



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024  
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

Councillors M Bowe (Mayor), D Henderson (Deputy Mayor), V Blake, C Neal-Sturgess, A Foster, W Mills, G Forman, D Gordon, A Leask, M Cargill, K Cargill, R Ashfield and K Greenaway.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

None

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) reported:

- The extension to the UBUS service will not now start until November 2024.
- There is no progress on the request from residents in Station Road for a "no through road" sign.
- Residents are being encouraged to sign up to the SDC online newsletter.
- The deadline for the start of work on The Three Tuns is 7<sup>th</sup> September and Cllr Juned is keeping in touch with officers.
- The SDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee heard from representatives of the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and Warwickshire County Council regarding flooding in the District. New contact details will be forwarded to the Town Clerk.
- The SDC Climate Change Panel had met that morning and had agreed a new action plan and strategy.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs K Foster, C Elliott, L Martinson and Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor). Cllr J Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West) was absent.

**2. Minutes of Council Meetings**

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Gordon 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 attended the Merchant Navy Day event at Centenary Field on the morning of the meeting. He had been delighted to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Peter Pritchard in August. Peter was one of the founding members of the Food Festival.

**5. Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She updated councillors that Warwickshire Fire &



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Rescue had now raised enough funds to purchase 4 public access water rescue systems which would be installed in Jubilee Fields, the nature reserve and Abbey Fields.

**6. Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

The Town Clerk reported that the external auditors report had not yet been received so this item was deferred to next month.

**7. Finance & General Purposes Committee**

There had been no meeting in August.

**8. Planning Committee**

There had been no Planning Committee meeting in August.

Cllr M Cargill, as Chair, reported that a number of applications had been considered by email. These included an application for a new dwelling behind Talbot Cottage, High Street to which the Town Council had objected. Cllr Cargill explained that the Town Council had supported the application to put solar panels on the roof of St Nicholas Church but following the advice from the Conservation Officer, that the proposal was unacceptable on this listed building, the Council's support had been withdrawn. Cllr Cargill asked Cllr Juned to seek guidance on how solar panels could be installed on listed buildings in order to comply with the overall climate change policy of the District Council.

Cllr Cargill also reported that he had met with officers from Warwickshire County Council, Cllr Piers Daniell and the Town Clerk to look at the old Moorfields school site and to consider options for future development.

**9. Lead Councillors**

**9.1** It was agreed that Cllr Ruth Ashfield would be appointed as the joint Lead Councillor for Climate Change and Cllr Lauren Martinson would be appointed as the joint Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing.

**9.2 a. Play Areas**

A report from Cllr K Foster had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no questions raised.

**b. Allotments**

A report issued by the Facilities Manager had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Foster asked a question regarding the Bleachfield Street North allotment site which had been included in the SDC "Call for Sites". Cllr Henderson, who is also Steward of the Manor, reported that he had met Lord Hertford, as the Ragley Estate own the freehold of the allotment site. Lord Hertford had expressed surprise at the inclusion of the site and said that he had no plans to develop the site.

**9.3 Climate Change**

A report from Cllr Gordon had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Gordon had also circulated a draft Local Climate and Nature Action Plan for Alcester. Cllr Gordon was thanked for his work on the plan. Cllr Foster asked if landowners would be consulted on the plan and the Town Clerk confirmed that they would, as one of the stakeholders. Cllr Foster also suggested that Lead Councillors were listed as stakeholders.



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The Town Clerk explained that the Climate Change Working Group would be reformed and once they were happy with the Action Plan, it would go out for community consultation before being adopted by the Town Council in due course.

**9.4 Squash Courts**

Cllr Mills, as Chair of the Working Group, gave an update. She reported that Building Control approval had been received for the plans but some additional fire-proof cladding and a further fire door were required. In addition, a disabled parking bay was required outside the front door. This additional work had resulted in a delay in the official opening. The plan was now to hold two open days on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 12<sup>th</sup> October to allow people to view the Shed and to sign up. This would be followed by the official opening on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**10. Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Stratford on Avon District Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy**

The consultation documentation had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that there were very minor changes to the previous version. Councillors agreed that they had no comments to make. The Town Clerk will respond to the consultation.

**11. Town Council Representatives**

**11.1 The Greig Hall** - Following the termination of Cllr Greenaway’s appointment as a trustee, it was agreed that Cllr Martinson would be appointed to The Greig Hall CIO. The Town Clerk will inform the charity.

**11.2 Reports from other Town Council representatives**

**Alcester War Memorial Town Hall** – Cllr Forman reported on the recent meeting. A number of matters were still outstanding – disability access, start date for guttering, replacement back door, and double yellow lines. The work to replace the floor in the toilets had been completed. Councillors were reminded about the Heritage Open Days on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> September and the AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Food Festival** – Cllr Henderson reported that the directors had agreed to the appointment of 3 new directors. This decision would go to the members for approval.

Cllr Mills reported that she had been in contact with the Environmental Health team at SDC regarding dog mess in the town and had been sent some new signage to install in problem areas.

**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 Forman, seconded by Cllr K Cargill and carried by Council.

**13. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7 pm.

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.