



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 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, E Randle, S Blackman, A Foster, K Foster and G Forman.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There were approximately 40 members of the public in attendance.

Sheilagh Goode, a founder member of The Friends of the Greig Hall (FOGH) and a trustee of The Greig Hall CIO made a presentation to Council. She explained that the FOGH had raised over £100,000 towards the renovation of the Greig Hall which had been the most significant contribution towards the restoration costs of the building. She explained that the Hall was almost ready to open and the project had attracted over 170 volunteers. A detailed business plan had been drawn up with the Greig Working Group which built on the experience of other venues. This business plan had already been approved by Full Council. Mrs Goode explained that the Hall had use of the 34 car parking spaces at the front of the Hall (which were shared with the Leisure Centre) but would also need to use the approximately 26 spaces available at the rear of the Hall once it opened. There were no questions for Mrs Goode.

Carole Zambonini, trustee of Alcester Dementia Daycare, made a presentation to Council. She explained that she had been looking for a site for a purpose-built Dementia Centre since 2014. She stated that the Greig site was the only available option. The proposal before Council was for a modular build which would be environmentally friendly. Provision was included for drop off and pick up of users of the service and included 20 new car parking spaces. She explained that according to the JSNA, there was a higher incidence of dementia in Alcester than the district as a whole and therefore provision was needed urgently.

There were a number of questions from Councillors including a request for clarification of whether the figures provided included the new Bloor Homes development, clarification of parking requirements for the Dementia Café and a question regarding the potential use of the old library site or the old Moorfields school site.

In view of the large numbers in attendance and the shortage of space, the Mayor advised that she would delay District and County Councillors' Reports and would take item 8 after item 3 on the agenda. The minutes record the items in the order that they were taken.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Henderson



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2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd August 2022. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Forman and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor, Cllr M Cargill, Cllr Forman and Cllr Bowe declared their interest as Trustees of The Greig Hall CIO. Cllr Cargill confirmed that he had spoken to the SDC Monitoring Officer who had confirmed that he could take part in the discussion and voting regarding item 8 on the agenda.

Item taken out of agenda order

8. Dementia Day Care Centre

Cllr Bowe proposed a procedural motion to defer this agenda item to allow Councillors to attend a site visit to establish whether the location was suitable for the proposed dementia centre and to consider how the proposal might affect the sustainability of The Greig Hall. This motion was seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and after a vote, carried by Council.

The motion proposed by Cllr M Cargill set out below was therefore deferred.

8.1 *"Alcester Town Council agrees in principle to the construction of a dementia day care centre on the site of the old scout hut at the Greig Hall in accordance with the project business plan (as amended) subject to landlord's consent, planning permission being granted and finance being secured for the project by 31st December 2024."*

In the event that the motion is passed, a further motion:

8.2 *"To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to negotiate heads of terms for the project for approval by Full Council in due course."*

The Mayor asked Cllr Bowe to arrange a site visit for Councillors. This was provisionally agreed for 10.30 am on Saturday 10th September.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow those members of the public who wished to leave to vacate the room.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reminded Councillors that the Alcester Safer Neighbourhood Team were available every Wednesday between 6 pm and 9 pm at the police station front desk. Cllr Juned reported that she has been dealing with WCC regarding a number of defects in pavements in and around Hopkins Precinct. She reported that officers from SDC are now engaging with structural engineers regarding the restoration work at The Three Tuns. Cllr Juned has arranged for Act on Energy to run an advice clinic at the EPCC on 8th October.

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that a number of asylum seekers were to be housed at the Grosvenor Hotel in Stratford. He explained that SDC had not been made aware of this proposal in advance but had been told that it would be families and unaccompanied children only. There were questions regarding support available for the people involved.



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Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) reported that the old library had been included by WCC in a property auction in October. He explained that he was seeking a meeting with the portfolio holder to establish whether a community bid might be possible. Cllr Daniell reported that he had been approached by Arrow & Weethley Parish Council regarding the location of the "Welcome to Alcester" sign on the Evesham Road. He explained that the sign was in the wrong place as the parish boundary is at the Spittle Brook. Councillors agreed that this was correct and indicated that they would be happy to discuss this further. Cllr Daniell will make further enquiries with WCC Highways and Arrow & Weethley PC.

