



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE  
ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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, L Pusey and K Forbes.

**In attendance** Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk and Cllr S Juned, District Councillor (after item 9)

**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 on the recent SDC Full Council meeting. He reported that a joint Core Strategy was proposed between SDC and WDC which would provide considerable financial savings for both authorities. An SDC/WDC transformation manager was being appointed who would be responsible for the considerable work in merging the systems of the two councils. Work was being undertaken to improve the interface with customers, both in person and online.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) arrived late to the meeting and her report was taken after item 9 on the agenda. She reported that she was a member of the joint SDC/WDC group working on climate change initiatives. She wished to put on record her thanks to all the volunteers in Alcester who had supported residents in need over the past year and thanked Cllr Foster in particular for his contribution.

The Mayor will discuss with the Town Clerk how the contribution of volunteers during the pandemic can be publicly acknowledged.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr E Wilson. Cllr E Randle sent apologies after the meeting. Cllr K Greenaway did not attend.

**2. Minutes of Council Meetings**

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Soares, 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.

**4. Mayors Report**

The Mayor reported that following the sad death of HRH The Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, the Town Council had made a donation of £50 to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in accordance with the request made by The Royal Family for donations in lieu of flowers.

The Mayor was delighted to report that the lease of the Greig Hall had been completed and a press release confirming this had been issued that day.



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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 by the Town Clerk on her behalf. There were no questions arising from the minutes. There were no propositions from Presidium.

**6. Abbey Fields**

The Mayor confirmed that the licence documentation to permit the creation of habitats and the relocation of slow worms from the Allimore Lane housing development site to Abbey Fields had been circulated in advance. There being no questions, Cllr M Cargill proposed that execution was authorised; this was seconded by Cllr T Forman and carried by Council. The Town Clerk will arrange for the Mayor to sign the licence and arrange for completion.

**7. Community Care Committee**

The Community Care Committee meeting was due to be held on the following day, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, and there was therefore no report.

**8. 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 gave a summary of the issues discussed at the meeting. Additional quotes are still awaited for the footpath work. It was agreed that the Moorfields work should include an improvement to the sloped path from Rope Walk into Moorfields.

There was a proposition from the Community Facilities Committee:

“To approve expenditure of £10,420.35 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 quotation dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021” This was proposed by Cllr Pusey, seconded by Cllr Bowe and carried by Council. The Town Clerk advised that it was anticipated that the new equipment could be installed in July.

**9. 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. Cllr Bowe, as Vice-Chair, gave an update on the Committee meeting which had been held earlier in the evening - Councillors had agreed to submit a holding objection on the reserved matters application for the southern part of the Allimore Lane development.

**10. Greig Hall**

Cllr Foster was very pleased to confirm the completion of the Greig Hall lease. He said that the closure of the Hall in 2011 had been the motivation for many to join the Council in the first place. He thanked Sheilagh Goode of The Friends of the Greig Hall, (who had attended Full Council to request support initially), for providing the impetus for the whole project. He also thanked former District Councillors Sue Adams, Mike Gittus and the late Eric Payne, without whom the



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Hall would have been lost. Finally, he thanked the Greig Working Group who had worked so hard over the past two years. He confirmed that he was stepping down as Chair of the Group in May but was confident that the Group was well placed to continue without him. The Mayor thanked Cllr Foster for his significant contribution to the project.

**11. Town Council Representatives**

United Charities Cllr K Cargill reported that the charity had met and a new trustee, former Town Councillor, Julie Smith, had been appointed. The repair programme was progressing well and the finances were healthy.

Moorfields – Cllr Hempell reported that an Extraordinary Meeting had been held where changes to the constitution were agreed. A new Clerk had been appointed.

**12. 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 Forbes and carried by Council.

**13. Correspondence**

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

**14. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm

Community Care Committee – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm

Community Facilities Committee – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm

Presidium - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6pm

Mayor Making and Annual Meeting - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm

All meetings will be held remotely using Zoom software until 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Guidance is awaited on arrangements for future meetings.

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

The Mayor closed the meeting by thanking all Councillors for their support and hard work over her two years as Mayor.