



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022  
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

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

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was a presentation from Mrs Carole Zambonini requesting that the Town Council did not agree to lease the land at the rear of the Greig Hall to the Greig Hall CIO but instead, allowed a dementia centre to be built there.

There was also a presentation from Mr Andrew Matheson, Chair of The Greig Hall CIO. Mr Matheson expressed his support for a dementia centre in Alcester but stated that all of the land at the rear of the Hall was required by the CIO in order not to jeopardise the future running of the Hall. He explained that the CIO needed certainty in order to open as planned in February 2023.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that a report had been issued to the SDC cabinet confirming that £7m was held as s106 and CIL funds. This included £200,000 which had been allocated to the Alcester flood risk management scheme.

Cllr Juned reported on the SDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had received an update on the new waste collection system. The service has improved but there remain some problems. The Committee had also questioned senior Orbit representatives regarding ongoing issues relating to repairs and problems with boilers.

Cllr Juned has asked the SDC Planning Enforcement team for advice regarding action which she can take if progress on The Three Tuns is not forthcoming.

Cllr Juned advised that the next Litter Free Alcester clean-up was scheduled for March.

There was a question from Cllr A Foster regarding the level of service charge for Malt Mill Lane residents.

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that he was due to have a meeting with the Environment Agency about the flood scheme in January.

Cllr Cargill confirmed that the budget setting process was being undertaken at SDC with the Council trying to achieve savings. SDC had written to Michael Gove to seek advice on increasing planning charges so as to cover the cost of applications.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor).



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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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr K Foster and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Forman, Cllr Bowe, Cllr M Cargill and the Mayor all declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda as trustees of The Greig Hall CIO.

There were no other declarations of interest on the agenda items.

**4. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that she had had a busy month with lots of engagements. She had attended the Alcester Academy careers fair and their show, The Greatest Showman. She had attended the Armistice Day ceremony and the Remembrance Sunday parade. She had been very pleased to attend two events to celebrate the Dowager Marchioness' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Mayor had attended the first birthday party of the Crafty Lunch Club and had helped Santa to open the Christmas Fair at Our Ladies School.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had also attended Remembrance events, the Alcester Academy events and the Dowager's birthday parties and had also attended the licensing service at St Nicholas Church to install a new member of the clergy, Steve Kelley.

**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 new parish ward boundaries were noted and it was agreed that no submission would be made to the Boundary Commission consultation on constituency boundaries.

Following Cllr Wilson's update on the positivity rock line, it was agreed that the residents who had initiated this project would be contacted by Cllr Wilson regarding ongoing repairs to the installation.

**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 Working Groups Protocol dated November 2022."**

This was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Forman and carried by Council.

**7. Strategic Plan**

The Town Clerk explained that she had recently attended an SLCC training course regarding the production of strategic plans for councils. She had taken this as a proposal to the Finance and General Purposes Committee who had agreed that this should be produced. The Town Clerk had circulated an example of a plan in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to form a Task and Finish Group to produce a 5-year strategic plan for Alcester Town Council from



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May 2023. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mills, Cllr Smithers and Cllr K Foster were appointed to the Working Group. The Town Clerk will arrange the first meeting.

*Having declared an interest in item 8, the Mayor, Cllr M Cargill, Cllr Forman and Cllr Bowe left the meeting.*

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

**8. Lease of the Greig Hall**

The Deputy Mayor moved a motion that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number 8, which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). This was seconded by Cllr K Foster and carried by Council.

The public left the meeting.

The meeting continued in confidential session.

*Following the conclusion of item 8, members of the public, the Mayor, Cllr M Cargill, Cllr Forman and Cllr Bowe rejoined the meeting.*

The Town Clerk reported that the following propositions had been passed unanimously:

- 8.1** To grant a sublease to The Greig Hall CIO for the Greig Hall and surrounding land as requested in the terms set out in the draft Heads of Terms prepared by the Town Clerk and circulated in advance of the meeting.
- 8.2** To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to agree the final Heads of Terms with the CIO.
- 8.3** To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to instruct solicitors to negotiate an appropriate lease with the CIO with the final form of the lease to be approved by Full Council.
- 8.4** To continue to work positively with the Dementia Day Care team to find an alternative site.

**9. 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.

**10. Lead Councillors**

**10.1 Road Safety and Speedwatch**

A report from Cllr A Foster had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no questions about the report.

**10.2 Business and Tourism**

A report from the Deputy Mayor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Deputy Mayor gave an update by reporting that the Globe had been removed from the traffic island. He thanked Tony Turner from



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Greenmech and Severn Lamb for dealing with the logistics of removing the globe and refurbishing it. It was due to be returned in January. The Deputy Mayor also reported that the Events Guide would be delivered to every household with the newsletter. It would also be available at multiple locations throughout the town.

Cllr K Foster reported on Window Wanderland. She had organised a workshop at the EPCC with ideas on how to decorate windows which had been well attended. A further workshop was scheduled for January. There were already 16 "windows" signed up including St Benedicts, Alcester Academy and Cherry Trees.

**8. Town Council Representatives**

United Charities – The Mayor reported that the charity was looking to improve its governance. The trustees were hoping that the outcome of the ATC Housing Needs Survey in January 2023 would feed into the charity's plans for obtaining additional accommodation.

Moorfields – Cllr A Foster reported that 2 new trustees had been co-opted. The charity had received two applications for funding including one which was to underwrite to the Christmas gifting scheme being organised by St Nicholas Church. He advised that Moorfields rents would increase next year.

**9. 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 Forman and carried by Council.

**10. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7 pm by Zoom

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.