The meeting resumed under Standing Orders.

4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended the Battle of Evesham re-enactment festival at the invitation of Evesham Town Council on 6th August. She had also represented the Town Council at the Merchant Navy Day flag raising ceremony at Centenary Field on 3rd September.

She asked Councillors to RSVP to the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the Civic Dinner. She advised Councillors that there would be a mayoral fundraising event in October in the form of a horse race night and reminded them about the Medieval Murder Mystery Event run by The Friends of the Greig Hall on 24th September.

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report this month.

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.

The Town Clerk reported that PKF Littlejohn LLP had completed the external audit of the AGAR. The report had been issued indicating that there were no matters giving cause for concern and that there were no other matters which needed to be brought to the attention of the Council. The Clerk reported that she had posted the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit on the notice boards and on the website to complete the process for the financial year 2021-22. The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for her efforts in dealing with the audit.

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.

There were the following propositions from the Committee:

6.1 "To approve the Dignity at Work Policy dated August 2022."

The Mayor explained that the policy was drawn up in accordance with the recommended template from NALC and the SLCC as part of the Civility and Respect Project. The policy was proposed to be adopted by Cllr K Foster, seconded by Cllr Forman and carried by Council.



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6.2 "To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to authorise expenditure of up to £152,000 plus VAT on the final phase of the Greig Hall works as agreed at Finance and General Purposes Committee on 30th August 2022."

Cllr Bowe explained the background to this item confirming that the delegation was necessary to allow the Town Clerk to quickly accept and pay invoices on the Greig Hall project in order to complete the Hall on schedule. This was proposed by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and carried by Council.

6.3 "Pending receipt of the grant of £25,000 from the WCC Green Shoots Fund and circa £34,000 s106 funds due from the Bloor Homes Allimore Lane development (southern section), to transfer up to £59,000 from General Reserves to the Greig Hall Ear Marked Reserve to cover such expenditure."

Cllr Bowe explained that the transfer was required to be able to complete the Greig Hall work prior to receipt of the two grants. This was proposed by Cllr Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Forman 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. Dementia Day Care Centre

Item was taken after item 3 on the agenda

9. Civility and Respect Pledge

Following the report by the Town Clerk which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, the Mayor proposed that Alcester Town Council signed up to the "Civility and Respect Pledge" as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. This was seconded by Cllr K Foster and carried by Council. The Town Clerk was asked to register the Council's actions on the appropriate website and to make a suitable announcement on social media and the website.

10. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

The Town Clerk was asked to respond to SDC advising that the proposals were acceptable.

11. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Consultation

There was a discussion regarding the consultation documentation and the Town Clerk was asked to respond.

12. Lead Councillors

12.1 Health and Wellbeing

A report was presented by the Mayor which had been issued in advance of the meeting. It was noted that there were still plenty of ongoing H & WB projects. Cllr Leask reported on the success of the community fridge with 52 people attending on the previous day. There were no questions about the report.



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12.2 Allotments

A written report was presented by Cllr Greenaway. There was a request for new noticeboards on each allotment site. The Town Clerk will action this.

12.3 Climate Change

A verbal report was presented by Cllr Blackman on the meeting held on 30th August. It had been well attended with good feedback from those attending. Cllr Blackman said that it was clear that there was scope for joining up existing projects such as allotments/community fridge/community orchard.

Quotes had been obtained for printing of a climate change action plan which would be a mix of quick wins, medium- and long-term objectives. Cllr Mills enquired about the terms of reference for the group. Cllr Blackman said that these had not yet been settled. It is anticipated that the next meeting will be in early November.

12.4 Greig Hall

Cllr M Cargill had shared an update in advance of the meeting. There were no questions.

13. Town Council Representatives

Newport's School Foundation - The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Bowe had indicated that he would be interested in the vacant position on Newport's School Foundation following the resignation of Cllr Pusey. Cllr Bowe was duly appointed. The Town Clerk will inform the charity.

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 Bowe, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried by Council.

15. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 19th September 2022 at 7 pm by Zoom

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 27th September 2022 at 7.15 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.