



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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, W Mills, D Henderson, E Wilson, E Randle and M Bowe.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

A resident attended the meeting and asked the Town Council to take action regarding an overhanging hedge on Crooks Lane. He also queried the number of tables and chairs permitted on the pavement outside Café des Fleurs on the High Street. The Mayor explained that both issues were matters for the County Council and asked Cllr Daniell to respond to the resident directly.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) reported that the WCC budget had been signed off that day.

He confirmed that a meeting had been scheduled with WCC for early March to have further discussions about the old library.

Cllr Daniell reported that a second round of the Cost of Living Grant Fund had been opened with £1000 available per parish.

Cllr Daniell explained about the Alcester Alert retail crime initiative which aimed to allow partners to work together to fight crime. Cllrs Bowe and Randle raised queries regarding operation of the scheme which were answered by Cllr Daniell. Various highways work had been scheduled using Cllr Daniell's delegated budget.

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that regrettably SDC had decided to remove the £200,000 CIL funding from the flood prevention scheme for Alcester. This had been blamed on delays at the Environment Agency. Cllr Juned is dealing with several cases of damp and mould in Orbit homes.

Cllr Juned reminded Councillors of the latest consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan which closes on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Following a traffic incident on Ragley Mill Lane, Cllr Juned and Cllr Daniell had arranged a meeting with the AGS Principal. Cllr A Foster requested to attend this meeting as ATC Lead Councillor for Road Safety.

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that he shared Cllr Juned's disappointment regarding the removal of CIL funding. He did however advise that CIL funding had been allocated to the Arrow and Avon Cycle Route between Salford Priors and Wixford.

Cllr Cargill confirmed that the SDC budget had also been agreed.

He encouraged all Councillors to look at the consultation on the SWLP.



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**1. Apologies**

No apologies – all Councillors present.

**2. Minutes of Council Meetings**

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

The Mayor, Cllr M Cargill, Cllr Bowe and Cllr Forman declared an interest in item 8.1 on the agenda as Trustees of The Greig Hall CIO.

Cllr Mills declared an interest in item 12 as a resident whose property had been affected by flooding.

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

**4. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that the Awards Evening on 13<sup>th</sup> January had been an excellent night held at The Greig Hall. She thanked all Councillors who attended and gave particular thanks to the Town Clerk and her staff for ensuring that the evening went smoothly.

The Mayor reported that she had attended the Alcester Rugby Club Chairman's dinner, a University of Warwick Degree congregation, the Whitnash Civic Dinner and the Mayor of Warwick's Civic Service.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had been delighted to judge the Window Wanderland competition and congratulated Cllr K Foster on organising such an excellent event.

The Deputy Mayor also reported that the globe had been returned safely to the roundabout following its renovation, courtesy of Severn Lamb and GreenMech Ltd.

**5. Town Clerk's Report**

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

The Town Clerk explained that the climate change event planned for 25<sup>th</sup> March had been cancelled due to the proposed event being scheduled during purdah.

The event would be rescheduled for June 2023.

Cllr A Foster enquired about the review of the updated committee structure scheduled for March and whether this would impact on the list of dates of meetings in 2023-24. The Town Clerk confirmed that additional dates could be added to the list if more meetings were agreed.

**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. Cllr Mills commented that she was delighted that The Crafty Lunch Club could be supported for a further six months.

The Town Clerk presented the management accounts for the third quarter of 2022-23 which were approved as drawn. There were no questions about the accounts.



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There was the following proposition from the Committee:

**6.1** "To approve the updated Complaints Procedure dated January 2023."

After the Town Clerk responded to a question, this motion was proposed by Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried by Council.

**7. Community Grants**

The draft Community Grants Policy and application form had been circulated in advance of the meeting by the Town Clerk. These were proposed to be adopted by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr K Foster and carried by Council.

The Mayor asked for volunteers to join the Working Group to review the applications. Cllrs M Cargill, Wilson, Leask, Bowe and the Mayor put themselves forward and were duly appointed. The Town Clerk will clerk the Group and will call the necessary meeting in due course.

