



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2022
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors K Cargill (Mayor), V Blake (Deputy Mayor), M Cargill, M Bowe, E Wilson, C Neal-Sturgess, E Randle, A Foster, K Foster, G Forman and G Smithers.

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

The Mayor welcomed Gavin Smithers as a new Town Councillor following his election to the Council on 8th September.

Cllr Smithers read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Town Clerk. The Mayor presented him with his Town Council badge.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Joanne Fisher, owner of In Safe Hands Community Care Services Limited made a presentation to Council. She explained that she had been attempting to purchase the old library building from WCC for the past 5 years but was not making any progress and was seeking the Town Council's support. She shared her vision for the building and distributed a written summary of her proposal.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) gave Councillors a brief update regarding the recent police incident in Alauna Avenue.

She notified Councillors that Tesco Stores at the Hopkins Precinct had made a licensing application to extend the hours when they are allowed to sell alcohol. Cllr Juned explained that ATC are not notified of licensing applications, but she asked Councillors to consider the matter and to submit a response via the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk indicated that she would circulate the information by email.

Cllr Juned reported that SDC were consulting on a Supplementary Planning Document regarding the maintenance of public open spaces in new housing developments.

Cllr Juned reported that she had met with the Town Clerk and the County Councillor to discuss the WCC plans for the old library and to explain the ambition to roof the courtyard space.

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that he has been busy dealing with a number of local planning applications. He was pleased to report that WCC had started to replace the knee fence along the Old Stratford Road towards Oversley Green.

SDC were reviewing the new 123+ waste system - it was anticipated that in addition to the financial savings, there would also be a considerable saving in carbon dioxide emissions.

Cllr Cargill gave an update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan confirming that it will run until 2050 and that the intention was that it would be infrastructure led rather than developer led.



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1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Henderson, K Greenaway, A Leask and W Mills 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 6th September 2022. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr M Cargill 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

4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported to Councillors that Cllr Steve Blackman has resigned from the Town Council.

The Mayor reminded Councillors that only two days after the last Council meeting, the country had sadly learnt of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for their extensive preparations which had allowed Alcester to properly remember the late Queen with condolence books, floral tributes and church services. The Mayor said that she had been honoured to read the Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty Charles III on the Church Green on 11th September.

The Mayor also reported that she had met with German exchange students from Alcester Academy in the Town Hall and had given a talk on the work of the Council and the Mayor.

Councillors were reminded of the Mayor's charity fundraising night on 21st October and Remembrance Sunday on 13th November.

The Deputy Mayor said he had been honoured to lay a floral tribute to Her late Majesty with the Mayor outside the library on behalf of the Town.

He reminded Councillors about the Remembrance Lunch on 13th November.

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.

Cllr A Foster enquired about the scheduled review of the committee structure and Lead Councillor roles which was due after 6 months. The Town Clerk confirmed that she planned to issue a note to Councillors during October and report back at Full Council in November.

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 was the following proposition from the Committee:

6.1 "To approve the updated Standing Orders dated October 2022."

The Town Clerk answered a question regarding the use of the word "Chairman" and confirmed that the draft followed the NALC recommended form.

The updated Standing Orders were proposed to be adopted by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr Forman and carried by Council.



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7. Planning Committee

The scheduled Planning Committee meeting had been cancelled as it was due to take place during the period of national mourning for Her late Majesty. Cllr Bowe confirmed that planning applications had been dealt with by email during the month.

8. Lead Councillors

8.1 Youth Engagement

A report was presented by Cllr K Foster which had been issued in advance of the meeting. There were no questions about the report.

Cllr K Foster made an enquiry with Cllr M Cargill regarding lesson plans for school engagement – Cllr Cargill confirmed that these were in hand. Cllr K Foster asked the Deputy Mayor about the Window Wanderland project and asked if Cllr Leask and herself could have access to the template documents.

The Deputy Mayor explained that he had only subscribed to the basic Window Wanderland package which did not provide access to the templates. After a discussion it was agreed that the subscription would be upgraded to the full package. The Deputy Mayor will deal with this.

Cllr Bowe left the meeting due to a prior engagement.

8.2 Open Spaces

Cllr Wilson gave a verbal report on open spaces. The written version will be made available to Councillors after the meeting.

Cllr Wilson reported that he was looking for advice on how to tackle the ivy which was covering many of the trees. The Town Clerk asked if he would also investigate how Himalayan Balsam should be dealt with as this was becoming prevalent along river banks.

Cllr A Foster expressed his thanks to Paul and Jack Hands for their excellent work in keeping the grounds so well kept. He reported that there was a request to plant a tree in Moorfields which he will pass to the Town Clerk.

8.3 Climate Change

The minutes for the meeting of the Climate Emergency Action Group (CEAG) had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Smithers asked for confirmation of the name of the Group. He also requested a copy of the appendix referred to in the minutes – Cllr Foster agreed to supply this. He enquired if there were terms of reference for the Group and Cllr Foster confirmed that there were not. She explained that the Group was still in its early stages.

Cllr Foster updated Councillors explaining that ATC had submitted an application to the WCC Green Shoots Fund for a grant to replace the lights in the Eric Payne Community Centre with LED's. She confirmed that she had arranged a meeting with WCC to discuss sites for cycle racks. The next meeting of the CEAG was on 8th November.



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8.4 Play Areas

It was agreed that Cllr Smithers would take over from Cllr Pusey as Lead Councillor for play areas.

9. Town Council Representatives

Town Hall – Cllr Forman reported on the various repair/maintenance work which had been undertaken at the Town Hall. In particular, the woodworm repair work in the back stairs had been completed at a cost of £10,000. The Committee were working with WCC to try and resolve the issue of cars being parked across the fire exits. The AGM will be held on 18th October.

Newport's School Foundation – Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported that the charity had finally received the payment due from Bloor Homes.

10. 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 M Cargill and carried by Council.

11. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 17th October 2022 at 7 pm by Zoom

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 25th October 2022 at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.