



**A MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE AND  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON  
TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022 AT 7.00pm  
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**Present**

Cllr K Cargill (Mayor), Cllr V Blake (Deputy Mayor), Cllr G Forman, Cllr M Bowe and Cllr C Neal-Sturgess

**In attendance** Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies – all councillors present.

**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)**

Following discussions at the last F & GP meeting, the Town Clerk reported that PSW Paper & Print had revised their quote to produce the newsletter. This new quote had been circulated to Councillors and with their agreement, the Town Clerk had accepted it.

**5. Staffing Issues**

- a.** The Town Clerk reported that the following staff training had been undertaken in July:  
Vanessa Lowe – Climate Engagement, Data Security, Level 3 Safeguarding Children;  
Sarah Duran – Beyond Facebook – how councils can make use of a range of social media platforms;  
Tim Forman – Allotment Tenancy Agreements and Policies.

**6. Finance Issues**

- a.** The monthly management accounts which had been circulated in advance were approved. They will be presented to Full Council at the next meeting.
- b.** The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had received a full refund from Lloyds Bank for the fraudulent debit card use and a new debit card had been received.
- c.** The Town Clerk reported that she had given appropriate notice to Lloyds Bank to transfer funds out of the 32 day notice account to allow them to be paid into the PSDF in accordance with the investment strategy.
- d.** A grant of £2496.00 had been received from Western Power. With WP's agreement, this had been transferred to Alcester Baptist Church as it had been agreed that they would deliver the Big Lunch holiday club.
- e.** A donation of £84.25 had been received from St Nicholas Church for the Mayor's charity following donations made at the Civic Service.
- f.** Significant expenditure in July included £16,108.45 to Kompan Limited for the new play equipment at Moorfields; £5704.46 to Design House Developments for CCTV at the Greig Hall; £6328.01 to Edmundson Electrical for lighting at the Greig Hall.
- g.** The quarterly VAT return had been submitted and a refund of £29,028.19 has been received.
- h.** The Financial Contribution Agreement relating to s106 funds for the Greig Hall which had been signed at Full Council has been completed and funds were anticipated from SDC.
- i.** There was a discussion regarding potential future financial support for the Greig Hall following the transfer of the Hall to the CIO. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would discuss with the Chair of the Greig Working Group with a view to putting a proposition to Full Council in September.

## **7. Globe Island**

The Town Clerk reported that she had been in discussion with Alcester in Bloom regarding the overgrown planting on the Globe traffic island. It was noted that the island belonged to WCC but was maintained by SDC. It was agreed that new planting at this site was probably impractical due to the lack of a water supply and that consideration should instead be given to removing the existing planting and replacing with grass. The Town Clerk reported that in 2020, there had been a proposal that the Globe itself was refurbished. Cllr Blake offered to make enquiries as to whether this was still a possibility and then to contact SDC regarding the matter.

## **8. Publications Policy**

The updated draft Publications Policy produced by Cllr Mills and the Deputy Town Clerk was approved with some minor amendments. There will be a proposition to Full Council to adopt it.

## **9. Eric Payne Community Centre**

A paper prepared by the Town Clerk was considered regarding the current charges at the Centre. It was noted that the charges had not increased since at least 2017. It was agreed that charges needed to increase to reflect increasing costs. The Town Clerk explained that private parties in particular were requiring considerable staff time which was not currently reflected in the charges. It was agreed that the community rate would increase from £24 to £30 per session and that the private/commercial rate would increase from £48 to £72. All prices inclusive of VAT. There will be a proposition to Full Council to this effect.

## **10. Alcester West Ward councillor vacancy**

The Town Clerk reported that an election had been requested for this vacancy and the notices would be posted next week.

## **11. Propositions to Full Council**

There are propositions to Full Council as referred to in 8 and 9.

The meeting was then closed by the Mayor.