



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2021
AT THE GLOBE HOUSE, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors K Cargill (Mayor), M Cargill, M Bowe, C Neal-Sturgess, A Foster, K Greenaway, D Henderson, T Forman, G Forman and E Wilson.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk, Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) and Cllr S Juned (District 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 the SDC Climate Change panel had met and an update had been prepared for the Climate Change Roadmap which had originally been produced in January 2020. There were some notable gaps including an environmental assessment of all SDC property and vehicles.

There had been a lengthy agenda for the SDC Cabinet on the previous day including a draft Sustainable Homes proposal. Cllr Juned had asked for details of the affordable housing requirement specifically for Alcester.

Cllr Juned reported that the public consultation on the merger of Stratford on Avon DC and Warwick DC had opened. Various online consultation sessions would follow.

Finally, Cllr Juned congratulated the Town Council on its successful application for £50,000 CIL funds from SDC for the Greig Hall.

M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) added further detail regarding matters discussed at Cabinet. He reported on the Gypsy and Traveller SPD which would relax restrictions on where new sites could be located. He said that he believed that enforcement action on illegal encampments should be increased if rules were relaxed.

Cllr Cargill also reported on the Fred Winter project which was an exciting new development to support the homeless and those suffering from addiction.

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) reported that he sent out email updates every week which updated Councillors on pending matters. The most prevalent problems relate to delays with highways work.

Cllr Daniell reported that regrettably the new software system installed by the local police would not be suitable for the proposed High Street alert system for retailers.

Cllr Daniell reported that he was seeking a review on the future of County assets such as the old Alcester library. He was also seeking to co-ordinate the various speedwatch initiatives in the Alcester division.

Cllr Daniell confirmed that Warwickshire County Council had offered to take 100 Afghan refugees who were being resettled under the government scheme.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs V Blake, E Randle, L Pusey. Cllrs M Hempell and K Forbes were absent without apology.



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2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd August 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Greenaway, seconded by Cllr G Forman 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 been delighted to attend a "Proms in the Park" event in Leamington Spa on 15th August.

She advised Councillors that, in view of advice given to Royal British Legion branches, the Remembrance Sunday parade and service would be organised by Alcester Town Council this year as a civic event. A working group had been set up comprising the Town Clerk, the Mayor, Cllr M Cargill, Mike Gittus and David Malin to make appropriate plans.

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 and no propositions from Presidium.

The Mayor reported on discussions held at Presidium regarding a proposed restructuring of the committee system. She explained that she wanted Full Council meetings to be more engaging for Councillors and members of the public by spending more time on new issues rather than simply reviewing minutes. She also explained that Presidium had discussed giving Councillors more opportunity to play a part in the work of ATC so as to make better use of the skills of individual councillors. She hoped to set up workshops in future months to discuss further.

Finally, the Mayor confirmed that the vacancy on the Town Council would be filled by co-option as no election had been requested. Interested parties were asked to contact the Town Clerk by 24th September with a view to co-option taking place at Full Council on 5th October.

6. Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The Town Clerk reported that PKF Littlejohn LLP had completed the external audit of the AGAR. The report had been issued indicating that there were no matters giving cause for concern and that there were no other matters which needed to be brought to the attention of the Council. The Clerk reported that she had posted the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit on the notice boards and on the website to complete the process for the financial year 2020-21. The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for her efforts in dealing with the audit.

7. Community Care Committee

In Cllr Blake's absence, the Mayor confirmed that she was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month which were then signed.

The Mayor reported that the Committee had approved the following community grants:



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Alcester Rugby Club	£ 800
Alcester Bowling Club	£ 500
Alcester Victoria Silver Band	£ 500
Men in Sheds	£ 750
Stratford Music Network CIC	£ 209
Depot Youth Club	£ 350
Alcester & District First Responders	£ 673
Heart of England Town Criers comp	£ 400
Alcester War Memorial Town Hall	£ 500
Alcester Male Voice Choir	£1800
Kids Run Free	£ 500

The Town Clerk will make the payments in due course.

It was noted that Stratford Music Network had originally been granted £418 by the Committee but now only required half of this amount as only one Alcester individual was being supported rather than two.

In response to a question from Cllr Foster, the Town Clerk confirmed that the AMVC had agreed that ATC could distribute 50% of the tickets for the free concert being funded by the community grant – arrangements for applications for these tickets would be confirmed in due course.

8. Community Facilities Committee

There had not been a meeting in August.

9. 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. It was noted that Cllr Bowe would represent ATC at the SDC Planning Committee on 15th September in respect of the retrospective planning application at Alcester Rugby Club for the carwash canopy. There were no propositions from the Committee.

10. Greig Working Group

Cllr M Cargill gave an update to Councillors on progress. He confirmed that work had started on the roof repairs but unfortunately, dry rot had been discovered in the roof of the right-hand wing. This was being treated and dealt with but would increase costs.

The electrical report has been completed and Cllr Cargill thanked Dodd Group for producing this free of charge. Quotes would be obtained for the work to remedy the areas requiring attention.

Cllr Cargill thanked the Town Clerk for her efforts in securing £50,000 as a grant from the SDC CIL fund.

Cllr Cargill was delighted to report that the application to create the CIO had been accepted by the Charity Commission at the first attempt and the Greig Hall CIO was now officially in existence. He thanked the Town Clerk for making the application.

There is a Greig Hall fund-raising coffee morning and craft fair at the EPCC on 18th September. There will be a "Welcome Back Alcester" Christmas event at the Greig Hall on 4th December supported by Shakespeare's England.



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Cllr Cargill thanked the building sub group for its continued valuable work. In response to a question from Cllr Foster, the Town Clerk will circulate the results of the community survey to all Councillors.

11. Town Council Representatives

There were no reports this month.

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

13. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

14. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 13th September at 7 pm by Zoom

Community Care Committee – no meeting in September

Community Facilities Committee – meeting cancelled

Presidium Tuesday 28th September at 7 pm at Globe House

Full Council Tuesday 5th October at 7 pm at Globe House

The Mayor closed the meeting.