



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2023
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors M Bowe (Deputy Mayor), K Cargill, M Cargill, W Mills, G Forman, A Foster, A Leask, D Henderson, E Wilson, E Randle and G Smithers (after item 8.1)

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

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr M Bowe took the Chair.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) reported on the following issues:

- SDC Cabinet had approved the Infrastructure Funding Statement for 2022/23 which included the following projects in Alcester – natural flood management scheme for the rivers Alne and Arrow; Alcester Academy top field; solar panels for the EPCC; solar panels for The Greig Hall and an affordable housing project for Alcester United Charities.
- SDC Cabinet had also approved the proposals for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund including applications from the Town Council for new health and safety equipment at town events and for the renovation of the Greig Hall squash courts for use by the Alcester Community Shed.
- SDC had arranged for a peer review of the planning department at SDC – the Town Council are attending.
- Cllr Juned had met with WCC regarding public transport and bus provision. Cllr Mills thanked Cllr Juned for looking into improving services which were vital to many in the town.

The Town Clerk asked if Cllr Juned could investigate delays in the payment of s106 funds to parish and town councils.

Cllr Daniell and Cllr Harmer had issued written reports in advance of the meeting which had been circulated by email. There were no questions from Councillors.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs V Blake (Mayor) C Neal-Sturgess, K Foster and C Elliott. It was noted that Cllr Smithers would be late. Apologies were also received from Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor), and Cllr J Harmer (District Councillor). Cllr K Greenaway was absent.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2023. Cllr Foster raised a query regarding Cllr Smithers' playground report from the September meeting. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that Cllr



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Smithers would be arriving later in the meeting and would be available for questions on his report. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by the Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Deputy Mayor.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

4. Mayor's Report

The Deputy Mayor reported that the Mayor had been pleased to attend the Mayor of Whitnash's Civic Dinner and Charity Balti evening. During the month, the Mayor had held his Italian Night raising £930 for his charities. The Mayor's Civic Dinner on 29th September had been a very successful event.

The Deputy Mayor reported that prior to the meeting, he had attended the opening of the Alcester Mop Fair.

5. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that it had been a very busy month. The Town Clerk confirmed that she was already in discussion with the Royal British Legion regarding holding a beacon event on Centenary Field on 6th June 2024 for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

6. Finance & General Purposes Committee

In the absence of the Mayor who had chaired the Committee meeting, the Deputy Mayor confirmed that he was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. There were no questions about the minutes and no propositions from the Committee.

7. Planning Committee

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that he was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. There were no questions about the minutes and no propositions.

The Deputy Mayor explained that the Committee had taken the decision not to comment on future tree applications but to issue a standard response deferring to the SDC tree officer's recommendation. He explained that the Committee often did not have access to the tree in question and also had insufficient knowledge to contribute to the consultation process.

8. Lead Councillors

8.1 Footpaths

The report from Cllr Henderson had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Henderson explained that this was a follow up to his report in March. The report identified that a slab was missing on the steps to Westbury Park – the Town Clerk will deal with this.

There were some other issues which required monitoring.

The Town Clerk reported that she had received an email on Friday indicating that a complaint had been sent to the Chief Executive of WCC regarding the footpath between the Greig Leisure Centre and Jubilee Fields. As Councillors were aware, this section was not within the



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ownership of either SDC or the Town Council but it was a public footpath and as such, the responsibility of WCC. The Town Clerk said that she hoped that this long outstanding work would now be actioned by WCC. It was agreed that the tueries would be added to Cllr Henderson's inspection regime and any maintenance issues would then be referred to WCC. Cllr Henderson's next inspection will be in December 2023.

Cllr Smithers arrived and joined the meeting.

8.2 EPCC

The joint report from Cllr M Cargill and E Randle had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Cargill explained that the priority was the replacement of the leaking water supply pipe.

8.3 Open Spaces

The report from Cllr Wilson had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There was a discussion regarding the Positivity Rocks installation which had suffered ongoing damage and was now in need of action. It was agreed that the best of the "rocks" would be salvaged and relocated.

Play Areas

The Deputy Mayor asked if there were any questions from Councillors regarding Cllr Smithers's play areas report from September. There were no questions but it was agreed that for completeness, Cllr Smithers would reissue his September report with an update for discussion at the November meeting.

9. Motions from Councillors

9.1 Biodiversity Statement A motion from Cllr Wilson to adopt the Biodiversity Statement was proposed by Cllr Randle, seconded by Cllr Leask and carried by Council.

9.2 Squash Courts at the Greig Hall Cllr M Cargill explained the background regarding the proposal to renovate the squash courts to create a new community space for the Alcester Community Shed. He reported that the Shed would be set up under the international Men's Shed organisation. The proposal to create a Shed had been advertised in the newsletter and at the Community Fair and the response had been overwhelmingly positive.

A motion to set up a Working Group to develop a project plan (with terms of reference which had been circulated in advance) was proposed by Cllr K Cargill, seconded by Cllr Forman and carried by Council. It was agreed that Cllr Mills would join the Working Group.

10. Consultations from Stratford District Council

10.1 Stratford District Council Plan - The consultation received from SDC was noted and the Town Clerk advised that Councillors could submit their individual comments. Cllr M Cargill offered to assist the Town Clerk in drawing up a response on behalf of ATC which would be circulated to Councillors for comment before submission.

10.2 Statement of Community Involvement - It was agreed to refer this consultation to the Planning Committee for comment.



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10. Town Council Representatives

Church Street Property Trust – Cllrs Wilson and Cargill jointly reported that a meeting had taken place and a number of grants had been awarded for projects in Alcester. These included grants to the Town Council for the Alcester Community Shed and for an 80th anniversary D-day bench for Centenary Field.

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman reminded Councillors that the AGM was on 17th October at 7 pm.

Newport's School Foundation – The Deputy Mayor reported on the recent meeting. The Foundation had already made grants up to its annual allocation. The Foundation was still progressing the move to become a CIO.

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 M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Mills and carried by Council.

12. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Thursday 16th October 2023 at 7 pm by Zoom.

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House unless otherwise stated.

The Mayor closed the meeting.