



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JULY 2023
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

The Mayor read out a brief emailed report from Cllr Daniell (County Councillor) who had sent apologies for the meeting.

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) reported that a decision had been taken to reinstate parking permits for retirees wanting to park in Stratford. This would be done in two stages firstly in Bridgeway car park and then in the Recreation ground car park.

Cllr Foster noted that improved community transport was important for those who could not afford a car. Cllr Juned said that this remained a priority.

Cllr Juned reported that the SDC Climate Change Panel had met and reviewed the action plan. It had been noted that little had been achieved to date and it had been resolved to make progress as soon as possible. There is an initiative planned to set up a Community Climate Fund to assist low carbon community projects with grants.

Cllr Juned reported that Alcester Town Council had been praised for its participation in the SDC/WDC Climate Engagement programme.

She advised that Warwickshire County Council is to become a constituent member of West Midlands Combined Authority before the mayoral elections in 2024.

Cllr Juned updated Councillors on the situation regarding The Three Tuns. She advised that although planning applications had been received, the fees had not been paid in full and documentation was missing. Cllr Wilson pointed out that responsibility for the rebuilding rested with the owners of the property and it was unacceptable that there had been a two-year delay. The Town Clerk asked Cllr Juned to obtain a statement from SDC officers which could be shared with residents.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) and Cllr J Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West).

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by the Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Forman and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JULY 2023
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

4. Mayor's Report

The Mayor gave a summary of events he had attended during the month. The local highlights had been the Court Leet Street Party on 11th June and attending the Alcester Town FC tournament on 17th/18th June where he had presented medals. He had been delighted to attend the Alcester Garden Walkabout on 25th June and to start the Duck Race on 1st July which had raised £3000 for Alcester Bunting and Lighting

5. Town Clerk's Report

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

6. Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Mayor confirmed that he was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

There were the following propositions from the Committee:

6.1 To approve the updated Training and Development Policy dated June 2023. This was proposed by Cllr K Cargill, seconded by Cllr K Foster and carried by Council.

6.2 To approve the updated Safeguarding Policy dated June 2023. Cllr Leask suggested that this should include reference to Safeguarding training being undertaken by the Mayor for the time being. It was also agreed that reference would be made to the terms and conditions of hire for the EPCC which also included safeguarding provisions. Subject to the addition of these amendments, the amended policy was proposed by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried by Council.

6.3 To approve the updated Scheme of Delegation dated June 2023. This was proposed by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and carried by Council.

6.4 To approve the updated Publication Scheme dated June 2023. Cllr Mills proposed that reference was made to the Strategic Plan and Action Plan in the document. This was agreed and subject to these amendments, the document was proposed by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Mills and carried by Council.

7. Planning Committee

Cllr Bowe 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.

There was a discussion about the retrospective planning application for ventilation units at the Alcester Inn and Cllr Bowe explained the Committee's response.

There was a proposition from the Committee as follows:

7.1 To approve the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee.

This was proposed by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by the Mayor and carried by Council.



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JULY 2023
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

8. Lead Councillors

8.1 Health and Wellbeing

Cllr K Cargill presented her report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She noted that it was very positive to have Cllr Leask on the Working Group as she had provided excellent input in respect of health matters. Cllr K Foster asked if the community allotment could be reinstated. The Town Clerk explained that there were currently tenants on the plot but this could be considered at renewal later in the year. Cllr Bowe asked for the notes of the H&WB Partnership to be distributed – the Town Clerk will deal with this. Cllr M Cargill gave an update on the Men in Sheds project reporting that an inaugural meeting had been held to agree a constitution. Discussions on premises were continuing.

8.2 Youth Engagement

Cllrs Leask and K Foster had jointly prepared a report which had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr Leask explained that funding was being sought to cover the cost of an additional evening for the Youth Club to cater for the 14+ age range. Councillors suggested that local charities were approached for funding.

8.3 Road Safety and Speedwatch

Cllr A Foster presented his report which had been circulated in advance. He reported that regular speedwatch sessions were taking place with 6 volunteers. He was seeking to reinstate one speedwatch location on Birmingham Road. Progress has stalled with many of the issues raised with the County Council and Cllr Foster will be forming a Working Group to accumulate evidence on these issues to be able to tackle them more effectively with WCC. There was a discussion regarding various issues including school buses using School Road and parking at Alcester Grammar School. The Mayor, Cllr Henderson and Cllr Elliott agreed to join the Working Group.

9. Strategic Plan Working Group

Cllr Mills, as Chair of the Working Group, presented the draft Action Plan which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllrs Smithers and K Foster proposed some small amendments which were agreed. Subject to these amendments being added, the document was proposed for adoption by Cllr K Foster, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

It was agreed that the document would be reviewed by Full Council in November and March.

10. Climate Change

Cllr K Foster gave a report on the Alcester CAFÉ (Climate Action for Everyone) Event which had been held on 24th June. She explained that the event was funded by Stratford and Warwick DC having secured a grant for climate engagement in both districts. The event had been very successful and she thanked the Town Clerk for her work in preparing for and hosting the event on the day with Wendy Sherwood. The event allowed groups to work on specific topics - biodiversity, flooding, waste management and sustainable transport.



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JULY 2023
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

The outputs from the event had been shared with Councillors in advance of the meeting.

There was a discussion about the event and all agreed that it had been worthwhile. Cllrs Wilson, Randle, Leask, Neal-Sturgess and M Cargill agreed to join the Working Group with Cllr K Foster.

11. Website

Cllr Mills reported that the Town Council website www.alcester-tc.gov.uk had been refreshed. She thanked the Deputy Town Clerk and the IT team at Stratford DC for their extensive work on this. All Councillors agreed that the new website was much improved.

12. Allotments

It was noted that the annual judging of the allotments was due in the week commencing 7th August. It was agreed that the Mayor and Cllr Forman would do the judging this year.

13. Town Council Representatives

United Charities – Cllr K Cargill reported that the charity was still considering the purchase of two additional properties. The successful garden party from last year would be repeated this year.

The Greig Hall – Cllr Foster reported on the recent meeting of the trustees. Approval had been obtained for the Greig Hall to become an emergency assistance centre. Energy bills passed on from Stratford DC were a concern as they were very high. The Jazz Bar is being renamed and suggestions were being sought from the public.

Moor Fields Charity – Cllr A Foster reported that a number of grant applications had been considered by the charity and awards made. The charity would like to plant a tree in Moorfields Park to mark the coronation.

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 K Cargill and carried by Council.

15. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 10th July 2023 at 7 pm by Zoom.

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

Full Council - Tuesday 1st August 2023 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.