

**The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting took place
at the Alcester War Memorial Town Hall
on Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7pm.**

Welcome and Chairman

The Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Kathryn Cargill, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

The Town Clerk had received apologies from Mrs D Manders, Mrs J Appleby, Ms C Dolphin, Mrs C Zambonini, Cllr D Henderson, Mrs E Barnes, Mr S Brown, Mr N Dearling, Ms J Vance, Cllr S Blackman, Cllr E Wilson. Cllr A Foster, Cllr K Foster and Mr A Deeks.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 6th April 2021 were confirmed as a true record on a proposition by Cllr Mark Cargill and seconded by Cllr Gill Forman. The Mayor signed the minutes.

3. Report from Alcester Town Council

The Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council, a printed copy of which was supplied for all attendees. The Mayor confirmed that the Annual Report would be available on the Town Council website after the meeting. The Mayor thanked staff and councillors for their work in producing the Report. The Mayor reported that two long standing committee clerks, Jenny Theobald and Jan Rowlatt had retired during the year and she wished them well. She thanked all the Town Council staff for their support and hard work during the year.

The Mayor highlighted the following items from the Annual Report:

- The Neighbourhood Development Plan had been adopted by Stratford on Avon DC in July 2021 following a successful referendum. This means that the policies in the NDP must be taken into account when planning applications are submitted in the parish.
- Bloor Homes had installed reptile hibernacula (locally referred to as “snake hotels”) in Abbey Fields to provide accommodation for a colony of slow worms which had been relocated from their Allimore Lane housing development site.
- The Town Council had employed a Youth Leader to restart the town’s youth club following the Covid lockdown. A grant from Warwickshire County Council had been received which would cover her salary for 12 months.
- As part of the Health and Wellbeing agenda, six weeks of fitness classes called “Get A Move On!” were successfully held for older residents in summer 2021.
- The Town Council is currently working on its biggest ever project in the renovation of the Greig Hall. The Council had been successful in being awarded a Public Works Loan Board loan to purchase a new heating system. It was hoped to be able to have a “soft” opening of the Hall in September 2022.

4. Accounts

The Town Clerk confirmed that accounts had been received from Church Street Property Trust, Newport’s School Foundation and Alcester United Charities. She confirmed that the accounts would be available for inspection at the Town Council offices and on the Town Council website.

5. Alcester Organisations

The Mayor then opened the floor to representatives from various Alcester organisations who presented on their activities during the year:

1. Ann Duff – Alcester & Bidford Rotary
2. Mike Clark – Alcester Bunting and Lighting Executive
3. Mike Clark - Alcester Scout and Guide Hut Committee
4. Fiona Flear – Alcester Country Market
5. Bill Goodall – Alcester First Responders
6. Alf Manders – Alcester Neighbourhood Watch
7. Susan Juned – Alcester Youth Project
8. Susan Juned – Litter Free Alcester
9. Susan Juned – Alcester Heritage Trust
10. Gill Forman – Alcester War Memorial Town Hall
11. Mike Bowe – Alcester United Charities
12. Nina Knapman – Citizens Advice South Warwickshire
13. Jane Vance – Girlguiding Alcester & Avon Villages District (report read by the Mayor)
14. Vaughan Blake – Heart of England Town Criers
15. Clive Neal-Sturgess – Newport's School Foundation
16. Richard Dean – U3A
17. Jim Kenyon – Alcester Town Football Club

The Mayor thanked everyone for their contributions noting that Alcester was very fortunate to have so many active groups and societies. She noted that there was a common theme with groups requiring more volunteers and encouraged people to consider putting themselves forward.

6. Open Forum

The Town Clerk reported that no questions had been received in advance.

Sue Bates from Alcester Victoria Silver Band asked for an update on the reopening of the Greig Hall. The Mayor passed the question to Cllr Mark Cargill, the Chair of the Greig Working Group, who summarised the current position. He confirmed that the AVSB would be very welcome at the Greig Hall once it reopened. He took the opportunity to thank the Working Group for all their efforts to progress the renovation works and in particular Andrew Matheson and Cllr Mike Bowe.

The Mayor closed the meeting and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

38 people in attendance.