



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2025
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) reported that on 16th December 2024, the Government had published the English Devolution White Paper. This White Paper identifies the Government's intended approach to the devolution of powers from Westminster to more local "strategic authorities". The White Paper also anticipated a Local Government Review which would result in the abolition of the remaining two-tier local government (such as District Councils) and establishing unitary government in their place.

Cllr Juned reported that Stratford District Council in conjunction with other local District and Borough Councils is alarmed that Warwickshire County Council has advised that it intends to write to the Government to seek the deferral of the scheduled May 2025 elections and to request a single Warwickshire Unitary Authority be formed as soon as possible. A press release had been issued by the District and Boroughs objecting to this proposal.

There were a number of questions from Councillors regarding a litter bin at Oversley Green, the South Warwickshire Local Plan, The Three Tuns and flooding at Mill Lane caravan park.

1. Co-option of one Town Councillor for Alcester West

Councillors heard a presentation from a candidate who had indicated that they would like to be considered for co-option.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting and the public were excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

In accordance with the Co-option Policy, Councillors then voted to co-opt a new Councillor.

The meeting resumed.

The Mayor announced that Councillors had unanimously voted to co-opt Colleen Chester as a Town Councillor for Alcester West. Mrs Chester signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Town Clerk and she then joined the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Gordon.

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor), and Cllr J Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West) were absent without apologies.



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3. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and approved by Council; they were then signed by the Mayor.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.

5. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Coventry Mayor's Civic Dinner. He had been delighted to attend the many Christmas events in Alcester.

6. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. In response to a question from Cllr A Foster, the Town Clerk explained that she had been pleased to hold a meeting with a Southam Town Councillor to offer advice regarding setting up a new community hall based on ATC's experience at The Greig Hall.

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.

There were no questions about the minutes.

There was the following proposition from the Committee:

7.1 To agree a budget of £455,245 for the financial year 2025-26. Taking into account, anticipated income of £45,125, to request a precept from Stratford-on-Avon District Council of £410,120 for the year 2025-26.

It was noted that all councillors had received the draft budget and briefing notes in advance of the meeting.

The budget and precept demand were proposed by Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council. The Town Clerk will submit the necessary paperwork to Stratford DC.

8. Planning Committee

There had been no Planning Committee meeting in December and Cllr M Cargill, as Chair, confirmed that he had nothing to report.

Cllr A Foster raised a query regarding a pending planning application for the football club. Cllr Cargill confirmed that this would be dealt with by the Committee in the usual manner.

9. Lead Councillors

9.1 Business and Tourism

A report from Cllr Blake and Cllr Elliott as Lead Councillors had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Blake reported that there was still no news on the venue for the new Banking Hub.

9.2 Youth Engagement

A report from Cllr Leask has been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Leask gave an update on the Thursday youth club sessions.



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10. Alcester Community Shed

The Early Day Motion tabled in the House of Commons on 20th November 2024 in support of the Alcester Community Shed was noted with thanks.

Part of the Motion reads:

"That this House congratulates the Alcester Community Shed volunteers, Alcester Town Council and the wider community of Alcester for their outstanding work in creating and maintaining a space that promotes creativity, learning, and social interaction."

The Town Clerk was asked to write to Dr Manuela Perteghella MP to thank her for sponsoring the Motion and for her support for the project.

11. Stratford-on-Avon District Council (Public Spaces Protection) (Dog Fouling) Order 2025 consultation.

The consultation was noted and the Town Clerk was asked to respond. She asked Councillors to advise her of "hot spots" for dog fouling so that these could be reported within the consultation response.

12. Town Council Representatives

Newport's School Foundation – Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported that the grant scheme had been reopened.

13. 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 Cargill and carried by Council.

14. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 20th January 2025 at 7 pm (if required).

Finance & General Purposes Committee – Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7pm (please note change of date from that previously published).

Full Council - Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.