



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st AUGUST 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 Foster and E Randle.

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

Before the meeting started, the Mayor asked Councillors to have a moment of reflection to remember Brian King who had died in the previous week. The Mayor recounted that Mr King had worked with the Town Council for many years, in particular on the Eric Payne Community Centre and The Greig Hall and would be sadly missed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was a presentation from Mr John Bunting who was seeking a meeting with the Town Council Planning Committee to discuss potential locations for new car parking and a new cemetery. Cllr Bowe, the Chair of the Planning will make an appointment for the Committee to meet with Mr Bunting via the Town Clerk.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) and Cllr J Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West) jointly reported on the following issues:

- WCC will not be proceeding with membership of the WMCA at this stage.
- Cllr Juned has met with the new SDC Head of Housing, Annette Homer, who has previous experience in providing social affordable housing.
- Cllr Juned has received a briefing on UBUS and SDC are looking at how this service can be expanded.
- A new SDC Council Plan is being formulated for the next four years.
- SDC has appointed a new Climate Change Officer.
- Cllrs Juned and Harmer have been involved with casework relating to WCC matters including the parking zone outside Stone House on the High Street, traffic management and road safety on St Faiths Road, the poor condition of speed humps on Kinwarton Road and poor condition of the road at Hopkins Precinct.
- Cllr Juned is liaising with Orbit regarding poor pavements on Hertford Road.

Cllr Juned and Harmer would like to attend the ATC Flood Warden training – Cllr Neal-Sturgess confirmed that they would be very welcome.

Cllr Foster also invited both Councillors to the next Road Safety Working Group meeting on 23rd August.

Cllr Juned updated Councillors on the situation regarding The Three Tuns confirming that the necessary planning fees had now been paid. Councillors reminded Cllr Juned that at the last Council meeting, a statement had been requested from SDC on the matter – Cllr Juned will make enquiries.



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Cllr M Cargill asked if new printed calendars for the 123+ refuse collection would be provided for residents for the new year. Cllr Juned will enquire.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A Leask, K Greenaway, C Elliott and D Henderson. Apologies were also received 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 4th July 2023. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by the Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Randle 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 that he had been delighted to attend the naming ceremony for the roads on the northern section of the Bloor Homes development. The roads have been named after late Mayors of Alcester and their families had been invited to the event. He thanked Councillors for attending his Civic Service on 22nd July which had been enjoyed by everyone who had attended.

5. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no questions about the report.

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.

The Town Clerk as RFO presented the management accounts for the first quarter of 2023-24 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting with accompanying notes. These were approved and there were no questions.

There were the following propositions from the Committee:

6.1 To adopt the updated Reserves Policy dated July 2023. This document had been circulated in advance of the meeting and contained minor updating amendments only. This was proposed by Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr Randle and carried by Council.

6.2 To accept the quotation from Creative Play (UK) Limited in the sum of £17,268 plus VAT for new play equipment at Bleachfield Street play area. The Town Clerk confirmed that 5 quotes had been considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The design and elements of the scheme had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting. This proposition was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Smithers, as Lead Councillor for play areas, seconded by Cllr Bowe 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.



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Cllr Bowe gave a summary of various issues which had been discussed at the meeting including an update from Bloor Homes on their development and the plans for a review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

8. Lead Councillors

8.1 Cemetery

Cllr G Forman presented her report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She reported that the Town Clerk was still waiting to hear from the Diocese with permission to remove the remainder of the wall. The Town Clerk explained about the ongoing inspection of graves to identify those which did not meet the standards.

8.2 Business and Tourism

The Mayor presented his report which had been circulated before the meeting. This summarised the various projects and initiatives which were underway. He advised that the Events Guide was being drafted for 2024 and asked for contributions of known dates from Councillors. An Events Working Group has now been formed to work together on the organisation of town events which required road closures.

8.3 Communications, Engagement and Strategy

Cllr Mills presented her report which had been circulated in advance. The report summarised progress since the last report. Cllr Mills reminded Councillors about the "Meet the Mayor" event on the High Street on Friday 4th August between 10 am and 1 pm.

9. Climate Change

Cllr K Foster, as Chair of the Working Group, proposed that the Terms of Reference for the Group were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Randle and carried by Council.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess advised that the Flood Wardens training session had been booked for Monday 4th September at 7 pm at the EPCC.

10. Town Council Representatives

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman reported that the Hall committee had thanked the Town Council for the community grant of £800. There were plans in place for general repairs and redecoration. The AGM will be held on 21st November.

11. 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.

12. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 14th August 2023 at 7 pm. Face to face meeting.

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 29th August 2023 at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.