



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023  
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

Councillors K Cargill (Mayor), V Blake (Deputy Mayor), M Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, K Foster, G Smithers, K Greenaway, W Mills, D Henderson, E Wilson, 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 by Emma Daniell, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire regarding the work of the OPCC and the priorities for the next year which included filling SNT vacancies, more front office staff and a new model of policing for the County separating it into North, South and East. Mrs Daniell passed on an update from Alcester SNT regarding current policing issues in the town. She reminded Councillors that there was a walk-in service available in Alcester from 6 pm to 9 pm on Wednesdays. The Mayor thanked Mrs Daniell for attending the Town Council meeting.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that the SDC element of the Council Tax had been set by SDC – it would be £159.12 for a Band D property (a rise of £5 per annum). He confirmed that this rise was limited by legislation. He explained that due to the government only providing a single year settlement, it was difficult to forward plan. There was a question regarding the costs incurred in the failed merger of SDC and WDC which Cllr Cargill confirmed were approximately £160,000.

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that elements had been agreed in the SDC budget to support an allocation for cost-of-living measures and also to increase funding for planning enforcement. Cllr Juned reported that she continued to follow up on cases of damp and mould in Orbit Homes – she had been informed that up to 1<sup>st</sup> November, Orbit had received 740 complaints over the District with 491 having been assessed.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs G Forman, A Leask and A Foster and also from 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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Greenaway 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 on a busy month including attending events over the opening weekend of The Greig Hall and the pancake race on Shrove Tuesday



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with the Deputy Mayor. She had been delighted to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Pamela Norman and to present a bouquet on behalf of the town. The Mayor had attended the NALC conference in London entitled "Standards Matter" with the Town Clerk – the Town Council had been invited as NALC Council of the Year.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had attended the Warwickshire Towns Network conference with the Town Clerk and had also attended a "taste off" event at Warwick Castle and a Bollywood night at Southam TC.

**5. Town Clerk's Report**

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

Councillors were very pleased to hear about the success of the holiday lunch club.

The Town Clerk updated Councillors in that she had attended an election briefing at SDC and now had the nomination papers for the parish elections on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Councillors were invited to take a set of papers after the meeting. The Notice of Election will be posted on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**6. Finance & General Purposes Committee**

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that he had chaired the F & GP Committee meeting in the Mayor's absence. He confirmed that he was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

There was the following proposition from the Committee:

**6.1** To consider for approval the Annual Risk Assessment of the Council.

The Town Clerk answered several questions from Councillors on the document which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She provided clarification on issues raised.

Following conclusion of the questions, the motion was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

**7. Planning Committee**

Cllr Bowe, as Chair of the Committee, confirmed that he was satisfied that the 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 thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her efforts in responding to the very lengthy online consultation on "Issues and Options" for the South Warwickshire Local Plan following an informal meeting of Committee members to agree a response.

**8. South Warwickshire Economic Strategy**

The Town Clerk had circulated the consultation document on the South Warwickshire Economic Strategy in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to form a task and finish group to produce a response.

Cllrs Smithers, Bowe, M Cargill and the Deputy Mayor agreed to join the group which will meet once before the deadline and will be clerked by the Town Clerk.



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**9. Lead Councillors**

**9.1 Cemetery**

A report from Cllr Forman had been circulated in advance of the meeting. In her absence, the Town Clerk answered questions about the report including queries about the composting arrangements for green waste.

**9.2 Allotments**

A report from Cllr Greenaway had been circulated in advance. Cllr Greenaway confirmed that all was going well at the allotments. The Town Clerk confirmed that the shed on the School Road allotments was being returned to the Town Council.

**9.3 Play Areas**

A report from Cllr Smithers had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillors agreed that it would make sense to assess the usage of each play area but agreed that counting the number of users might be a challenge.

**9.4 Business and Tourism**

The Deputy Mayor had produced a report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was reported that there was a new business networking meeting at Minerva Mill – the Deputy Mayor confirmed that he had attended the first meeting and would continue to attend.

**10. Strategic Plan Working Group**

Cllr Mills reported that she had been elected Chair of the Working Group. The Group was undertaking a public consultation and hoped to produce a draft strategy for the Full Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Leask was organising a separate consultation with the schools to get feedback from younger residents. Cllr Mills and Cllr Forman had handed out leaflets advertising the survey on the High Street. There was a meeting of the Working Group scheduled on 28<sup>th</sup> March to look at the results of the survey.

The Working Group had agreed terms of reference which had been circulated to Councillors in advance. These were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

**11. Town Council Representatives**

Moorfields - The Deputy Mayor reported on grants awarded at a recent meeting.

**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.

**13. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7 pm by Zoom

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

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7 pm at the Town Hall.

Full Council - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.