



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024  
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

Councillors V Blake (Mayor), M Bowe (Deputy Mayor), K Cargill, M Cargill, W Mills, G Forman, C Neal-Sturgess, C Elliott, A Foster, A Leask, G Smithers, D Gordon and D Henderson.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was no public participation.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) reported on the following issues:

- SDC Cabinet has approved the Open Spaces SPD which will bring future control of most open space back to parish/town councils or the District Council. A recent report of the Competition and Markets Authority had highlighted the issues arising from developers maintaining such open spaces. It was noted that regrettably this provision will not be retrospective. It was also noted that Cllr M Cargill and Cllr G Forman had started worked on this issue when they had been District Councillors.
- A new CIL allocation mechanism has been approved.
- At SDC Full Council there will be notice of motion to give support to the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge. It was noted that Alcester Town Council had already signed this pledge but is one of only 1000 councils nationwide to do so.
- SDC has appointed a new Open Spaces officer.

Cllr Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West) had submitted a written report which will be emailed to Councillors after the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr E Wilson, Cllr K Foster and Cllr J Harmer (District Councillor). Cllr K Greenaway and Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) were absent.

**2. Minutes of Council Meetings**

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Elliott 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's diary of meetings is an appendix to these minutes. The Mayor said that he had particularly enjoyed visiting Our Lady's school to judge the Easter bonnets.



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**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 about the report.

**6. Finance & General Purposes Committee**

The Mayor confirmed that he was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed. There were no questions about the minutes and no propositions.

**7. Planning Committee**

The Deputy Mayor, as Chair of the Committee, reported that the minutes from the preceding month had been signed at the Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April. There were no questions about the minutes and no propositions.

**8. Community Grants**

Cllr Mark Cargill, the chair of the Working Group, reported that the Group had met on 11<sup>th</sup> April to consider the 22 applications which had been submitted by the deadline. Two applications had been rejected as they were from outside the parish and did not therefore comply with the Community Grants policy. A report of the grants awarded had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This report was approved by Council and it was noted that the grants will be formally announced at the Mayor Making on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**9. Lead Councillors**

**9.1 Open Spaces**

A report from Cllr Wilson had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Wilson was absent but it was noted that the recent wet weather conditions had been significant in causing the issues raised in the report.

**9.2 Community Resilience and Flood Working Group**

A report from Cllr Neal-Sturgess and the notes from the recent Flood Working Group had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no questions about the report or minutes.

**9.3 Footpaths**

Cllr Henderson had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. He was thanked for his efforts in inspecting all the paths and for his informative report. It was noted that the wet weather had caused considerable problems with accessing paths. Cllr Henderson reported that once the weather improved, quotes would be obtained for the resurfacing work at Jubilee Fields/Weir Fields.

**9.4 Squash Courts Working Group**

Cllr M Cargill reported that he had been informed today that a grant application made by the Alcester Community Shed to install solar panels and battery storage at the squash courts had been successful. He thanked the Town Clerk for her help on the application.

**10. Local Council Award Scheme**

The Town Clerk was delighted to announce that the Town Council had been successful in its application for the Quality Gold award. It was noted that, at the time of the application, only 53 other councils had been granted this award out of 10,000 parish and town councils. The Town Clerk was thanked for her extensive work in achieving this prestigious award.



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**11. Strategic Plan**

Cllr Mills reported that she and the Town Clerk had updated the Action Plan for 2023-2024 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This was approved by Council. Cllr Mills will shortly be meeting with the Town Clerk, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor to start work on the Action Plan for 2024-2025.

**12. Community Day**

A proposal from Cllr Leask and Cllr K Foster had been circulated in advance of the meeting with plans to hold a Community Day on 28<sup>th</sup> September. There was a discussion about this proposal and concern that, based on previous experience, it might not be well attended. It was agreed that a schedule of regular councillor surgeries/drop in events might be a better way of ensuring community engagement.

It was agreed to form a Working Group to take this revised proposal forward. Cllrs Mills, Bowe, Leask, Elliott and K Foster offered to join the Group which will be supported by the Town Clerk.

**13. Town Council Representatives**

Church Street Property Trust– Cllr M Cargill reported on the recent trustees meeting. An inspection of properties had identified a number of repairs which are necessary. A number of grants had recently been approved including a £1000 grant to the Town Council towards the restoration of the BT kiosk “Kevin”.

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman reported that a report had been submitted to Historic England regarding improving disabled access. The Committee were awaiting a date for the guttering work. The spring clean was scheduled for the following Sunday.

**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 K Cargill, seconded by Cllr Forman and carried by Council.

**15. Dates of future meetings**

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7 pm.

**Mayor Making - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm at Alcester War Memorial Town Hall**

Annual Meeting – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm

All meetings at Globe House unless otherwise stated.

The Mayor closed the meeting.

Appendix

**MAYOR’S REPORT 16 APRIL 2024**

**Mayor’s Diary since the last Council Meeting:**

8 March – Events Forum Meeting



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- 9 March – St Nicholas St Mark’s Gospel Recital
- 11 March – Councillor induction Dougie Gordon
- 14 March - Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk meeting
- 14 March – Court leet Ale Inner Tasting
- 15 March – Mayor’s Charity St Patrick’s Night
- 16 March – Alcester Musical Theatre Spring Show
- 18 March – Our Lady’s Easter Bonnet Competition
- 18 March – Planning Meeting
- 19 March – Civic Society AGM
- 20 March – Bretvins AGM
- 21 March – Warwickshire Town Network Zoom Meeting
- 23 March – Meet the Mayor High Street
- 23 March – Mayor of Coleshill Charity Night
- 26 March – High Sheriff’s Awards Ceremony
- 30 March – Town Criers’ Competition
- 2 April – Finance & General Purposes Committee
- 5 April – Mayor of Redditch Civic Dinner
- 6 April – Alcester Victoria Silver Band Concert
- 7 April – Mayor of Evesham Civic Service
- 9 April – Annual Parish Meeting
- 11 April – Mayor of Leamington Civic Dinner
- 12 April – Mayor of Warwick Civic Dinner
- 15 April – Planning Meeting