



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 8th APRIL 2025
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

There were no reports as the District and County Councillors were all absent.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor). Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) was absent without apologies. Councillors noted that Cllr J Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West) had resigned although no notification to this effect had been received from Stratford District Council.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 2025. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr K Cargill, seconded by Cllr Forman 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 during the month, he had attended civic events in Shipston and Warwick. He thanked Councillors for attending his Civic Dinner and the Annual Parish Meeting. Within the town, the Mayor had attended the Rural Enterprise Hub event for farmers "Fields of Opportunity", a prostate cancer fundraiser, a Royal British Legion coffee morning, two concerts of the Alcester Male Voice Choir and the ATC Community Engagement Event at the Community Fridge.

5. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She answered a question from Cllr Ashfield regarding the proposed community event to remove Himalayan Balsam from the riverbanks explaining that this was an initiative from a resident. She also replied to a question from Cllr Foster regarding problem parking which had been notified to the local police.

The Town Clerk formally reported that Cllr K Foster had resigned on 5th March 2025 and Cllr C Elliott had resigned on 8th April 2025. The Town Clerk will notify Stratford District Council and post the required notices.



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6. 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 and no propositions from the Committee.

7. 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 with a small amendment in the paragraph about the Neighbourhood Plan update.

Cllr Chester asked a question about the vacant site on Seggs Lane. It was agreed that the Town Clerk will write to the owner to enquire about their intentions regarding the site.

8. Lead Councillors

8.1 Community Resilience

A report from Cllr Neal-Sturgess as Lead Councillor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the work on Flood Guardians was on hold for the time being due to staff time constraints. There was a discussion about the recent training which had been undertaken. The Town Clerk will ask the Deputy Town Clerk to confirm if further opportunities are available for volunteers to complete this.

8.2 Footpaths

A report from the Deputy Mayor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the weather had changed considerably since the inspection had taken place. Now that they had dried out, the previous very wet conditions had left some pathways rutted and uneven. It was noted that quotes were being obtained for the upgrade to the footpaths on Weir Fields. The Town Clerk explained that she was also investigating the recently announced WCC Highways Community Action Fund to establish whether that might support further upgrade work.

9. Community Grants

Cllr Mark Cargill, the chair of the Working Group, reported that the Group had met on 3rd April to consider the 17 applications which had been submitted by the deadline. A report of the grants awarded had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This report was approved by Council and it was noted that the grants will be formally announced at the Mayor Making on 6th May.

10. Town Council Representatives

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman reported that the Hall was seeking donations for its hanging baskets. The quinquennial inspection report had been received which identified work which was required but commended the trustees on the condition of the building. The installation of the double yellow lines is still outstanding.



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Newport's School Foundation – Cllr Neal-Sturgess reported that the trustees had met to sign the CIO documentation. The process was moving towards a conclusion with the assets being transferred across to the CIO.

The Greig Hall CIO – Cllr Mills reported that the AGM had been held on 19th March. It had been a successful year for the Hall and the trustees were now planning improvements to the building.

United Charities – Cllr K Cargill reported that the trustees had met on 7th April. The charity's finances were in a healthy position. The charity is advertising for a new clerk and looking to co-opt a new trustee.

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 Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

12. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 14th April 2025 at 7 pm (if required).

Finance & General Purposes Committee – Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 7 pm.

Mayor Making – Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7 pm at Alcester War Memorial Town Hall.

Annual Meeting of the Council - Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House except for the Mayor Making

The Mayor closed the meeting.