



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2026
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

Councillors Cllrs D Henderson (Mayor), G Forman (Deputy Mayor), M Bowe, C Neal-Sturgess, C Chester, W Mills, D Gordon, J Andrews, M Cargill, K Cargill, K Greenaway, A Leask and V Holyland.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk, Cllr J Norris (County Councillor), Cllr S Juned (District Councillor) and Cllr T Ballinger (District Councillor)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr T Ballinger (District Councillor for Alcester West) reported on recent casework regarding bins at Henley Court. He confirmed that confidential discussions were continuing regarding The Three Tuns. He will update the Town Council as soon as he is able to do so. Cllr Ballinger had also reported incidents of fly tipping and flooding in School Road car park. Cllr Ballinger recommended that Councillors follow him on Facebook where he regularly posts updates.

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) had sent a written report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She reported that Stratford-on-Avon DC had set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 23 February. The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £174.18, an increase of 2.99%. Amongst other things, the SDC budget makes provision for health screening events, Climate Change Fund, VASA volunteer driver scheme and a mitigation fund to support residents struggling with the cost of living.

Cllr J Norris (County Councillor for Alcester) had sent a written report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He reported on the latest school traffic summit organised by Manuela Perteghella MP which had included discussions about Gerard Road, Ragley Mill Lane and St Faiths Road. In response to a question from Cllr Holyland, Cllr Norris confirmed that a joint letter would be sent regarding school buses using School Road. Cllr Norris reported that WCC were continuing with the proposal to close Great Alne Primary School. Cllr Andrews reported that the statistics provided to her by WCC did not support the WCC statement that there were vacancies in Alcester primary schools. Cllr Norris reported that the WCC budget had been set for 2026-27 after 2 days of debate. He confirmed that the proposal for on-street Pay & Display parking in Alcester was not included. He also confirmed that grants for youth clubs were retained.

Cllr M Cargill asked a question about the reporting of potholes and the time taken to action such reports. Cllr Norris is happy to report to WCC if this will help.



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1. Co-option of a Town Councillor for Alcester East

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 Lucinda Boyd as a Town Councillor for Alcester East. Ms Boyd signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Town Clerk and she then joined the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies with reasons had been received from Cllrs R Ashfield and S Bardha. These apologies were accepted by Council.

3. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Andrews 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 thanked everyone for making the Civic Awards evening such a success. He reported that he had been to a number of events in the month including a silent disco organised by the Mayor of Stratford, the Birmingham Military Tattoo, the Pershore Mayor's Civic Service and a number of coffee mornings for Alcester Day Care. Within the town, he had been delighted to start the pancake races and to open Earles estate agents new offices. The Deputy Mayor reported that she had opened the new Powerhouse Gym in Alcester.

6. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no questions about the report.

7. Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Deputy Mayor, as Chair, confirmed that she was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

There were no questions about the minutes.

There were the following propositions from the Committee:

7.1 To approve the annual Risk Assessment of the Council.

This was proposed by Cllr Andrews, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.



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7.2 To approve the Data Protection Policy dated March 2026.

This was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried by Council.

7.3 To approve the updated Document Retention Policy dated March 2026.

This was proposed by Cllr Howells, seconded by Cllr Mills and carried by Council.

8. Planning Committee

There had not been a Planning Committee meeting in February.

Cllr Mills, as Vice-Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group reported on the outcome of the Regulation 14 consultation process. The only significant amendment was the re-instatement of policy HBE5 supporting specialist accommodation. Cllr Mills explained that once the documentation was updated, the Town Clerk will submit it all to Stratford District Council who will then arrange for an independent examination.

Cllr Mills thanked the Town Clerk for all her work on this project and confirmed that it was still hoped to complete it by July 2026.

9. Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire.

The Town Clerk had prepared a briefing paper on this topic which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that Councillors were requested to submit their own personal responses to the government consultation.

Councillors agreed to submit a formal response on behalf of Alcester Town Council in the terms of the draft provided in advance of the meeting by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk will submit the response.

10. Lead Councillors/Working Groups

10.1 Eric Payne Community Centre

A report from Cllr M Cargill as Lead Councillor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Cargill confirmed that his main focus was on a project to install solar panels on the Centre. It was hoped that the SDC Climate Change Fund would be suitable.

10.2 Community Resilience Flood Panel

A report from the Flood Panel which had been circulated in advance of the meeting was noted. Cllr Bowe updated Councillors on progress with the statutory agencies and confirmed that nine Flood Watchers had now been recruited. Cllr M Cargill asked if river level monitoring was a possibility. Cllr Bowe confirmed that this could be added to discussions with the Environment Agency.

11. Town Council Representatives

Church Street Property Trust – Cllr M Cargill reported on grants which had recently been made including to The Crafty Lunch Club, Alcester Town Council (for the Visit Alcester website) and to Fortitude School.

Royal British Legion – Cllr M Cargill reported on plans for the 105th birthday of the branch. He also reported that the total collected in last year's poppy appeal was £15,347.



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Moorfields Charity- Cllr Bowe reported that he had been elected as Vice-Chair. There were some administrative issues with the charity which were being addressed.

Cllr Chester reported that Alcester Bowls Club were holding a coffee morning in aid of the Mayor's charity on 20th March at 11am at the Unionist Club.

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

13. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 16th March 2026 at 7pm (if required).

Finance & General Purposes Committee – Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7pm

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7pm at the Eric Payne Community Centre.

Full Council - Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7pm.

All meetings at Globe House except where otherwise stated.

The Mayor closed the meeting.