



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2024
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was a presentation from Vicky Griffith, the Rural Enterprise Development Officer employed at Minerva Mill as part of the Rural Enterprise Hub pilot scheme. Ms Griffith explained that she promotes free support for local small and medium sized businesses and start-ups and signposts them to Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub, Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and Warwickshire Skills Hub. The Mayor thanked Ms Griffith for her presentation and congratulated her on the excellent start to her role.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) reported that:

- The SDC budget setting process has started and Cllr Juned is hoping for additional funding for economic development.
- The SDC Cabinet had met on Monday and had agreed to sign the Armed Forces Covenant pledge.
- Cllr Juned had been pleased to arrange a meeting for the Town Clerk and Cllr Blake with officers responsible for the management of events and licensing. These officers had reported that they were working to make resources more easily available to community groups.
- Cllr Juned had visited six of the projects which had received funding from the Community Climate Change Fund.
- As Leader of the Council, Cllr Juned had written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Deputy Prime Minister regarding changes to the winter fuel allowance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Henderson (Deputy Mayor), 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 1st October 2024. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr Elliott 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.



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4. Resignation

Councillors noted with regret the resignation of Cllr Lauren Martinson. The Town Clerk reported that she had notified Stratford District Council and posted the necessary notices on the notice boards and website.

5. Mayor's Report

The Mayor had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting which was noted.

6. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She reported that it had been an exciting month with the 5th birthday party for the Repair Café, the opening of the Alcester Community Shed and the travelling farm visit for older and younger residents.

7. 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.

Cllr Foster, who had been absent from the Committee meeting, requested that the Committee consider the procedure for co-option at the next meeting. This was agreed.

There were no other questions about the minutes and no propositions from the Committee.

It was noted that the Town Clerk will circulate a request to all Lead Councillors for expenditure for the upcoming budget process.

The Town Clerk presented the management accounts for the second quarter of 2024-25 which were approved. There were no questions about the accounts.

8. Planning Committee

Cllr M Cargill, as Chair, confirmed that he was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

Cllr Cargill gave a brief update on recent applications considered by the Committee.

There were no other questions about the minutes and no propositions from the Committee.

9. Squash Courts Working Group

Cllr Mills, as Chair, had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. She reminded Councillors that 12 months ago, she had submitted a business case to Full Council to convert the former squash courts into a home for the Alcester Community Shed. After a year's hard work by the Working Group, contractors and volunteers the project has now been completed on time and with a surplus which will allow the costs of running the Shed to be met by the Council for at least 12 months.

The Grand Opening by the Mayor took place on 25th October and Cllr Mills reported that there were now 20 members of Alcester Community Shed. The final Working Group meeting had taken place earlier in the day and the Group had now been dissolved.



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Cllr M Cargill thanked Cllr Mills for all her hard work in bringing the project to such a fantastic conclusion.

10. Lead Councillors

10.1 Community Resilience

A report from Cllr Neal-Sturgess as Lead Councillor had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

10.2 Health and Wellbeing

A report from Cllr K Cargill had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Cargill thanked Church Street Property Trust for its grant to cover the costs of the Neurodiverse Friendly Alcester project and Moorfields Charity for the grant to support the Grand Days Out project.

Cllr Cargill confirmed that the SPEND group continued to be well received and appreciated by those attending and it was hoped that they would now form a constituted group to continue the meetings.

Cllr Cargill asked Councillors to note that the Talk Cancer event was now being held on-line. The Town Clerk will ensure that details are circulated.

11. Strategic Plan

Cllr Mills presented the update report on the Action Plan for 2024-25 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She was thanked for her efforts in producing this with the Town Clerk and the document was approved as drawn.

12. MHCLG consultation - Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

There was a discussion about the questions raised in the government consultation and the Town Clerk was authorised to respond on behalf of the Council. It was noted that Councillors could also respond individually.

13. Town Council Representatives

United Charities – Cllr K Cargill reported that a new occupant had moved into the vacant property.

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman updated Councillors on matters dealt with at the AGM. Cllr Forman had been re-elected as Chair.

The Greig Hall – Cllr Foster reported that the trustees had met and had agreed to update the booking system.

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 Mills and carried by Council.

15. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 18th November 2024 at 7 pm (if required).

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 7pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.