



**A MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDIUM WAS HELD
ON TUESDAY 29th MARCH 2022 AT 7.00pm
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER**

Present

Cllr G Forman (Community Facilities Committee Chair and Immediate Past Mayor), Cllr M Bowe (Planning Committee Chair) and Cllr V Blake (Community Care Committee Chair).

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

In the absence of the Mayor, Cllr Forman was elected to chair the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr K Cargill (Mayor)

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting had been signed at Full Council.

4. Matters arising (not otherwise dealt with on the Agenda)

None.

5. Staffing Issues

- a. The Town Clerk reported the national pay settlement had been concluded with a 1.75% pay increase for all staff who were on Green Book contracts.
- b. The Town Clerk has paid all staff the backpay due from 1st April 2021 with their March salary and has also paid backpay to those staff who had left ATC during the year.
- c. The Town Clerk confirmed that Jan Rowlatt had retired on 10th March 2022.
- d. The Town Clerk reported that the contract for Becky Gribben, the Youth Club leader, had been extended for 12 months following receipt of a grant from Warwickshire County Council.
- e. It had been agreed that Wendy Sherwood's working hours would be increased following the successful Social Impact Fund grant application (see below).

6. Finance Issues

- a. The monthly management accounts which had been circulated in advance were approved.
- b. The Town Clerk reported that £25,542.78 s106 funding for public open space improvement had been received arising from the Allimore Lane development.
- c. It had previously been agreed that the s106 funding above would be used to resurface footpaths in the Jubilee Fields as this area would be easily accessible by residents from the Bloor Homes development. The Town Clerk confirmed that three quotes had been received for the resurfacing work. Councillors considered the quotes and it was agreed that there would be a proposition to accept the quotation from C R Macdonald Limited.
- d. The Town Clerk reported that the application for a grant from the WCC Social Impact Fund for the Crafty Lunch Club had been successful and that a grant of £40,000 had been received.
- e. A donation of £3000 had been received from Kinwarton Parish Council for the Greig Hall. The Mayor had written to thank them.
- f. The sum of £632.60 had been received from Cllrs A and K Foster for the Greig Hall following the recent Spring Quiz.
- g. It was noted that the significant tree maintenance work in the Cemetery had been completed at a cost of £2000 plus VAT.
- h. The Town Clerk reported to Councillors that an insurance claim had been submitted against the Council in respect of damage by tree roots from a tree in Bleachfield Street play area to a property in Willow Close. The claim had been passed to the Town Council's insurers and was being considered by them.

- i. It was noted that the grass cutting contract discussed at the previous meeting had been awarded to Limebridge Rural Services for a period of 12 months at a cost of £11,200 plus VAT following agreement from Councillors received via email. This would be reported to Full Council in accordance with the financial regulations.
- j. It was noted that compensation had not yet been received from Severn Trent in respect of the costs incurred in respect of the metered water leak at the EPCC.
- k. Cllr Blake confirmed that a donation of £150 was expected from the Turks Head which should be added to the proceeds of the Greig Hall Christmas Fayre.

7. The Greig Hall

The Town Clerk had prepared a briefing paper for Councillors which had been circulated in advance. The Town Clerk explained that the second phase of work at the Greig Hall had now been confirmed and a further delegation was required to enable her to proceed with awarding individual contracts without further reference to Council.

It was noted that the previous delegation regarding expenditure of up to £90,000 plus VAT which had been agreed for the first phase of work, had in fact been completed well within budget at £61,673.50 plus VAT.

The delegation to Full Council was required as follows:

"To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to authorise expenditure up to a total value of £145,000 plus VAT on the second phase works for the Greig Hall as agreed at Presidium on 29th March 2022". It was noted that the tenders for the heating system would be discussed at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting immediately after Presidium.

There was a discussion, led by Cllr Bowe on the cash flow position on the Greig Hall project. It was agreed that the Council had sufficient funds to proceed with commissioning the new heating system pending receipt of the PWLB loan. It was also agreed that in the unlikely event that the PWLB loan was refused, the project could be restructured to prioritise the heating system with other smaller elements being commissioned as funds became available.

8. Disposal of Land and Property policy

The revised policy prepared by the Town Clerk and circulated in advance was approved as drawn. There will be a proposition to Full Council to adopt it.

9. Restructuring of the Council committee structure

The revised proposals prepared by the Town Clerk were discussed and it was agreed that they would be discussed with the Mayor and then forwarded to all Councillors in preparation for the workshop on 12th April.

10. Planning Committee

Cllr Bowe gave an update on the recent committee meeting.

There is a proposition to Full Council to adopt the updated Markets Licensing Policy.

11. Community Care Committee

There was no meeting in March

12. Community Facilities Committee

Cllr Forman gave an update on the recent committee meeting.

13. Propositions to Full Council

There are propositions to Full Council as detailed in 6c. 7, 8 and 10.

The meeting was then closed by Cllr Forman.