



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2022
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, 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, E Randle, K Greenaway, K Foster, S Blackman and A Leask.

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

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that her focus in the past month had been input into SDC's budget on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group. Two amendments had been included regarding practical energy and finance support for residents and a Self-Build and Custom Build Housing Register. She reported that the SDC element of the Council Tax would rise to £154.12 for a Band D property.

Cllr Juned also reported that there would be an increase in the green garden waste charge to £42 per year. She advised that SDC would be responsible for administering the government's £150 Council Tax rebate for properties in bands A to D. Residents were being advised to register to pay Council Tax by direct debit as this would ensure prompt payment of the rebate.

Cllr A Foster asked a question regarding the rebuilding of The Three Tuns. Cllr Juned advised that a structural engineer had now visited the site.

M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that although an increase in the Council Tax was regrettable, it was still the lowest district/borough figure in Warwickshire. He reported on a number of other issues including the Stratford Gateway scheme and Wellesbourne airfield. Cllr Bowe asked a question regarding the impact of the SDC/WDC merger on budget planning at SDC. Cllr Cargill replied that the budget could not take into account the proposed merger as SDC remained a separate entity until the merger took place. Savings had however been achieved by combining services and joint working. In response to a question from Cllr Blackman, Cllr Cargill confirmed that the need to register to pay Council Tax by direct debit would be advertised.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr L Pusey and Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor).

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Bowe, 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.



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4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended the Whitnash Civic service and lunch. She had also attended the 10th birthday party of the Alcester Café. She had been delighted to present the prizes at the annual pancake race which had taken place on the day of the meeting.

The Mayor reported that Jan Rowlatt, the Community Facilities Committee Clerk would be retiring on 10th March. She thanked Jan for her many years of service to Alcester Town Council.

5. Speed Limit on Birmingham Road

The Mayor explained that this item on the agenda followed the public presentation at the February Full Council meeting. She thanked the residents concerned for raising this with the Town Council and for providing a pack of background information. Cllr Daniell was not present at the meeting but the Mayor advised that he had made some progress since the last meeting in that Warwickshire County Council had agreed to review the speed limit on Birmingham Road.

The Mayor proposed that the Town Clerk was asked to write to Warwickshire County Council in support of an extension in the 30 mph speed limit up to the Roebuck traffic island. This was seconded by Cllr M Cargill and after a vote, carried unanimously by Council.

6. Presidium

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

There were the following propositions from Presidium:

6.1 Risk Assessment

The Annual Risk Assessment as approved by Presidium had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk answered a question from Cllr K Foster regarding tree inspections.

Cllr Forman proposed that the Risk Assessment was approved. This was seconded by Cllr Mills and carried by Council.

6.2 Advertising Policy

The Mayor explained that following preparation of a briefing document by the Town Clerk on the powers of parish councils, Presidium had agreed that advertising control was not a matter for the Town Council. All rules regarding advertising were contained in guidance from Stratford District Council.

Cllr M Cargill proposed that the 2018 Advertising Policy was revoked. This was seconded by Cllr Forman and carried by Council.

7. Restructuring of Council Committees

The Mayor explained the background to the proposed restructuring and reminded Councillors of the workshop which had taken place in November 2021. A paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting for discussion. The Mayor opened the floor for comments and there followed an in depth discussion between Councillors. No conclusions were reached and it was agreed that there would be a further workshop before the April Full Council meeting at 6 pm on 12th April.



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8. Community Care Committee

Cllr Blake confirmed that he was satisfied Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. Cllr Blake confirmed that the community grant scheme had opened with a closing date of 31st March 2022. He gave an update on other issues discussed by the Committee. There were no propositions from the Committee.

9. Community Facilities Committee

There was no Committee meeting in February.

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. Cllr Bowe reported that he had represented the Council at the SDC Planning Committee in connection with the planning application at Mill House, Kings Coughton. The Committee had agreed with the Town Council and the District Councillor, rather than the officer, and had decided to grant the application. There were no propositions from the Committee.

11. Greig Working Group

Cllr M Cargill, as Chair of the Working Group, gave a brief history of the Greig Hall for the benefit of new Councillors.

12. Alcester Dementia Centre

Cllr M Cargill confirmed that a site visit had taken place at the Greig Hall with representatives of the Dementia Day Care group. It had been agreed that they would produce a business plan which would be brought to Full Council for consideration. Cllr Bowe expressed some concerns about the input from ATC Councillors into the project and requested that the terms of reference for the task and finish group were reconsidered. Cllr Cargill agreed to do this.

13. Town Council Representatives

The Mayor advised that there was a vacancy on Moorfields Charity following the resignation of Cllr M Hempell. She asked Councillors to notify the Town Clerk by Friday 4th March if they were interested in being appointed as a Trustee. The appointment could then be made at Full Council in April.

Moorfields - Cllr A Foster reported that Chris Wright had been appointed as the treasurer. The charity had introduced a new grants policy and had made a grant to St Nicholas Church.

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 Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried by Council.

15. Correspondence

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

16. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 14th March 2022 at 7 pm by Zoom

Community Care Committee – no meeting in March

Community Facilities Committee – Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 7 pm

Presidium - Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 7 pm



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Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7 pm at the Town Hall.
Full Council Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 7 pm
All meetings at Globe House except the Planning Committee and the APM.

The Mayor closed the meeting.