



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025  
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER.**

**Present**

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

**In attendance** Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was a presentation by Sarah Hession, the potential Conservative Party candidate for the Warwickshire County Council elections in May 2025 if they proceed.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

There were no reports as all Councillors were absent.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs M Cargill, K Cargill and C Chester.

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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The minutes were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Greenaway, 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 had issued a written report in advance of the meeting. He thanked Councillors for attending the Awards Evening and thanked the Deputy Town Clerk in particular for her efforts in making it such a success. He updated Councillors on the Rural Enterprise Hub confirming that it would now be continuing until the end of July 2025.

**5. Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She answered questions from Councillors on items raised at the WCC Town and Parish Council Reference Group.

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Vaughan Blake had resigned. Cllr Mills asked the Town Clerk to write to Cllr Blake to thank him for his contribution to the council.

**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.



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There were the following propositions from the Committee:

**6.1** To approve the updated Community Grants Policy and application form for 2025.

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

**6.2** To adopt the Flexible Working Policy dated January 2025.

This was proposed by Cllr Neal-Sturgess, seconded by Cllr Elliott and carried by Council.

**6.3** To adopt the Sexual and General Harassment Policy dated January 2025.

This was proposed by Cllr Leask, seconded by Cllr K Foster and carried by Council.

**7. Planning Committee**

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

Cllr Mills updated councillors on the planning application from Alcester Town FC. After additional information had been received, the Committee had issued a response of no objection.

Cllr Mills also reported on the South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options consultation. The consultation included Spatial Growth Location SG21 on the edge of Alcester, near to Cold Comfort Lane. Councillors had already been asked for feedback by 7<sup>th</sup> February so that a draft response could be prepared ready to be approved at Full Council in March.

**8. Lead Councillors**

**8.1 Cemetery**

A report from Cllr Forman as Lead Councillor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr A Foster asked a question about the future capacity of the Cemetery. Cllr Forman was also asked to investigate whether a memorial could be created in the old cemetery to record those whose headstones had been removed in the 1980's.

**8.2 Climate Change**

A report from Cllr Gordon and Cllr Ashfield as Lead Councillors had been circulated in advance of the meeting. In response to a question, Cllr Gordon confirmed that it was intended to relaunch the Climate Change Working Group in due course.

**8.3 Play Areas**

A report from Cllr K Foster as Lead Councillor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Foster updated Councillors advising that since the report was submitted, the zip line at Jubilee Fields had broken and would be out of use until repairs could be costed and completed.

**9. Alcester Academy**

Councillors congratulated Alcester Academy on being identified as one of the top 10 schools in the Midlands in the Fairer Schools Index. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the Headteacher to pass on these congratulations.



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**10. Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England**

The government consultation on standards had been received and was noted. A draft response was agreed which will be submitted by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Town Council. Councillors were also encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation.

**11. 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day**

A paper prepared by Cllr M Cargill had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to make arrangements to light the town's beacon on Centenary Field on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 as part of the national celebrations to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

**12. Town Council Representatives**

The Greig Hall – Cllr A Foster reported on the recent trustees meeting. Income figures were above expectation and the charity had a healthy surplus.  
Alcester War Memorial Town Hall – Cllr Forman reported on the recent committee meeting. The Hall had renegotiated its utility costs. Hire charges would rise by 5% from 1<sup>st</sup> April to reflect increasing costs. The wheelchair ramp had been completed at the rear door. The double yellow lines were still awaited.

Church Street Property Trust – Cllr Gordon reported that John and Bronwen Bunting had been congratulated on the trust being named Community Organisation of the Year at the Civic Awards. Repairs had now been completed to the trust's damaged property at a total cost of £40,000. This property has now been re-let and safeguards put in place to avoid a recurrence of similar damage.

Grants had been awarded to Alcester Town Council, St Nicholas Night and Malt Mill Lane residents.

**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 Forman, seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and carried by Council.

**14. Dates of future meetings**

Planning Committee - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7 pm (if required).

Finance & General Purposes Committee – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm.

Full Council - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House.

The Mayor closed the meeting.