



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2021
AT THE GLOBE HOUSE, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk and Cllr S Juned (District Councillor).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) gave an update on the ongoing service integration between Stratford DC and Warwick DC.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) had submitted a written report in advance of the meeting which had been circulated to Councillors.

She reported that a new waste contract had been awarded to Biffa Waste Services from August 2022 which covered both Stratford and Warwick District. This would be a 123+ system with weekly food waste collections, fortnightly co-mingled dry recycling and three weekly residual waste collections.

Cllr Juned reported that there had been a delay with supply of the play equipment required for Hopkins Precinct play area.

1. Co-option of Town Councillor for Oversley Ward.

Councillors heard presentations from two candidates who had indicated that they would like to be considered for co-option. The candidates then withdrew from the meeting and after a vote, Mrs Wendy Mills was co-opted as a Town Councillor for Oversley Ward. Mrs Mills signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Town Clerk and she then joined the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Henderson and Cllr Piers Daniell (County Councillor).

3. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr G Forman and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

5. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended the rededication of the town war memorial on 25th September. She had been delighted with the turnout at the Civic Service on 26th September – she thanked all councillors who had attended, the Deputy Town Clerk and the Town Clerk for organising the event and Jenny Theobald and Julie Hands for serving.

The Mayor had been pleased to welcome the High Sheriff of Warwickshire to Alcester as part of her "Big Bike Ride".



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Following on from discussions at Presidium, the Mayor invited all Councillors to a workshop on the proposed restructuring of the committees at 6 pm on 2nd November prior to Full Council. She will issue a discussion paper in conjunction with the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Former Mayor, Cllr Gill Forman reported that the Alcester Rock Line which had been created during lockdown had now been turned into a permanent display at the community orchard.

6. 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:

6.1 "To adopt the updated Health and Safety policy dated September 2021". This was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr T Forman and carried by Council.

6.2 "To adopt the Volunteers Policy dated September 2021". This was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Foster and carried by Council. In response to a question from Cllr Foster, it was noted that all volunteers should be asked to sign the Volunteer Agreement (which forms part of this policy) in due course.

7. Community Care Committee

There had not been a Community Care Committee meeting in September. Cllr M Cargill, as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board reported that he had cancelled the Board meeting scheduled for 25th October. He explained that the Board was getting little support from the local health authorities and he proposed refreshing the Board to make it more relevant to Alcester. He will prepare a paper for discussion at Full Council in due course.

8. Community Facilities Committee

There had not been a meeting in September. Cllr T Forman, as Chair of the Committee reported that the new play equipment had now been installed at Moorfields and Collins Way play areas. The gate at the Jubilee Fields play area had been repaired by Limebridge after it had been damaged by their mowing team.

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 applications considered by the Committee. There were no propositions from the Committee.

The Mayor closed the meeting to allow the District Councillors to make a statement on the proposed merger between Stratford on Avon DC and Warwick DC.

Cllr M Cargill and Cllr S Juned explained the background to the proposed merger and answered questions from Councillors.

Cllr Pusey left the meeting.



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The Mayor reopened the meeting.

10. Consultation on the proposed South Warwickshire Council

Councillors discussed the proposed merger of Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council and agreed a response to the consultation document from Alcester Town Council. Councillors agreed that they supported the merger. The Town Clerk will formulate a draft response to the consultation questions and circulate this to Councillors for approval before submission.

11. Greig Working Group

Cllr M Cargill gave an update to Councillors on progress. He confirmed that work was still progressing on the roof. The asbestos removal work had started on the previous day. Regrettably the grant application to Severn Trent for the cost of a new heating system had been unsuccessful.

Cllr Cargill explained that it was possible that certain expenditure would be required before the appropriate grants were received and to enable the programme of works to proceed as scheduled, he may need to obtain Full Council's consent to pay these costs upfront.

Cllr Cargill reported that Hilary Wren had run a very successful coffee morning at the EPCC in aid of the Greig Hall and plans were proceeding well for a "Welcome Back" Christmas Fayre at the Hall on 4th December.

12. Town Council Representatives

There were no reports this month.

13. 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.

14. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

A number of emails had been received by the Mayor from a resident concerned about the lack of wheelchair access in High Street shops. The Mayor will respond to the resident explaining that the Town Council has no enforcement powers in this regard. Cllr Wilson agreed to lead on liaising with local businesses to provide support to them via the Business and Tourism Working Group.

15. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 25th October at 7 pm by Zoom

Community Care Committee Tuesday 19th October at 7 pm at Globe House

Community Facilities Committee – no meeting in October

Presidium Tuesday 26th October at 7 pm at Globe House

Full Council Tuesday 2nd November at 7 pm at Globe House

The Mayor closed the meeting.