



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7th JULY 2026
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER**

Present

Councillors G Forman (Mayor), K Cargill, M Cargill, L Boyd, W Mills, K Greenaway, A Leask, D Gordon, D Henderson, M Bowe and S Bardha.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

None.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr J Norris (County Councillor) and Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) were absent but had sent written reports which were noted.

Cllr T Ballinger (Ward Member for Alcester West) reported on various case work which he had undertaken during the previous month. In particular, he had reported weeds and pavement problems with Warwickshire County Council. He had lodged an objection to the pending planning application for 9 properties on Allimore Lane.

1. Apologies

Apologies with reasons had been received from Cllrs R Ashfield, C Chester and J Andrews. These apologies were accepted by Council. Cllr V Holyland was absent. Apologies were also received from Cllr J Norris (County Councillor) and Cllr S Juned (District Councillor).

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026. They were proposed to be accepted by the Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr K Cargill 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. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended civic events in Evesham and Warwick and Armed Forces Day in Alcester. She had been pleased to present Bee Hotels to schools in Alcester as part of the Alcester Connected for Climate and Nature project. The Mayor had attended the Alcester Town FC tournament on 19th and 20th June and had been very pleased to present a trophy to the Alcester Town FC under 10's team. The Mayor thanked those who had attended her quiz which had raised £900 for her charity. The

Mayor reminded Councillors that the late Cllr Clive Neal-Sturgess' funeral would be held on Friday 10th July at 2.30 pm at St Nicholas Church.

5. Town Clerk's Report

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

6. Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Committee meeting scheduled for June had been cancelled.

The Town Clerk reported that the AGAR and supporting papers had now been submitted to Moore UK, the external auditors. The period for the public inspection of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026 ran from 4th June 2026 to 15th July 2026. She confirmed that the formal notices advertising this period had been posted on the noticeboards and on the website as required.

7. Planning Committee

Cllr M Cargill, as Chair, confirmed that he was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. Cllr Cargill summarised recent applications which had been discussed by the Committee.

Cllr Mills, as Vice-Chair, gave an update on the progress of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

There was a proposition from the Committee:

7.1 To approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Committee. This was proposed by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Boyd and carried by Council.

8. Review of the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Mills, as Vice-Chair of the Steering Group, reported on the progress of the review. She explained that the NDP was submitted to Stratford on Avon DC on 24th April but no acknowledgement was received until 26th May. SDC are obliged to undertake the Regulation 16 consultation but argued in turn that this could not be done until the conclusion of the Kinwarton by-election, the conclusion of the South Warwickshire Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation and finally that it received the approval of the SDC Cabinet. As a result of this series of delays, the consultation cannot now be approved to commence until after 7th September. Cllr Mills explained that SDC's decision had been challenged forcefully by the Town Clerk but to no avail.

Councillors expressed their disappointment at the continued delay but accepted the advice of the Town Clerk that there was no further action which could be taken.

9. Crime and Disorder Statement

The Town Clerk presented an updated version of the Crime and Disorder Statement. This was proposed to be approved by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council. The Town Clerk will post it on the website.

10. Abbey Fields Management Plan

The Town Clerk presented the Abbey Fields and Priory Meadow Management Plan. This was proposed to be approved by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by the Mayor and carried by Council. Councillors agreed that the site was a

valuable asset to the town and that the Council should look for opportunities to explain its history in the future.

11. Lead Councillors

11.1 Allotments

It was agreed that the Mayor and Cllr Boyd would undertake the allotment judging this year.

11.2 Health and Wellbeing

A report from Cllr K Cargill, Cllr Leask and Cllr Holyland had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Cargill reported that the volunteers from the various health and wellbeing projects had been thanked with a trip to Compton Verney. Cllr Leask updated councillors on the youth club reporting that the air conditioning in the Depot had proved invaluable for the young people in the recent hot weather. It was agreed that a thank you event for the youth club volunteers would be suggested.

11.3 Communications and Corporate Strategy

A report from Cllr Mills had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Mills reported that the engagement events at the Community Fridge had now been set for 19th and 25th July. Councillors were reminded to reply to Cllr Mills regarding their attendance. Cllr Mills reported that she had been working with the Town Clerk to start preparing for the new Corporate Strategy for 2027-2031. It was intended to include a residents' survey in the September newsletter. She would also be asking for assistance in surveying residents in person on the High Street in due course.

12. Town Council Representatives

The Greig Hall- It was agreed that Cllr Gordon would be appointed as the new Trustee of The Greig Hall CIO. The Town Clerk will notify the Chair. Cllr Mills reported that the community grant from ATC had been used to replace the kitchen window.

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – The Mayor reported on the recent committee meeting on 19th June. The Council was thanked for its community grant of £1000 which had been used to purchase new chairs. The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 showed a healthy profit.

Newport's School Foundation – Cllr Bowe reported that the end of year accounts had been distributed and discussed.

Moorfields – Cllr Bowe reported that the charity was in a transitional phase but was due to meet on 13th July to finalise recent changes.

13. Payment of Accounts

The Town Clerk presented the Payment of Accounts for the preceding month. The accounts were proposed to be approved by Cllr Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried by Council.

14. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee – Monday 14th July at 7 pm.

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 28th July at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 4th August at 7 pm.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.