to respond to Mrs Lingard accordingly. The Business and Tourism Working Group will put this item on their next agenda.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor for Alcester) reported that he was due to meet with the Alcester Safer Neighbourhood Team later that week to progress the alert system for retailers mentioned at the previous Full Council meeting. He noted that during the recent traveller encampment at Alcester Rugby Club, it would have been useful for retailers and publicans to be able to communicate quickly.

As regards the travellers, Cllr Daniell thanked Warwickshire police for their firm response to the illegal encampment.

Cllr Daniell reported that WCC were considering a "20 is plenty" approach whereby a 20 mph speed limit might be introduced in all residential areas and would be undertaking a road safety consultation/questionnaire shortly. Cllr Daniell had met with the Headteacher of St Nicholas Primary School regarding the problems of parking and gritting in St Faiths Road. Finally, he reported that he was working on an application for Alcester to be recognised in the Civic Honours competition running as part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr Daniell left the meeting.

M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) gave a further report on the illegal traveller encampment and reported on the devastation which had been left following clearance of the site. He reported that he had written to Nadhim Zahawi, MP and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Wilson reported that he had helped with the clear up work on Sunday morning and had been shocked at the level of mess and damage left by the travellers.

Cllr Cargill noted that there was no transit site for gypsy and travellers in the south of the county and it was hoped that a new Gypsy and Traveller SPD which would be combined with a Housing SPD, might produce potential official sites. Cllr Foster suggested that the Rugby Club were encouraged to apply for a community grant and reminded Councillors of the need to promote good relations with all ethnic minorities.



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Cllr Cargill reported that the SDC Cabinet were due to consider the Active Communities Delivery Plan which would require SLM to commit to providing off-site activities for the first time. He planned to invite SLM to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Finally, Cllr Cargill was pleased to report that the SDC's post-Covid financial situation had improved following careful fiscal management. SDC were in the Top 20 of local authorities in paying out Covid grants to businesses and had paid out £57m in total.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) explained that there had been a lack of cooperation between SDC and WCC regarding transit and permanent traveller sites which had not helped the provision.

She reported that she had received confirmation from officers at WCC that the drains on Henley Street would be jetted in the next week and that a permanent solution was being sought to the ongoing surface water flooding. WCC had also been asked to deal with the pothole repairs at Hopkins Precinct.

Cllr Juned was pleased to report that a quotation for the new playground equipment at the Hopkins play area had been accepted and work would start in September.

Cllr Juned congratulated the Town Council that its Neighbourhood Development Plan was due to be "made" by SDC on 12th July.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs T Forman, G Forman and K Soares. Cllr M Hempell sent apologies after the meeting.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st June 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Randle 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 Alcester Branch of the Royal British Legion. She had been pleased to attend the Cancer Research garden party which had raised over £1000. This event had been held in lieu of the usual garden walkabout.

The Mayor gave Councillors an update on her charity project which had now been entitled "Five Extra Years" following research that suggested that today's children were likely to live for five years less than their parents.

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their efforts in emptying bins and checking play equipment during the recent staff shortage. She said that it had been great to see how well our sites were maintained and she asked the Town Clerk to pass on her thanks to Paul Hands, Jack Hands and Chris Hands for their care and attention.



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5. Presidium

The Mayor confirmed that she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. There were no questions about the minutes.

There were the following propositions from Presidium:

5.1 "To adopt the Annual Investment Strategy 2021-22."

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

5.2 "To approve a deposit of £100,000 into the Public Sector Deposit Fund in accordance with the Annual Investment Strategy."

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

6. 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, the Youth Club, and the meetings of the Community Resilience and Business and Tourism Working Groups. There were no propositions from the Committee.

7. Community Facilities Committee

There had not been a Community Facilities meeting in June.

8. 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 at its two meetings. He confirmed that a response had been submitted to the consultation on the proposed South Warwickshire Local Plan. There were no propositions from the Committee.

9. Greig Working Group

Cllr M Cargill gave an update to Councillors on progress. He confirmed that quotations for the repairs to the roof had been considered and one had been accepted. He also reported that security fencing had been installed along the right-hand side of the Hall as required by SDC's insurers. The building sub-group were considering the health and safety requirements necessary under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. An ecologist from WCC had confirmed that there were no birds nesting in the former scout hut and that this could be demolished. He was pleased to report that former Town Councillor, Julie Smith, had agreed to join the Greig Working Group to focus on the future uses of the Hall.

10. Town Council Representatives

Moorfields – Cllr Foster reported that the charity had met and made grants to the Hopkins play area project, the "Messy Church" and the Alcester First Responders. John Curtis had been appointed as Clerk to the charity.



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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 Forbes, seconded by Cllr Bowe and carried by Council.

12. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read. The letter received from Mrs Lingard was reported under public participation.

13. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 12th and 19th July at 7pm
Community Care Committee – no meeting in July
Community Facilities Committee – Tuesday 20th July at 7pm
Presidium Tuesday 27th July at 7pm
All Committee meetings to be held by Zoom

Full Council Tuesday 3rd August at 7pm at the Eric Payne Community Centre

The Mayor closed the meeting.