



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Alcester Town Council was held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at The Alcester War Memorial Town Hall, Alcester.

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

Present

Councillors K Cargill, V Blake, G Forman, M Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, K Greenaway, M Bowe, E Randle, W Mills, A Leask, C Elliott, D Henderson, A Foster and K Foster.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

1. Election of Mayor

Cllr K Cargill, the Retiring Mayor, confirmed that, in accordance with Standing Order 5e, Cllr Vaughan Blake was automatically elected as Mayor by virtue of his role as Deputy Mayor for the year 2022-2023.

Cllr Vaughan Blake was therefore duly elected as Mayor for the year 2023-2024.

2. Acceptance of Office

Cllr V Blake read and signed the acceptance of office as Mayor which was witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The Retiring Mayor presented the chain of office to Cllr Blake.

The Mayor took the Chair and said that he was honoured to be elected as Mayor of Alcester. He said that he had lived in Alcester for 30 years and had been a Councillor since 2019. During this time, he had been a member of the Community Care, Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committees and Lead Councillor for Business and Tourism. Although appreciating the difficult times in which we are all living, the Mayor said that he was optimistic that Alcester was well placed to take on the challenges ahead. The Mayor particularly wished to thank the many volunteers in Alcester who ensured that events such as the Food Festival, Christmas lights, summer bunting and hanging baskets all went ahead. The most recent event was the very successful Coronation Street Party on 7th May.

The Mayor congratulated all the Councillors on their re-election to the Council and welcomed Corin Elliott as a new Councillor. He presented Cllr Elliott with his Town Council badge.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs E Wilson and Cllr G Smithers. The Town Clerk read a list of apologies received from invited guests.

4. Presentation of Mayor's Consorts Chain

The Retiring Mayor's Consort presented the chain to Mrs Kay Blake.

5. Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor reported that, in accordance with Standing Order 5e, only one nomination had been received by the Town Clerk for the position of Deputy Mayor. Cllr Mike Bowe was therefore duly elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2023-2024.

6. Acceptance of Office

Cllr M Bowe read and signed the acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor which was witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The Mayor presented Cllr M Bowe with the chain of office.

Cllr Bowe said that he was privileged to be elected as Deputy Mayor and thanked his fellow councillors for their confidence in selecting him. He said that he would work hard to support the Mayor, the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk to improve outcomes for the benefit of residents of the town.

7. Presentation of Deputy Mayor's Consorts Chain

The Mayor's Consort presented the Deputy Mayor's Consort's chain to Mrs Sue Bowe.

8. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr K Cargill for her two year term of office. He reported that she had risen admirably to the challenges of a pandemic, three prime ministers and two monarchs.

9. Reply by Retiring Mayor

Cllr K Cargill thanked the Mayor for his kind words. She recounted that she had been the first "Zoom" Mayor with an online Mayor Making ceremony in May 2021. She had been honoured to be the Mayor of Alcester during the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the events to mark the death of the late Queen, events for the Accession of The King and most recently His Majesty's Coronation.

Cllr Cargill said that she was very proud to have completed the renovation of The Greig Hall during her term of office which was the most ambitious project ever undertaken by the Town Council.

Cllr Cargill reported that she had raised almost £1000 during her terms of office which would be used for a future health and wellbeing project.

Cllr Cargill said that it had been an honour to be the Mayor in the year in which the Town Council was crowned Council of the Year in the NALC Star Council awards.

Cllr Cargill thanked her family for their support and also the Town Council staff, particularly Sarah Duran, the Mayor's secretary.

10. Presentation of Past Mayor’s Badge

The Mayor presented a Past Mayor’s Badge to Cllr K Cargill.

11. Annual Report of the Town Council

The Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council for the year 2022-2023. Hard copies were available at the meeting or via the Town Council website.

12. Presentation of grants

The Mayor read out the list of community grants awarded to local organisations for the year 2023-2024 totalling £10,001.

The amounts awarded were: Alcester Christmas Lights (ABLE) £1000; Alcester Singers £250; Alcester Community Fridge £1500; Alcester Bowling Club £400; Citizen’s Advice South Warwickshire £1000; Alcester Town Football Club £800; Alcester War Memorial Town Hall £800; Heart of England Town Criers Championship £400; Alcester Rugby Football Club £800; Oversley Green Residents Association £390; Alcester Musical Theatre Company £250; Alcester-Vallet Twinning Association £865; St Nicholas Church “Warm Space” £200; Alcester & District First Responders £646; Alcester Heart Safe £200; Alcester in Bloom £500.

13. Mayoral Charities for 2023-2024

The Mayor announced that his nominated charities would be Alcester & District First Responders and Kissing it Better – a charity working to end the isolation of old age by bringing generations together. He said that he hoped that those attending the meeting would support future events in aid of these worthy causes.

The remaining items on the agenda were deferred to a meeting of the Council to be held the following week at the discretion of the Mayor

The Mayor thanked visitors for attending and then invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

The next full meeting of Alcester Town Council is to be held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.