



**A MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE AND
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON
TUESDAY 30th JANUARY 2024 AT 7.15 pm
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER**

Present

Cllr V Blake (Mayor), Cllr M Bowe (Deputy Mayor), Cllr G Forman and Cllr K Cargill.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

1. Apologies

None – all councillors present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting had been signed at Full Council.

4. Matters arising (not otherwise dealt with on the Agenda)

The Town Clerk reported that the application for the Quality Gold award had reached the triage stage. She had received some requests for clarification and additional documentation which she was dealing with.

It was noted that a councillor needed to be appointed to check the quarterly bank reconciliation as Cllr Randle had resigned. The Mayor will approach suitable councillors.

5. Staffing Issues

There was no training to report this month but the Town Clerk reported that she would be attending the SLCC conference over the following two days.

6. Finance Issues

- a. The monthly management accounts which had been circulated in advance were approved. They will be reported to Full Council this month as the Q3 figures.
- b. Allotment payments were almost complete and outstanding plots were being reallocated.
- c. The Town Clerk reported that a further grant of £44,000 had been secured from the Rural England Prosperity Fund for the Alcester Community Shed to cover the cost of the replacement roof. The formal grant documentation will need to be approved at Full Council as previously.
- d. Following the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, NALC had issued a new Legal Briefing advising that town and parish councils now have discretion to make payments to support church buildings. Previous advice had been that this was not permitted. The outcome of this advice is that churches in Alcester will now be able to apply to the ATC Community Grants fund.
- e. A donation of £6000 has been received from Bloor Homes for the Community Shed project.
- f. The quarterly VAT return has been submitted and paid.
- g. Significant payments since the last F & GP committee are the final payment for the water main replacement (£13,060), installation of insulation at the squash courts (£5588.99), installation of LED lights at EPCC (£2088.87), payment to Loudmouth Education for Police & Crime Commissioner project (£6720.00) and architectural drawings and advice for the squash courts (£2988.00).
- h. The Committee agreed to the request from the Road Safety Working Group to fund a Bushnell Velocity Speed Gun (priced around £170). This item had been recommended for use by Warwickshire police.

7. Community Grants

The draft Community Grants Policy and application form for 2024-25 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were approved. There will be a proposition to Full Council to approve both.

8. Co-option of Town Councillor

A draft Co-option Policy had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was approved with a minor amendment. There will be a proposition to Full Council to approve the policy.

9. Riverside Angling Club

The draft licence to the Riverside Angling Club had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This is a renewal of the existing licence and had been agreed by the Club. The document was agreed. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had received a copy of the Club's insurance and constitution. There will be a proposition to Full Council to authorise the Mayor to sign the licence.

10. Acquisition of BT phone box

The documentation to acquire the phone kiosk on Henley Street had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to proceed with the acquisition subject to the Town Clerk checking on the land ownership situation. There will be a proposition to Full Council to authorise the Town Clerk to sign the documentation.

11. Propositions to Full Council

There are proposition from the Committee at 7, 8, 9 and 10.

There will be agenda items for the quarterly accounts and regarding the Community Shed project. The meeting was then closed by the Mayor.