



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Alcester Town Council was held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at The Alcester War Memorial Town Hall, Alcester.

The Retiring Mayor, Cllr David Henderson took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present

Councillors D Henderson, G Forman, R Ashfield, K Cargill, M Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, A Leask, C Chester, D Gordon, M Bowe, W Mills, V Holyland and L Boyd.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

1. Election of Mayor

Cllr David Henderson, the Retiring Mayor, confirmed that, in accordance with Standing Order 5e, Cllr Gill Forman was automatically elected as Mayor by virtue of her role as Deputy Mayor for the year 2025-2026.

Cllr Gill Forman was therefore duly elected as Mayor for the year 2026-2027.

2. Acceptance of Office

Cllr Forman read and signed the acceptance of office as Mayor which was witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The Retiring Mayor presented the chain of office to Cllr Forman.

The Mayor took the Chair and said that she was very proud to be elected as Mayor of Alcester particularly in the 50th anniversary year of the creation of the Town Council. She thanked her fellow councillors for their support and said that she looked forward to the coming year with enthusiasm.

3. Apologies

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr K Greenaway.

Cllr Bardha and Cllr Andrews were unexpectedly delayed and sent apologies by email which were received after the meeting.

Cllr Juned and Cllr Ballinger also sent apologies.

4. Presentation of Mayor's Consort's Chain

The Retiring Mayor's Consort presented the chain to Mr Tim Forman.

5. Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor reported that, in accordance with Standing Order 5e, only one nomination had been received by the Town Clerk for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Ruth Ashfield was therefore duly elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2026-2027.

6. Acceptance of Office

Cllr Ashfield read and signed the acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor which was witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The Mayor presented Cllr Ashfield with the chain of office.

Cllr Ashfield said that it was an honour to be elected as Deputy Mayor and thanked her fellow councillors for their support. She said that she looked forward to supporting the Mayor during her term of office.

7. Presentation of Deputy Mayor's Consort's Chain

The Mayor's Consort presented the Deputy Mayor's Consort's chain to Mr Martin Ashfield.

8. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Henderson for his year as Mayor and said that he would be a hard act to follow. She reported that Cllr Henderson had attended over 125 events during his mayoral year. She thanked Mrs Lesley Henderson, the Retiring Mayor's Consort for her support during the year together with the rest of the Henderson family. She recounted the many fundraising events which had taken place in aid of Alcester Day Care.

The Mayor allowed Mrs Carole Zambonini to express her thanks on behalf of Alcester Day Care. Mrs Zambonini thanked Cllr Henderson for his dedication, energy and commitment and presented him with a gift made by attendees of the day care service.

9. Reply by Retiring Mayor

Cllr Henderson thanked the Mayor for her kind words and congratulated her and the Deputy Mayor on their election. He thanked everyone who had helped him during the year including the other Civic Heads, his fellow Councillors, the Town Council staff, the community of Alcester and finally his wife, Lesley.

Cllr Henderson was delighted to announce that he had raised £19,584 for Alcester Day Care during his mayoral year.

10. Presentation of Past Mayor's Badge

The Mayor presented a Past Mayor's Badge to Cllr Henderson.

11. Annual Report of the Town Council

The Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council for the year 2025-2026. Hard copies were available at the meeting or via the Town Council website.

12. Presentation of grants

The Mayor read out the list of community grants awarded to local organisations for the year 2026-2027 totalling £12,000.

The amounts awarded were: The Crafty Lunch Club (£1000); Alcester Youth Choir (£500); Alcester War Memorial Town Hall (£1000); Alcester & District Community First Responders (£1155); The Greig Hall CIO (£1083); Alcester Male Voice Choir (£500); Alcester Bowling Club (£300); Alcester Court Leet (£250); Alcester Town Walking Football Club (£400); Oversley Green Residents Association (£302); Alcester Town Football Club (£1000); Alcester Singers (£350); Alcester Bunting and Lighting (£1000); The Shakespeare Hospice (£200); 1st Alcester Scout Group (£1000); Arden Food Bank (£500); Run Alcester (£500); Alcester Day Care (£960).

13. Mayoral Charity for 2026-2027

The Mayor confirmed that, as announced last year, she would continue to raise funds for Alcester Day Care during her mayoral year. She had a number of events already planned including a quiz night, an event for Chinese New Year and hopefully another ERA Boys concert. She explained that Cllr Henderson and herself had set a target to complete 100 coffee mornings during their two years in office. She hoped to complete this target and asked for everyone's support in holding coffee mornings.

The remaining items on the agenda were deferred to a meeting of the Council to be held the following week at the discretion of the Mayor.

The Mayor thanked visitors for attending and invited everyone to stay for refreshments. The Mayor announced that this informal part of the evening would constitute a "coffee morning" in aid of Alcester Day Care.
A total of £76.08 was collected in donations.

The next full meeting of Alcester Town Council is to be held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.