Note: The community grants scheme will run in March 2023 with a closing date of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**8. Greig Hall**

*The Mayor and Cllrs M Cargill, Forman and Bowe left the room.*

*The Deputy Mayor took the Chair.*

**8.1** The agreed form of Underlease had been circulated in advance of the meeting by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk answered queries on the document. The Deputy Mayor explained that Council's authority was sought to authorise the execution of an underlease to be granted by Alcester Town Council to The Greig Hall CIO for a period of 25 years in respect of The Greig Hall.

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

The Town Clerk will arrange for the Underlease to be signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor ready for completion.

*The Mayor and Cllrs M Cargill, Forman and Bowe returned to the meeting and the Mayor resumed the Chair.*

**8.2** The Mayor asked for nominations for two Town Council representatives for The Greig Hall CIO to take up their role as Trustees after the Greig Hall CIO AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Cllr Neal-Sturgess nominated Cllr A Foster who was seconded by Cllr Forman.

Cllr A Foster nominated Cllr Greenaway, who was seconded by Cllr K Foster. There being no other nominations, Cllr A Foster and Cllr Greenaway were duly appointed.

**8.3** Cllr M Cargill gave a final report as Chair of the Greig Hall Working Group. He thanked everyone who had been involved in the renovation project particularly the volunteers. He gave special thanks to Cllr Bowe for his careful management of the budget. He said that the renovation project should be an example to others of what can be achieved. He said that the Town Council was delighted to hand the building over to the CIO and that the Hall would be a fantastic asset to the town.

He announced that the Working Group had completed its role and he was therefore pleased to announce its winding up.



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**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. Cllr Bowe gave an update on current applications considered by the Committee. He reminded the Committee that there was a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February to discuss a response to the consultation on "Issues and Options" for the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

**10. The Coronation of HM King Charles III**

The Town Clerk reported that Buckingham Palace had announced that the Coronation of His Majesty The King would take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

A series of national events are being planned for the bank holiday weekend. The Town Clerk had met with the High Bailiff and it had been agreed that the Court Leet would organise a street party on the afternoon of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May to mark this historic occasion. More details will follow.

**11. Lead Councillors**

There were no formal reports this month.

Cllr Mills reported on the Corporate Strategy Working Group which had met for the first time. A residents' questionnaire had been drawn up which would be publicised in the newsletter and via a QR code on posters. Cllr Mills asked for volunteers to join a rota to speak to residents on the High Street. Cllr Leask suggested that the questionnaire was also forwarded to the schools.

**12. Motions from Councillors**

*Having declared an interest, Cllr Mills took no part in the discussion or voting on this item.*

There was a motion from Cllr M Cargill as follows:

"That this Council engage with the Environment Agency, Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council to promote a scheme to improve the Alcester flood defences from their current level to a 1 in 100 + climate change protection, releasing up to 165 homes and businesses from the risk of flooding and enabling the building of an affordable extra care facility in Alcester."

Cllr Cargill explained the background to this motion and answered several questions from Councillors regarding infrastructure requirements, funding and alternative uses for the site.

After a discussion, the motion was proposed by Cllr Cargill, seconded by Cllr Bowe and carried by Council.

Cllr Cargill will liaise with the Town Clerk to approach the various agencies.

**13. Town Council Representatives**

United Charities - The Mayor reported that charity continues to perform well. A meeting has been arranged with SDC to discuss funding opportunities for affordable housing.

Town Hall - Cllr Forman reported that a meeting had been held on 24<sup>th</sup> January. A number of issues were discussed including increasing utility costs, valuation of the building, a feasibility study into the construction of a lift and the report on the quinquennial inspection.



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Church Street Property Trust – Cllr Wilson reported that the trust had met and had awarded grants to the Baptist Church and the Alcester Town Criers competition. There had been an approach for funding for “parking buddies” for outside the primary schools on St Faiths Road but further discussions were needed regarding these.

**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 Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

**15. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7 pm by Zoom

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7 pm.

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

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.