



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2024
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) had sent a written report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs K Cargill and M Cargill and Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East). Cllr K Greenaway, Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor) and Cllr J Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West) 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 4th June 2024. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr K Foster, seconded by Cllr Mills 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 he had attended the Solihull Civic Service.

He had been privileged to lay a wreath on the 80th anniversary of D-Day and for Armed Forces Day. He had enjoyed attending and presenting medals at the Alcester Town FC tournament and meeting youngsters at Alcester & Ragley Cricket Club. The Mayor had launched the first of his fundraising events for the Crafty Lunch Club, had joined the procession for the Court Leet street market and had taken part in the Garden Walkabout.

The Mayor had issued a briefing paper to Councillors on the Minerva Mill project in advance of the meeting.

The Mayor reported that he was also working on the action plan to tackle flooding in the town and as part of this, he had met with Cllr Juned and had attended a briefing on flooding given by Great Alne Parish Council.

Cllr Neal-Sturgess raised a question regarding who has authority to close roads when they are flooded. The Town Clerk will research this and report back.

5. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She agreed to raise the issue of the lack of progress on the Three Tuns with Cllr Juned again and to ask for an update which could be shared with residents.



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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 propositions from the Committee as follows:

6.1 To approve the updated Financial Regulations dated June 2024.

It was noted that there was typographical error in regulation 4.8 but subject to correction of this, adoption was proposed by Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr K Foster and carried by Council.

6.2 To approve the updated Scheme of Delegation dated July 2024.

This was proposed by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr Blake and carried by Council.

6.3 To authorise the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to sign the Agreements between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Alcester Town Council to secure payments from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund in respect of grants for the pilot Rural Enterprise Hub and the Alcester Community Shed.

This was proposed by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr Elliott and carried by Council. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor signed two copies of each Agreement which were witnessed by the Town Clerk.

6.3 To consider the tenders received for the replacement fencing for the Jubilee Fields play area and to authorise the Town Clerk to accept a tender to complete the work.

The Town Clerk had prepared a confidential briefing paper for Councillors on the tenders which had been submitted. It was noted that 23 submissions had been received. Cllr Leask proposed that the recommendation from the Town Clerk that the tender from MJW Fabrications Limited in the sum of £23,772.00 plus VAT was accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Forman and carried by Council. The Town Clerk will accept the tender and inform all those who submitted a tender of the outcome.

7. Planning Committee

In the absence of Cllr M Cargill, the Chair, Cllr Mills confirmed that she was satisfied that Committee members approved the minutes from the preceding month, which were then signed.

There were no questions or propositions from the Committee.

8. Lead Councillors

8.1 Health and Wellbeing

A report from Cllr K Cargill had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that this area of work remained busy with excellent work being undertaken.

8.2 Youth Engagement

A report from Cllr Leask and Cllr K Foster had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Leask reported that the additional youth club sessions being run on a Thursday for the older age group, were going well. The Bikeability sessions being organised over the summer holidays were proving popular. The



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focus for Window Wanderland in January would be to encourage High Street shops to engage with local youth groups to decorate their windows.

8.3 Road Safety and Speedwatch

A report from Cllr A Foster had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that 8 speed watch sessions had been organised in 2024 so far. The new speed gun was reported as being much easier to use. The group had met with the police liaison officer which had been useful. There was an ongoing need for volunteers. Work on improving parking near the schools continued. It was noted that the Civic Society were working on a project on parking and the Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group were also considering the subject.

8.4 There was a motion from Cllr Foster as follows:

To approve the sum of £207 to be used to fund a two-week traffic speed and volume survey on Stratford Road by WCC Highways. The monies to be allocated from the approved Road Safety Working Group budget of £1,000.

This was proposed by Cllr A Foster, seconded by Cllr Blake and carried by Council.

9. Allotments

It was agreed that Cllr Forman and Cllr K Foster would undertake the annual allotment judging in the week commencing 12th August.

10. Town Council Representatives

Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman reported on the recent committee meeting. The Hall are still waiting for a date for the road closure to carry out the guttering repairs. A further consultation exercise is being undertaken on the proposed double yellow lines. A response had been received from Historic England on the lift proposal.

Food Festival – The Deputy Mayor reported that at the AGM, four out of the seven directors retired. New directors were being sought with a decision on appointments being anticipated for July.

Moorfields- Cllr A Foster reported on the recent committee meeting where grants had been awarded to three local organisations.

11. Payment of Accounts

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

12. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 15th July 2024 at 7 pm.

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 30th July 2024 at 7 pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.