



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

Present

Councillors K Cargill (Mayor), M Cargill, M Bowe, C Neal-Sturgess, A Foster, E Wilson, V Blake, E Randle, W Mills, D Henderson, K Greenaway and L Pusey
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) reported that he had been working on the digital strategy for the combined SDC/WDC authority. He explained that the new system was being designed to be "customer centric" whilst still being efficient and cost effective.

Cllr Cargill updated Councillors on the outcome of the consultation into the merger of SDC and WDC, options for which would be considered at the SDC Full Council meeting on 13th December. He reported that 81% of respondents accepted the need for change. He reported that the response to the proposal from Warwick District had not been as positive as that from Stratford District but it was understood that this was due to a campaign against the merger based in a particular ward.

Cllr Cargill advised Councillors about the £1.2 m grant scheme available from the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Growth Hub to support small businesses to grow following the pandemic. He confirmed that these were grants not loans. He also advised on the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme and, in response to a question, will share the eligibility criteria with councillors.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that she had attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had considered finance, democratic representation, the consultation process, services and climate change.

Cllr Juned explained that she hoped that the merged council would give SDC residents improved access to best practice in the provision of social housing via the existing WDC provision.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Forman and Cllr Piers Daniell (County Councillor). No apologies were received from Cllr Hempell.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Greenaway 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 Mayor of Redditch's Civic Service. She had laid a wreath on Armistice Day and then again at Remembrance Sunday in Alcester. The parade and service had been very well



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supported and the shortened church service held on the Church Green had been successful. She thanked the Town Clerk for organising the parade and the Deputy Town Clerk for her marshalling duties.

The Mayor had been delighted to attend the Alcester Academy performance of "Beauty and the Beast" on 17th November.

The highlight of the month had been the Welcome Back Christmas Fayre at the Greig Hall on 4th December. The Mayor thanked everyone who had attended and in particular Cllr Blake, Cllr M Cargill, Cllr Wilson and the Town Clerk for organising the Fayre. She particularly thanked Ali Mainey from WCC and Wendy Sherwood for stepping in at the last minute to support the hot food stall. Finally, the Mayor had attended the Toy Service at the Baptist Church on 5th December.

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

The Mayor thanked former Cllr Tim Forman for all his work as a Councillor and in particular for being Deputy Mayor. She noted the recent resignation of Cllr Forbes and also thanked her for her time as a Councillor and wished her and her family well in the future.

The Town Clerk explained the process regarding dealing with both councillor vacancies. She advised that she would be contacting the previous unsuccessful co-option candidates after the first vacancy notice expired to advise them of the vacancies.

The Town Clerk reported that Presidium had discussed the situation regarding the vacancy for a Deputy Mayor. It was noted that a Deputy Mayor was not required and a mid-term vacancy was not covered by the Standing Orders. Presidium had recommended that the vacancy was not filled until May 2022 and this was agreed by Councillors.

It was noted that the Mayor might require support if she were unable to attend a civic event but that this would be managed ad-hoc by the Mayor's secretary until May.

6. Proposal from Alcester Day Care

The Mayor reported that Carole Zambonini and members of Alcester Day Care had attended Presidium to put a proposal regarding the construction of a purpose-built dementia day care centre on part of the Greig site. The proposal had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. The proposal was discussed in general terms and received positive feedback. It was agreed that a task and finish group would be formed to identify further information required, to establish whether this was a viable proposal, and to bring options back to Full Council.

The Mayor asked Councillors to put themselves forward for the task and finish group by contacting either herself or the Town Clerk.

7. Community Care Committee

There was no Committee meeting in November.



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Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported that the Community Resilience group had met and he had booked a meeting with the Town Clerk to discuss the action list arising from the meeting.

8. Community Facilities Committee

The meeting scheduled for November had been cancelled.

The Town Clerk reported that she was increasingly concerned about the severe shortage of burial space in the Cemetery. She will call a meeting of the cemetery working group to discuss further – Cllrs Wilson, Mills, Henderson and Greenway offered to support Cllr G Forman on this group.

The Community Facilities Committee is due to meet on 18th January 2022 and will need to elect a new Chair.

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 and the update from Bloor Homes. There were no propositions from the Committee.

10. Greig Working Group

Cllr M Cargill gave an update to Councillors on progress. He reported that the electrical work had started. The heating system would need to go out to tender as the cost would exceed £25,000. Three options would be priced, namely a gas central heating system, an air source heat pump system and a hybrid of the two.

Cllr Cargill reported that the Christmas Fayre had been a huge success with over 30 stalls. He thanked all the groups who had participated and the many volunteers who had helped on the day. He particularly thanked Hilary Wren for organising the craft fayre.

11. Town Council Representatives

The Mayor explained that former Cllr Tim Forman had been a nominated trustee on both Church Street Property Trust and United Charities and following his resignation, the Town Council would need to appoint replacements. Councillors were asked to contact the Town Clerk if they were interested in either position.

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 Bowe and carried by Council.

13. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

14. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 20th December by Zoom

Community Care Committee – December meeting cancelled

Community Facilities Committee – no meeting in December

Presidium Tuesday 14th December at 6 pm at Globe House

Full Council Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 7 pm at Globe House

The Mayor closed the meeting.