



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 11th APRIL 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, E Wilson, M Bowe, G Forman, A Leask and A Foster

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

The Mayor welcomed Corin Elliott as an observer and introduced him to Councillors. Mr Elliott had recently been elected as a Town Councillor in the uncontested election and would therefore take up office on 9th May.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was a presentation by Sian Davis on behalf of the children's running group currently operating as Marathon Kids which organises events on a Saturday morning at Jubilee Fields. Ms Davis explained that the parent organisation was being wound up at the end of April and the group needed a new umbrella organisation to continue. The group had contacted Run Alcester who were unable to help.

There was a discussion and the Mayor asked Cllr K Foster to organise a small working group to see how the Town Council could assist.

The Town Clerk will pass on Ms Davis' contact details to Cllr Susan Juned to seek support from Alcester Youth Project.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr M Cargill (Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) reported that following the recent motion at Full Council, a meeting had been arranged with the Environment Agency, Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council for 27th April to discuss the flood defences. The meeting would also be attended by Cllr Izzi Seccombe, the leader of WCC.

Cllr Cargill also reported on the recent SDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had received a presentation from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) had sent a written update on The Three Tuns which had been forwarded to Councillors by email in advance of the meeting. There was now some progress to report in that a temporary roof had been installed and structural supports had been installed on the party wall.

Cllr Juned reported several complaints regarding overflowing dog bins. These had been reported to SDC who had replied that there had been an issue with the contractor Biffa.

Cllr Juned informed Councillors that the 20-year anniversary of the opening of the Roman Museum was in 2024 and celebration events were planned for June or July 2024. She hoped that these would be supported by the Town Council.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs E Randle and D Henderson and from Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor).



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2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2023. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr K Foster 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. It was noted that several councillors would be declaring interests regarding the allocation of community grants later in the meeting.

4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked Councillors for attending the joint SDC/ATC Civic Dinner on 17th March and reported that £800 had been raised in the raffle. The Mayor had been delighted to judge the Easter bonnet competition at Our Lady's School and to help plant trees at Ragley to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Mayor thanked Councillors for attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 4th April. There had been 20 speakers from various local organisations who gave inspiring presentations on their work.

The Deputy Mayor had attended various meetings during the month and had particularly enjoyed the Alcester Musical Theatre Company's show at The Greig Hall.

The Mayor reminded Councillors about her charity quiz on 15th April.

The Mayor closed her report by thanking all Councillors for their support during her two years as Mayor. She said that it had been a real honour to be Mayor in the year when Alcester Town Council was named Star Council of the Year.

5. Town Clerk's Report

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

Cllr Foster said that he had received some comments regarding play equipment which he would forward to the Town Clerk and Cllr Smithers, as Lead Councillor. The Town Clerk reported that the Community Grants working group had met on 6th April to discuss the 22 grant applications which had been received. The grant fund was very oversubscribed with applications totalling over £18,000. Cllr M Cargill, who had chaired the Working Group, explained that all applications had been considered in accordance with the grant policy and a number had been redirected to other potential sources of funding.

The following Councillors declared an interest in various grant applications and withdrew from discussion on the following applications.

Cllr Forman – Alcester War Memorial Town Hall

Mayor and Cllr M Cargill – Oversley Green Residents Association

Cllr Leask – Alcester Community Fridge

Deputy Mayor – ABLE, Alcester War Memorial Town Hall and Town Criers Competition.

The list of agreed grants had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Forman and after a vote, carried by Council. The list will be announced at Mayor Making on 16th May.



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The Town Clerk congratulated all Councillors on their re-election to the Town Council.

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 were no propositions from the Committee.

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.

8. South Warwickshire Economic Strategy

The Mayor thanked the Working Group for their work on submitting a response to the consultation on the South Warwickshire Economic Strategy. The response was noted.

9. Strategic Plan Working Group

Cllr Mills, as Chair of the Working Group, presented the report on the residents' survey. She reported that the Working Group had considered this report to ensure themes identified were reflected in the Strategic Plan. The Working Group had also considered the outcomes from the survey of young people organised through the schools.

Cllr Mills presented the draft Strategic Plan. She explained that this would be adopted after the election by the new Council.

The Strategic Plan identified objectives which would be worked up into an Action Plan to cover the term of the Council. It was envisaged that progress on this Action Plan would be monitored by a Working Group.

It was agreed that, once adopted, the Strategic Plan would be publicised.

10. Lead Councillors

10.1 Footpaths

The Mayor thanked Cllr Henderson for his detailed report on footpaths which had been circulated in advance. Cllr Henderson was unfortunately absent from the meeting, but Councillors agreed that the report could be useful in securing funding for improvements. It was agreed that the report would be developed to identify short-, medium- and long-term improvements and that a Working Group would be formed to look at setting standards for footpaths.

10.2 Open Spaces

A report from Cllr Wilson had been circulated in advance. There was a discussion about the deterioration of the Positivity Rocks installation. It was agreed that attempts would be made to try and keep it in the current location. Cllr Wilson would welcome suggestions from Councillors on the best way of preserving the rocks and also regarding the ongoing maintenance of the community orchard generally.



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There was also a discussion about tree and hedgerow planning. It was suggested that rather than undertaking tree planting, it would be more useful for a working party to be formed to carry out tidying up jobs – ivy clearance, hedge trimming etc. It was also suggested that allotment holders might be contacted in the first instance.

10.3 Community Resilience

A report from Cllr Neal-Sturgess had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Neal-Sturgess reminded Councillors that they were all flood wardens, and he would be arranging a training session in the new mayoral year.

10.4 Health and Wellbeing

The Mayor had produced a report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Leask reported that the Town Council had been successful in its grant application to the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner and would be delivering a project regarding drugs education via Loudmouth Education and Training. This grant application had been made jointly with Alcester Youth Project.

Cllr M Cargill gave an update on the reformation of the Alcester Health and Wellbeing Board as the "Alcester Health and Wellbeing Partnership". This was to be launched at a meeting on 12th April. The intention was that the new Partnership would form better links with local residents and organisations to produce "ground up" ideas to improve health and wellbeing for the community.

11. Town Council Representatives

The Greig Hall – Cllr Foster reported on the recent meeting of the trustees – the focus had been the website, booking events and dealing with administrative matters such as financial regulations and data protection.

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman reported on the recent committee meeting. A new cleaner had been appointed and a meeting had been held with WCC regarding the ongoing problem parking outside the Hall. Discussions continued regarding the possible installation of a lift.

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 Forman and carried by Council.

13. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 17th April 2023 at 7 pm by Zoom.

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7 pm.

Mayor Making – Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7 pm at the Town Hall.

Annual meeting of the Council - Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.