

# **The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting took place at the Alcester War Memorial Town Hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7pm.**

## **Welcome and Chairman**

The Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Kathryn Cargill, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

The Town Clerk had received apologies from Mrs E Barnes, Cllr K Foster, Mrs M Payne, Rev A Mackay, Mr M Clarke, Mr C Newitt and Mr J Bunting.

Lord Hertford and Cllr E Randle sent apologies which were received after the meeting.

### **2. Minutes**

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were confirmed as a true record on a proposition by Cllr Mark Cargill and seconded by Cllr Keith Greenaway. The Mayor signed the minutes.

### **3. Report from Alcester Town Council**

The Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council, a printed copy of which was supplied for all attendees. The Mayor confirmed that the Annual Report would be available on the Town Council website after the meeting.

She introduced the Town Council staff and thanked them for their hard work during the year.

The Mayor highlighted the following items from the Annual Report:

- The Town Council had been named Council of the Year in the National Association of Local Councils Star Council Awards 2022. This was a huge honour particularly in view of the fact that there are 10,000 parish and town councils in England.
- Two of the Town Council projects, the Well Connected computer club and the Repair Café had received awards at the WCAVA volunteer awards.
- The Greig Hall had reopened. Significant restoration work on the Hall had been completed at a cost of £450,000 and the Hall had been handed over to the newly formed charity, The Greig Hall CIO. The Mayor encouraged everyone to consider booking The Greig Hall for future events.
- A street party had been organised to mark Her Majesty The late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- The Mayor had read the Proclamation of His Majesty The King's Accession on the church green in September 2022 following the sad death of The Queen.
- A street party is planned for the Coronation on 7<sup>th</sup> May which is being organised by the Court Leet.
- Lead Councillors were appointed in May 2022 to allocate particular roles to Town Councillors. The Mayor thanked them for their enthusiasm and hard work on various projects.
- The Town Council had declared a climate emergency and had formed a Working Group to look at what can be done on a local level to help with reducing carbon emissions.
- The Town Council continues to support the local community with the holiday lunch club and supermarket vouchers for those in need.

#### **4. Accounts**

The Town Clerk confirmed that accounts had been received from Church Street Property Trust, Newport's School Foundation, Alcester United Charities and the Alcester & Forest of Arden Food Festival. She confirmed that the accounts would be available for inspection at the Town Council offices and on the Town Council website.

#### **5. Alcester Organisations**

The Mayor then opened the floor to representatives from various Alcester organisations who presented on their activities during the year:

1. Andrew Deeks – Alcester United Charities
2. Ann Duff – Alcester & Bidford Rotary
3. Roger Pemberton – Alcester and District Lions Club
4. Jeanette Pugh – Alcester Community Fridge
5. Marc Venables – Alcester Court Leet
6. Bill Goodall – Alcester First Responders
7. David Henderson – Alcester Food Festival
8. Susan Juned – Alcester Heritage Trust
9. Susan Juned - Alcester Youth Project
10. Susan Juned – Litter Free Alcester
11. Tony Bradley – Alcester Male Voice Choir
12. Gary Williams – Alcester Town Football Club
13. Gill Forman – Alcester War Memorial Town Hall
14. Ray Howells – Bowmen of Alcester
15. Nina Knapman – Citizens Advice South Warwickshire
16. Jane Vance – Girlguiding Alcester & Avon Villages District
17. Clive Neal-Sturgess – Newport's School Foundation
18. Andrew Matheson – The Greig Hall
19. David Hall – Alcester Bretvins
20. Maggie Payne – Alcester in Bloom (read by the Town Clerk)

The Mayor thanked everyone for their interesting and inspiring contributions noting that Alcester was very fortunate to have so many active groups and societies.

#### **6. Open Forum**

The Town Clerk reported that no questions had been received in advance.

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

The Mayor closed the meeting and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

44 people in attendance.