

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting took place at the Eric Payne Community Centre on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7pm.

Welcome and Chairman

The Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Mike Bowe, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

The Town Clerk reported that she had received apologies from Cllr David Henderson, Cllr Andrew Foster and Cllr Corin Elliott.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 were confirmed as a true record on a proposition by Cllr Clive Neal-Sturgess and seconded by Cllr Wendy Mills. The Mayor signed the minutes.

3. Report from Alcester Town Council

The Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council, a printed copy of which was supplied for all attendees. The Mayor confirmed that the Annual Report would be available on the Town Council website after the meeting.

He introduced the Town Council staff and thanked them for all their work during the year. He thanked all the councillors for their support during his mayoral year.

The Mayor picked out highlights from the Annual Report including the Rural Enterprise Hub which has been developed at Minerva Mill, the SPEND support group for parents of children with special needs and the Repair Café which had celebrated its 5th birthday in October 2024.

The Mayor reported on the winners at the Civic Awards in January 2025. Mrs Maggie Payne had been named as Citizen of the Year, Church Street Property Trust as Community Organisation of the Year and Waitrose, Alcester as Business of the Year. The joint winners of the Young Person of the Year award were Louie Styler, Monty Payne and Jacob Woodfield.

The Mayor thanked those councillors who had left the Council during the year – Erick Wilson, Vaughan Blake, Gavin Smithers and Kathrin Foster. He also welcomed Cllr Ruth Ashfield and Cllr Colleen Chester who had been co-opted to the Council.

He also thanked Ms Sarah Duran who had retired as Deputy Town Clerk and welcomed her successor, Mrs Kyla Brown who had joined the Council in September 2024.

4. Accounts

The Town Clerk confirmed that accounts had been received from Church Street Property Trust, Newport's School Foundation and Alcester United Charities. She confirmed that the accounts would be available for inspection at the Town Council offices and on the Town Council website.

5. Alcester Organisations

The Mayor then opened the floor to representatives from various Alcester organisations who presented on their activities during the year:

1. Andrew Matheson – The Greig Hall CIO
2. Nigel Curtis – Alcester & Bidford Rotary
3. Mike Dean – Alcester and District Community First Responders
4. David Tilley – Alcester Bowling Club
5. Richard Slatter – Oversley Green Residents Association
6. Maggie Payne – Alcester in Bloom
7. Chris Newitt – Alcester Bunting and Lighting Executive
8. Mark Cargill – Alcester Community Shed
9. Gill Forman – Alcester War Memorial Town Hall
10. Wendy Mills – Alcester Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group
11. Tracy Parkes – Alcester Court Leet
12. Susan Juned – Alcester Heritage Trust
13. Susan Juned – Litter Free Alcester
14. Susan Juned – Alcester Youth Project
15. Gary Williams – Alcester Town Football Club
16. Clive Neal-Sturgess - Newport's School Foundation
17. Matthew Turvey – Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
18. Andrew Deeks – Alcester United Charities
19. Roger Pemberton – Alcester and District Lions
20. Vaughan Blake – Heart of England Town Criers Association
21. Vaughan Blake – Alcester Civic Society
22. Tara Parker – FACES for All CIC
23. Elizabeth Lake – Alcester Food Festival

The Mayor asked everyone to applaud the organisations who had presented their reports. He thanked them for the fantastic work that they did and said that it had been a pleasure to host the evening.

6. Open Forum

The Town Clerk reported that no questions had been received in advance.

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.30 pm and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

45 people in attendance.