

**The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting took place  
at the Eric Payne Community Centre  
on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm.**

**Welcome and Chairman**

The Mayor of Alcester, Cllr Vaughan Blake, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

The Town Clerk had received apologies from Cllr A Foster, Cllr K Foster, Cllr C Elliott and Mr A Deeks. Cllr A Leask sent apologies which were received after the meeting.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were confirmed as a true record on a proposition by Cllr Gill Forman and seconded by Cllr Mark Cargill. 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.

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

The Mayor was delighted to announce that the Town Clerk had received notification from the National Association of Local Councils on that day that the Council had been successful in its application for the Quality Gold Award. This award confirms that the Council is at the forefront of good practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and community development. He explained that only 53 parish and town councils held this award (out of 10,000 councils). This follows Alcester Town Council being named Council of the Year in 2022.

The Mayor congratulated the Town Clerk, Vanessa Lowe, on her election as Vice-Chair of the NALC Smaller Councils committee which represents the interests of Councils with under 6000 residents.

The Mayor explained that the main source of income for the Town Council is the precept which is a small part of the Council Tax paid to Stratford on Avon District Council. The precept is used to pay for Council expenditure which includes 4 allotment sites, 4 playgrounds, the cemetery, civic events such as Remembrance Sunday, grants to voluntary organisations, Health and Wellbeing projects, upkeep of the Eric Payne Community Centre, maintenance of Centenary Field and Priory Meadow and other open spaces, street furniture, benches and bins.

The Mayor reported that an Events Forum had been set up to support all the organisations in the town who run events in the High Street. This brings together the Town Council, the Court Leet, the Food Festival, Royal British Legion, Litter Free Alcester, Alcester Bunting and Lighting and St Nicholas Night. It is hoped that this forum will share ideas, training and experience.

#### **4. Accounts**

The Town Clerk confirmed that accounts had been received from Church Street Property Trust, Newport's School Foundation, Alcester United Charities, Alcester War Memorial Town Hall CIO and The Greig Hall CIO. 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. Kay Blake – Alcester & Bidford Rotary
2. Mark Reason – Alcester & District Lions
3. David Tilley – Alcester Bowling Club
4. Chris Newitt – Alcester Bunting and Lighting Executive
5. Susan Juned – Alcester Heritage Trust
6. Susan Juned – Litter Free Alcester
7. Susan Juned – Alcester Youth Project
8. Gary Williams – Alcester Town Football Club
9. Kay Blake – Alcester United Charities
10. Gill Forman – Alcester War Memorial Town Hall
11. Stephanie Jackson – Girlguiding Alcester & Avon Villages District
12. Tim Jones – The Greig Hall
13. Vaughan Blake – Heart of England Town Criers Association
14. Vaughan Blake – Moor Fields Charity
15. Joe Harmer – Stratford on Avon District Council
16. Clive Neal-Sturgess - Newport's School Foundation
17. David Henderson – Alcester Food Festival
18. Bill Goodall – Alcester & District Community First Responders
19. Martin Burden – Alcester Court Leet
20. Chris Brannigan – Alcester Café
21. Mark Cargill – Oversley Green Residents Association

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 at 8.10 pm and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

39 people in attendance.