

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – APRIL 2026

Actions/Issues arising from Full Council

- Consultation response to MHCLG on Warwickshire LGR submitted. Copied to Cllrs Juned, Ballinger and Norris.
- Annual Risk Assessment uploaded to website.
- Data Protection Policy uploaded to website.
- Updated Document Retention Policy uploaded to website.
- Paperwork submitted to SDC re co-option of Cllr Lucinda Boyd

ATC Operations

- Burials/interments in March 2026 – one burial.
- Income from EPCC in March 2026 - £1520 plus VAT.
- Window Wanderland.
The event this year proved a real challenge to everyone involved. Whilst the windows produced were lovely, many of them were the direct result of the personal encouragement and “hands on” participation of Cllr Alison Leask. Staff spent many hours managing the project behind the scenes. It was not felt that there was any benefit in participating in the national event and this simply took more staff time. Time which was not really available. It has become clear that elsewhere Window Wanderland is run by community groups and/or individuals – ATC seems to be the only town/parish council involved. It has been agreed to pause Window Wanderland for 2027 unless a community group comes forward to run it.
- Civic Dinner
A lovely evening on 20th March. It was a shame that there were not more councillors who could attend.
- Annual Parish Meeting
Thank you to all councillors who attended the APM last night. An excellent turnout to what was a great evening. It is interesting that elsewhere in the country, APM's are poorly attended whereas in Alcester, we had 22 groups all wanting to report on their activities.
- Holiday Lunch Club – the usual lunch club is taking/has taken place on 1st April and 8th April.
- The Community Grants Working Group met on 31st March to allocate community grants.
- The Mayor and I were delighted to attend the opening of the Alcester Town FC clubhouse on 21st March.

- Crisis Resilience Fund

Message received from SDC as follows:

You may be aware that the Government has announced the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF), which provides additional financial support for low income residents experiencing financial shock and struggling to meet essential costs.

Warwickshire has been identified as an area with a higher reliance on heating oil and will receive an additional allocation of CRF funding to support people who are facing difficulties with heating oil costs.

Initially, support will be provided through the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme, administered by Warwickshire County Council. Each application will be considered on an individual basis, taking account of the person's circumstances.

For residents applying for help with heating oil costs, advisers will discuss when they usually purchase oil, how they purchase it, the typical price they would expect to pay, and why they are currently unable to meet the cost. We recognise that recent price increases have been sudden and this will be considered as part of the assessment. Residents are advised to contact the Local Welfare Scheme on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.

- Meeting with SDC Community Safety Team and Warwickshire Police

Cllr Tom Ballinger arranged a meeting with SDC and the police to discuss issues in Alcester on 7th April. The clear advice was that councillors and residents are encouraged to report all crime via 101 (or 999 in an emergency). If the police do not know about something or have no evidence, they cannot take any action.

There is a specific reporting mechanism for speeding <https://warksspeedconcerns.org/>
There has been considerable correspondence regarding the ongoing parking situation at Ragley Mill Lane. The police are happy to act in the event of unlawful parking but need evidence to take any action. Residents are encouraged to take (dated and timed) photographs.

- I was pleased to present to the Greig Hall trustees on 4th March on the implications of Martyn's Law for the Hall.

External meetings attended

Meeting with SDC re potential transfer of assets – 3rd March (response awaited)

The Greig Hall CIO Trustees meeting – 4th March

Alcester Town FC clubhouse opening – 21st March

SLCC branch meeting – 24th March

Meeting with Low Bailiff re future events – 27th March

Vanessa Lowe

Town Clerk

8th April 2026