



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Present

Councillors G Forman (Mayor), R Ashfield (Deputy Mayor), K Cargill, M Bowe M Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, C Chester, J Andrews, S Bardha and L Boyd.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

None.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) reported that Stratford District Council had been identified as No. 1 for recycling in the country. She was pleased to report that the proposed sale of Orchard House on the Greig Hall site, to Alcester Day Care, was due to be approved at SDC Cabinet in June. Cllr Juned updated Councillors on the South Warwickshire Local Plan, explaining that the next stage was the Regulation 19 (Publication) Stage which was due to commence in June 2026. She confirmed that a decision was expected from Government on unitary authorities in July. Finally, she confirmed that the Home Choice Plus scheme had been updated and leaflets would be delivered to all residents.

There were questions from councillors regarding Home Choice Plus, EV charging points and textile recycling.

Cllr T Ballinger (Ward Member for Alcester West) thanked the Deputy Town Clerk and Alcester United Charities for their assistance in supporting a resident of Malt Mill Lane. He reported that he had attended a meeting with Orbit regarding service charges on their properties. He had met with High Street retailers and also the police to discuss various Alcester issues.

1. Apologies

Apologies with reasons had been received from Cllrs D Henderson, W Mills, K Greenaway, V Holyland, A Leask and D Gordon. These apologies were accepted by Council. Apologies were also received from Cllr J Norris (County Councillor).

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2026. They were proposed to be accepted by the Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr Chester 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. Appointment of Lead Councillors

The following Lead Councillors were appointed:

Planning	Cllr Mark Cargill
Cemetery and Play Areas	Cllr Gill Forman
Allotments	Cllr Keith Greenaway
Health and Wellbeing	Cllr Kathryn Cargill Cllr Alison Leask Cllr Vicki Holyland
Communications, Engagement and Corporate Strategy	Cllr Wendy Mills
Flooding	Cllr Colleen Chester
Public Footpaths	Cllr David Henderson
Eric Payne Community Centre	Cllr Mark Cargill
Open Spaces	Cllr Dougie Gordon
Business and Tourism	Cllr Ruth Ashfield Cllr Jo Andrews
Climate Change	Cllr S Bardha Cllr L Boyd

5. Town Council Committees

Membership of Committees was confirmed as:

- a. Finance and General Purposes Committee
Cllrs G Forman (Chair), R Ashfield, D Henderson and K Cargill
- b. Planning Committee
Cllrs M Cargill (Chair), C Neal-Sturgess, G Forman, W Mills, D Gordon, D Henderson, S Bardha, L Boyd
- c. Staffing Committee
Cllrs D Henderson (Chair), R Ashfield, K Cargill, A Leask

6. Dates of Meetings

The list of meeting dates for 2026-2027 was approved.

7. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended the Pershore Town Council Civic Dinner. The Deputy Mayor had attended the Evesham Town Council Mayor Making.

8. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She reported to Councillors that she was concerned about the increasing vandalism locally particularly at Jubilee Fields. These incidents were being reported to the police.

9. Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Mayor, as Chair of the Committee, 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. The Town Clerk presented the year-end accounts for 2025-26 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. These were agreed by Councillors and signed by the Mayor. It was noted that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) should be available for signing at the June Full Council meeting.

There were no propositions from the Committee.

10. Planning Committee

There had not been a Committee meeting in April and the Chair had nothing to report.

11. Strategic Plan

In the absence of Cllr Mills, the Town Clerk presented the update report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This was approved. She also presented the draft Action Plan for 2026-2027 and asked Councillors to submit suitable additional items to the Town Clerk by 22nd May.

12. Neighbourhood Governance

The response from Dr Manuela Perteghella MP to the letter from the Town Council was noted. The Town Clerk explained that the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act had received Royal Assent and the amendments proposed by WALC and supported by the Town Council had not been accepted.

13. Town Council Representatives

The Greig Hall- Cllr Andrews reported that, due to other commitments, she was resigning as a Trustee with immediate effect. The Town Clerk will report to the Chair. The Council will need to fill the vacancy.

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – The Mayor was delighted to report that the long-awaited double yellow lines had been completed outside the Hall.

Alcester United Charities – Cllr K Cargill reported that the charity's annual accounts had been signed. Trustees were considering whether to convert to a CIO.

14. 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 K Cargill and carried by Council.

15. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee – Monday 19th May at 7 pm (if needed).

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 26th May at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 2nd June at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.