



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2023  
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

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

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was no public participation.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that all recent issues had been noted in the weekly update sent by Cllr Daniell.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Henderson, E Wilson, E Randle and M Bowe and also from Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) 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 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Mills 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 that she had attended the town carol service on 18<sup>th</sup> December and had read the lesson on behalf of the Town Council. She reminded Councillors about the Awards Evening on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**5. Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Mills asked for an update on the future of The Crafty Lunch Club following the meeting with WCC in December. The Town Clerk reported that funding was being sought from April 2023 but there was no further update at the current time.

Cllr Leask asked the Town Clerk to contact the various Warm Hubs in Alcester to ask them to register on the appropriate website as some were missing. The Town Clerk confirmed that she would do this.

The Town Clerk reported that Heads of Terms had been agreed with The Greig Hall CIO and she would be instructing solicitors to prepare the sublease.

**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.



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The budget for 2023-24 together with a briefing paper had been circulated by the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk presented these figures to Councillors which were discussed and approved.

There was the following proposition from the Committee:

**6.1** "To agree a budget of £367,571 for the financial year 2023-24. Taking into account anticipated income of £37,758 to request a precept from Stratford-on-Avon District Council of £329,813 for the year 2023-24."

This was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Forman and carried unanimously by Council. The Town Clerk will submit the request to SDC.

**7. Planning Committee**

In the absence of Cllr Bowe, Cllr M Cargill as Vice-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.

**8. Lead Councillors**

**8.1** Health and Wellbeing

A report from the Mayor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Neal-Sturgess congratulated Wendy Sherwood on the amount of H&WB work being undertaken which was very well received locally and by external bodies.

**8.2** Communications

A report from Cllr Mills had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Mills reported that the Mayor's Christmas video had been well received. She also reported that a meeting had been arranged with SDC IT team to look at improvements to the website. In response to a question, the Town Clerk confirmed that the website was compliant in terms of accessibility.

**8.3** Youth Engagement

A report from Cllrs Leask and K Foster had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr M Cargill reported that unfortunately the final element of the schools engagement programme had been cancelled due to unavailability of participant schools. Cllr Leask reported that as part of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group, she was working with Alison Mackay on a project with the schools to establish what support would be helpful for them in tackling drugs and sexual health education.

Cllr K Foster reported that Window Wanderland registrations were going well with 23 households, 2 high schools and a nursery signed up. There would be a further workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The Deputy Mayor noted the plans for a photo competition and suggested that this was co-ordinated with the competition being organised by Rotary. He will pass on contact details.

**9. Motions from Councillors**

There was a motion from Cllr A Foster as follows:



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"To support the inclusion of St Faith's Road and Gerard Road on the list of Warwickshire County Council primary gritting routes to ensure the safe delivery and collection of children from Alcester schools."

Cllr Foster explained that there had been long standing concerns about the lack of precautionary gritting of St Faith's Road which was the location for 2 schools and nurseries. There had been numerous requests for this road to be included as a primary gritting route by Alcester Town Council and successive County Councils, most recently Cllr Daniell. The situation was of particular concern as the crossing patrol was an employee of WCC, and could be seriously injured if a car skidded, the road was a main bus route and Jubilee Court was accommodation specifically provided for elderly residents.

In the recent cold weather, Cllr Foster confirmed that Gerard Road had also been brought to his attention due to the treacherous conditions which had caused injury to a student.

Cllr Foster reported that he had met with the WCC Locality Officer, Alan Caldwell-Jones, together with Cllrs Smithers, Henderson and the Town Clerk and although ad-hoc gritting had been arranged as a one-off, this was not felt to be a long term solution.

Cllr Smithers expressed his support for the motion but suggested that the problem was probably widespread in other communities. His proposed additional words at the end of the motion as an amendment as follows:

"Also that this Council explores with other parishes to collaborate and put concerted pressure on WCC to put all affected schools onto the primary gritting route, ensuring the safe delivery and collection of children from schools in Warwickshire"

This amendment was seconded by Cllr M Cargill and unanimously carried by Council.

The Town Clerk will write to WCC and will contact WALC to co-ordinate an approach on behalf of other affected parishes.

**10. Health and Wellbeing Board**

Cllr M Cargill explained that the H&WB Board had been suspended during the Covid crisis and this had given the opportunity to look at alternative models moving forward. Broadly, the intention was to achieve positive health outcomes for the residents of Alcester to supplement NHS provision.

Cllr Cargill reported a workshop had been held which had been well attended. The workshop had been facilitated by an officer from Warwickshire County Council. The report of the outcomes of the meeting was awaited but Cllr Cargill was very encouraged by the originality of thought and new ideas presented at the meeting. He thanked everyone who attended.

**11. Town Council Representatives**

There were no reports this month.

**12. 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 K Foster and carried by Council.



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**13. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7 pm by Zoom

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.