



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2024
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

Present

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

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

There were no reports as the County and District Councillors were absent.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Ashfield.

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor), Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) and Cllr J Harmer (Ward Member for Alcester West) were absent without apologies.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2024. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr K Cargill, seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess 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 had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting which was noted.

5. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

6. Vacancy for a Town Councillor

The Town Clerk reported that an election had not been requested for the current vacancy and that notices had been issued advertising that the Town Council would be co-opting a replacement councillor. Interested parties had been asked to contact the Town Clerk by 13th December.

7. 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.

There was the following proposition from the Committee:

7.1 To adopt the updated Co-option Policy dated November 2024.

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



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8. Planning Committee

There had been no Planning Committee meeting in November and Cllr M Cargill, as Chair, confirmed that he had nothing to report.

Cllr Mills updated Councillors on the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Steering Group. The Group had met on 12th November and following advice from Stratford District Council had agreed to pause meetings until March to allow progress to be made on the National Planning Policy Framework and the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

Cllr Mills confirmed that, in the meantime, the Group was continuing to progress work on affordable housing and the possibility of creating a Local List of non-designated heritage properties.

9. Lead Councillors

9.1 Communications, Engagement and Corporate Strategy

A report from Cllr Mills as Lead Councillor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Mills confirmed that engagement sessions were going to be organised at the Baptist Church to link with Community Fridge and also at other locations. She will schedule some dates for these in the New Year.

It was noted that Cllr Foster had stepped down as Lead Councillor for Road Safety and Speedwatch. Councillors were asked to contact the Town Clerk if they wished to take on this role.

10. Community Engagement Action Plan

Cllr Mills presented the annual update of the Action Plan and proposed that it was adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Bowe and carried by Council.

Cllr Foster noted the absence of County and District Councillors at Town Council meetings and stressed the importance of liaison between the various authorities as part of community engagement.

11. Banking Hub

Cllr Blake reminded Councillors that Lloyds Bank was scheduled to close on 25th June 2025 and that, as this was the last bank in the town, a Banking Hub had been promised by Cash Access UK. Premises are still being sought but if a permanent site is not available by June, a temporary Hub will be set up. The Hub will include a cashpoint.

The Hub will be operated by a different bank each day but everyday banking services will be available every day regardless of the operator.

Cllr Blake confirmed that the Banking Hub will be accessible and for this reason, the Post Office had already been dismissed as a possible location.

12. Law Commission Consultation on Burial and Cremation

The Town Clerk had circulated a draft response to the consultation in advance of the meeting. She explained that she had attended a round table meeting organised by NALC to agree their response to the consultation.

The draft response was approved by Councillors. The Town Clerk asked for any final comments from Councillors by 10th December before she submitted the online response.



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13. Town Council Representatives

The Greig Hall - Following the resignation of Cllr Martinson, it was agreed that Cllr Mills would be appointed as a trustee to The Greig Hall CIO. The Town Clerk will inform the charity.

Cllr Foster reported that accounts for The Greig Hall were healthy with income ahead of budget.

Moorfields – Cllr Blake reported that the trustees had met and had made a number of grants. The charity would be liaising with the Town Council regarding the planting of a memorial tree in Moorfields park. The AGM was scheduled for 24th February 2025.

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 Greenaway and carried by Council.

15. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee - Monday 16th December 2024 at 7 pm (if required).

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 7pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.