



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Alcester Town Council was held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at The Alcester War Memorial Town Hall, Alcester.

The Retiring Mayor, Cllr Vaughan Blake took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Blake announced that he had raise £2500 during his term of office and presented payments of £1250 to each of his two nominated charities – Kissing it Better and Alcester & District Community First Responders.

Present

Councillors V Blake, M Bowe, K Cargill, G Forman, M Cargill, C Neal-Sturgess, K Greenaway, W Mills, A Leask, C Elliott, D Henderson, A Foster, K Foster, E Wilson and D Gordon.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

Mr Jim Kenyon raised a concern regarding the removal of a section of hedgerow at Allimore Lane by developers. The Mayor said that the Town Clerk would respond to Mr Kenyon directly after the meeting.

1. Election of Mayor

Cllr Vaughan Blake, the Retiring Mayor, confirmed that, in accordance with Standing Order 5e, Cllr Mike Bowe was automatically elected as Mayor by virtue of his role as Deputy Mayor for the year 2023-2024.

Cllr Mike Bowe was therefore duly elected as Mayor for the year 2024-2025.

2. Acceptance of Office

Cllr Bowe 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 Bowe.

The Mayor took the Chair and said that he was very grateful to his fellow councillors for giving him the honour of being elected as Mayor of Alcester.

He said that he would uphold that trust to serve the community. He

thanked his wife, Mrs Sue Bowe, for joining him as his consort for the year.

The Mayor said that he would do his best to promote this amazing town with such fantastic community spirit, represented by the magnificent volunteers who support so many events.

The Mayor noted that whilst everyone enjoyed living in a beautiful rural area, it did produce challenges for residents with inequalities in public transport, affordable housing, prospects for young people and for local businesses seeking to expand. He looked forward to collaborating with councillors and local businesses to seek to address these issues.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies from Councillors as they were all present. The Town Clerk read a list of apologies received from invited guests.

4. Presentation of Mayor's Consorts Chain

The Retiring Mayor's Consort presented the chain to Mrs Sue Bowe.

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 David Henderson was therefore duly elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2024-2025.

6. Acceptance of Office

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

The Mayor presented Cllr Henderson with the chain of office.

Cllr Henderson said that it was an honour and a pleasure to be elected as Deputy Mayor. He congratulated the Mayor on his election and said that he would prioritise support for the Mayor during his year of office. He looked forward to working with his fellow councillors and the community.

7. Presentation of Deputy Mayor's Consorts Chain

The Mayor's Consort presented the Deputy Mayor's Consort's chain to Mrs Lesley Henderson.

8. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Blake for his year as Mayor and said that it had been a privilege to serve as his deputy. He had been astonished at the energy, enthusiasm and hard work that Cllr Blake and his consort had put into the year and said that they would be a hard act to follow.

9. Reply by Retiring Mayor

Cllr Blake thanked the Mayor for his kind words. He said that he had really enjoyed his year as Mayor which had been an honour and a privilege. He had met so many people both in Alcester and further afield. He thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for their hard work and support throughout the year. He particularly thanked the Deputy Town Clerk, Sarah Duran who would be retiring in June and had been responsible for the mayoral diary and civic events during the year. The Mayor thanked the mayors of Warwickshire and Worcestershire for their camaraderie.

Cllr Blake said that he was very proud to have been Mayor of Alcester in the year when Alcester Town Council was awarded the Quality Gold award, one of only 54 councils in the country to have achieved this standard. Finally, he thanked his wife for her support throughout the year.

10. Presentation of Past Mayor's Badge

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

11. Annual Report of the Town Council

The Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council for the year 2023-2024. 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 2024-2025 totalling £12,000.

The amounts awarded were: Alcester Bowling Club (£500); Alcester & Avon District Girl Guides (£500); SPARK Youth Music (£450); Alcester Trades & Labour Angling Club (£500); Jubilee Court Social Club (£500); ILEAP Charity (£180- this project also received a donation of £880 from Cllr K Cargill's mayoral charity collection from 2022-23); Alcester Town Football Club (£1000); Alcester Bunting and Lighting (£1000); Alcester War Memorial Town Hall (£1000); Heart of England Town Criers (£500); Citizens Advice South Warwickshire (£1000); Run Alcester (£1250); Oversley Green Residents Association (£400); Alcester & District Community First Responders (£685); Warwickshire Vision (£735); Alcester Community Fridge (£1000); Alcester in Bloom (£500); Alcester Singers (£300).

13. Mayoral Charity for 2024-2025

The Mayor announced that his nominated charity would be The Crafty Lunch Club. Mrs Ali Buchanan gave a brief presentation on the charity which runs a weekly lunch and craft session for adults with physical and learning disabilities. The Mayor said that he hoped that those attending the meeting would attend his fundraising events during the year.

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 then invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

The next full meeting of Alcester Town Council is to be held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.