



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd AUGUST 2022
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors K Cargill (Mayor), V Blake (Deputy Mayor), M Cargill, M Bowe, K Greenaway, A Leask, E Wilson, W Mills, C Neal-Sturgess, D Henderson and E Randle.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk and Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor)

At the start of the meeting, at the request of the Mayor, there was a minute's silence in memory of the late Lawrence Haines, a former Mayor of Alcester.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) reported that he had made good progress with Speedwatch with a session on Stratford Road on the previous weekend. He confirmed that the "20 is Plenty" proposal was not proceeding on a general basis across the county but would be considered on a case-by-case basis if a suitable business case was made. Cllr Daniell explained that previous delegated highways budgets for County Councillors had been combined into a single pot and he would have the opportunity to make a request for road improvements. He asked Councillors to submit items by way of a wish list by September or October.

Cllr Daniell reported that 1294 Ukrainian refugees were now resident in Warwickshire living with 517 sponsors.

Cllr Greenaway asked a question about potholes. Cllr Daniell asked him to use the WCC "Report It" facility on their website.

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that he was working with Cllr Daniell on a project for an extra care facility on the Moorfields site but that it was proving extremely challenging to get the various authorities to act. He had attended a number of meetings with more scheduled.

Cllr Cargill confirmed that the new refuse collection had started and recommended use of the new SDC 123+ app.

Cllr Cargill reported that he and the Mayor had met the new Heads of Alcester Grammar School and St Benedict's who were both keen to engage with ATC. He planned to link the schools with his contact at the University of Warwick to arrange school visits.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Blackman, A Foster, K Foster and G Forman and Cllr S Juned (District Councillor).

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2022. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Bowe and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.



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3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked Councillors for attending the Civic Service on 9th July. This had been followed by the Duck Race where the Mayor joined the Earl of Yarmouth and the High Bailiff in launching the ducks.

The Mayor reported that she had attended assemblies at Alcester Academy and St Nicholas Primary School to present prizes for the Clean Air Day competition. She had also been to St Benedict's to attend their Careers Fair and to give an award to two students who had volunteered at the Holiday Lunch Club.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor had represented the Town Council at Lawrence Haines' funeral.

Finally, the Mayor had joined the welcoming party to greet HRH Princess Anne to the Game Fair at Ragley Hall.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had attended Civic Services at Warwick and Evesham and had been delighted to open the Alcester Community Fridge. This has been extremely well received and will be an asset to the town. Cllr Leask explained that the opening hours for the Fridge were listed on the Facebook page.

5. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no questions about the report which included photos of the new play equipment in Moorfields. Cllr Blake reported that he had been approached by a resident who had said that it was an excellent play area.

6. Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Mayor confirmed that she was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. There were no questions about the minutes.

The Town Clerk, as RFO, presented the management accounts for the first quarter of 2022-2023. There were no questions, and the accounts were approved.

There were the following propositions from the Committee:

6.1 "To adopt the Publications Policy dated July 2022."

The Mayor thanked Cllr Mills and the Deputy Town Clerk for their work on this new policy. Cllr Randle raised a question about the practical operation of the policy and Cllr Mills confirmed that submissions to the newsletter would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The policy was proposed to be adopted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Randle and carried by Council.

6.2 "To increase the hire charges at the Eric Payne Community Centre to £30 per session for community (non-profit) groups and £72 per session for private bookings from October 2022. The Town Clerk to continue to have discretion to negotiate alternative charges if appropriate"

The Town Clerk explained that charges for use of the EPCC had not been increased since at least 2017 and in view of increasing utility charges and costs



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incurred in covering private bookings, the increases were recommended in order to cover costs.

It was noted that the Town Hall was also increasing its charges.

Cllr Mills proposed that the increases were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried by Council.

7. Planning Committee

Cllr Bowe as Chair of the Committee confirmed that he 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 from the Committee.

8. Community Engagement Policy and Action Plan

Cllr Randle and Cllr Mills explained that these documents were updates of the previous Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan which had been adopted in 2019.

Cllr M Cargill proposed that the Policy was adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Sturges and carried by Council.

Cllr Bowe proposed that the Interim Action Plan was adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried by Council.

9. Lead Councillors

9.1 Communications

A report was presented by Cllr Mills which had been issued in advance of the meeting. Cllr Bowe thanked Cllr Mills for supplying her report before the meeting which gave Councillors time for preparation. There were no questions about the report.

9.2 Greig Hall

A report was presented by Cllr M Cargill which had been issued in advance of the meeting. By way of an update, Cllr Bowe confirmed that the new air conditioning system had been switched on today. The first fundraising event which will be run by The Friends of the Greig Hall will be a Medieval Murder Mystery Evening and Dinner on 24th September.

9.3 Business and Tourism

A report was presented by Cllr V Blake which had been issued in advance of the meeting. Cllr Blake updated Councillors by confirming that he was looking at proposals to refurbish the Globe sculpture on the traffic island and was in contact with the original supplier. As part of this he was also looking at options for tidying up the planting around the Globe.

Cllr Randle asked about Window Wanderland and the reduction in the number of entries. Cllr Blake explained that he planned to survey all previous participants and those who had expressed an interest via the Window Wanderland contact facility before making a decision on whether to proceed in 2023. Cllr Leask offered to help with production of a survey.

9.4 Youth Engagement

Cllr Leask gave a verbal update on the results of the youth survey which had been undertaken. She reported that participation in the survey via the schools had been very effective. Cllr Leask will write up the results



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and share these with Councillors and will look at producing a Youth Engagement Action Plan or similar to reflect the findings of the survey. Cllr Blake reported that he had heard about a "Mayor for the Day" scheme in another Council which might be considered.

10. Town Council Representatives

Alcester United Charities - Cllr Mills and Cllr Bowe reported that consideration was being made to the purchase of another property for a family rather than older people. The charity was considering a community led housing scheme. The Town Clerk suggested that the Alcester Housing Needs Survey could be repeated to identify current housing needs in the town.

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall - In Cllr Forman's absence, Cllr Blake reported that hire charges were being increased by 10% from August. Investigative work was starting on the woodworm in the stairs and consideration was being given to a disabled toilet and a lift.

11. 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 Mills and carried by Council.

12. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 15th August at 7 pm by Zoom

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 30th August 2022 at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.