



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2022  
AT THE ERIC PAYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

Councillors K Cargill (Mayor), M Cargill, M Bowe, C Neal-Sturgess, A Foster, E Wilson, G Forman, V Blake, W Mills, D Henderson, L Pusey, E Randle, K Greenaway, K Foster and S Blackman.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was a presentation from two residents of Birmingham Road who were seeking the support of the Town Council for a change in the speed limit on part of Birmingham Road from 40 mph to 30 mph. The residents reported a number of "near misses" and had received confirmation from Alcester Grammar School that there were reports of students being injured every year on the road. The residents had understood that the speed limit would be altered as part of the Bloor Homes Allimore Lane housing development but this information proved to be incorrect. It was noted that this housing development had significantly increased traffic on the road and would continue to do so, whilst it was built out. A petition seeking support for the change had received 100% support from nearby residents. It was also argued that for consistency with other parts of the town, this stretch of road should have a 30 mph limit.

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) confirmed that no reference could be found to a change in the speed limit as part of the Bloors planning application but he explained that it may well have been discussed at the time. He had been assured by officers that technically the speed limit was correct, but he was happy to support residents in seeking to change it and to use his delegated highways budget towards the costs involved.

There were a number of comments from Councillors and Cllr S Juned, all in support of the change, and the Mayor confirmed that she would discuss the matter with Cllr Daniell to see what could be best done by the Town Council to support this speed limit change.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) reported that Warwickshire County Council's education provision had received a Good rating from Ofsted which was a considerable improvement on its previous rating. He also reported that the WCC budget meeting was due next week and a 3.75% increase in the Council Tax was proposed - 2% of this related to adult social care, with 1.75% relating to services. This would result in a £52 annual increase for a Band D property. Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that SDC planning officers were due to meet the agents for the Three Tuns during the week to discuss the restoration of this listed building.

Cllr Juned explained that she had been involved in the formation of Act on Energy many years ago but in view of the current rising costs of energy, she felt that their services were more needed than ever. She asked the Town Council to signpost residents to them.



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Cllr Juned reported, as Chair of Alcester Youth Project, that the group had been successful in securing a grant from the National Lottery to run an environmental and educational project on Abbey Fields. The group was liaising with the Town Clerk on the plans. Cllr Juned also confirmed, as Chair of the Roman Museum, that the museum would be reopening on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that the SDC budget would go to Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> February and to SDC Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February. There would be a rise of £5 per annum for Band D properties. The green bin charge would rise by £2 from April 2022. Cllr Cargill explained that it was hoped that the proposed merger of SDC and WDC would produce savings.

**1. Election of Town Councillors for Oversley Ward**

Following the uncontested election (arising from the vacancies created by the resignations of Cllr Tim Forman, Cllr Kirsten Forbes and Cllr Mat Hempell) the Mayor welcomed new Councillors, Cllr Steve Blackman and Cllr Kathrin Foster to their first Town Council meeting. Regrettably, Cllr Alison Leask was unwell and unable to attend.

Cllr Steve Blackman read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Town Clerk.

Cllr Kathrin Foster read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Town Clerk.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Leask.

**3. Minutes of Council Meetings**

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, 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 it had been a quiet month with no civic events. The highlight had been the opportunity to judge the Window Wanderland entries. Although there had been a drop in the number of entries, the standard was exceptional and she had been pleased to award first prize to Carri Craig from Gerard Road.

The Mayor had emailed all Councillors seeking their support for ongoing and new projects. She thanked those who had responded and confirmed that she would welcome contact from anyone else who would like to get more involved in any particular item, particularly with the Minerva Mill project. She explained that no expertise was required, merely enthusiasm for the project.

**6. Appointment of new Councillors to Standing Committees**

It was agreed that Cllr Leask and Cllr K Foster would be appointed to the Community Care committee. It was also agreed that Cllr Blackman would be appointed to the Community Facilities Committee.



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**7. Presidium**

The Mayor confirmed that she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

Cllr Foster asked a question about the Equality and Diversity Policy noting that it had been reviewed by Presidium with no amendments. The Town Clerk explained that the review of the previous version of the policy was overdue and this had been noted on a recent grant application. She explained that although a long-stop date had been put on the policy for future review, any Councillor could bring an alternative policy forward. Consideration of policies was a delegated matter for Presidium but any new policy could be further discussed at Full Council if required.

The Town Clerk presented the management accounts for the third quarter 2021-2022 which were approved. There were no questions about the accounts. There were the following propositions from Presidium:

**7.1 Financial Contribution Agreement**

The Mayor explained that this Agreement was required to secure the s106 funding for public open space relating to the Allimore Lane development which would be used for footpath resurfacing work at Jubilee Fields. The documents had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Authority was sought for the Mayor to sign this on behalf of the Town Council. This was proposed by Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council. The Mayor signed the Agreement.

**7.2 Financial Regulations**

An updated version of the Financial Regulations dated January 2022 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This was proposed to be adopted by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

**7.3 Safeguarding Policy**

An updated version of the Safeguarding Policy dated January 2022 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk answered questions from Councillors on the policy. Adoption of the policy was proposed by Cllr G Forman, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried by Council.

**8. Community Care Committee**

There was no Committee meeting in January.

**9. Community Facilities Committee**

Cllr G Forman had been elected as the Chair of the Committee. Cllr Forman confirmed that she was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. Cllr Forman updated Councillors on issues discussed at the meeting. There were no propositions from the Committee.

*Cllr Randle and Cllr Pusey left the meeting.*

**10. 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. It was noted that Aldi had withdrawn their planning application. There were no propositions from the Committee.



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**11. Greig Working Group**

Cllr M Cargill, as Chair of the Working Group updated Councillors on the progress of the renovations. The opening of the Hall is likely to be in late Summer 2022 due to delays caused by the requirement to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan and to go out to tender on the new heating system. Cllr Cargill reported that The Greig Hall CIO trustees had met for the first time and Andrew Matheson had been appointed as Chair.

**12. Alcester Dementia Centre**

Cllr M Cargill, as Chair of the Task and Finish Group, confirmed that the group was working to assist in finding a permanent home for dementia services in Alcester within the Greig site. He confirmed that any proposal must complement the operations of the Greig Hall and be of public benefit and would need to come forward to Full Council for approval. A meeting was planned with members of the Alcester Dementia Day Care committee to discuss options.

**13. Town Council Representatives**

United Charities - Cllr K Cargill reported that the charity had met and continued to perform well financially.

Town Hall - Cllr Forman reported on recent work which had been undertaken including the installation of a hearing loop. Work had been done on fire procedures, safeguarding and storage of documents. She reported that the Town Hall were in need to additional volunteers.

Church Street Property Trust Cllr M Cargill reported that the charity had met. He thanked the trustees for their generous contributions towards the Greig Hall.

**14. Payment of Accounts**

The Town Clerk presented the Payment of Accounts for the preceding month. The accounts were proposed to be approved by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Bowe and carried by Council.

**15. Correspondence**

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

**16. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 at 7 pm by Zoom

Community Care Committee - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7 pm

Community Facilities Committee - no meeting in February

Presidium Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 7 pm

Full Council Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 7 pm

All meetings at Globe House (except Planning Committee)

The Mayor closed the meeting.