



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

**Present**

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

**In attendance** Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk and Cllr S Juned (District Councillor)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR**

There was no public participation.

**District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester East) had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting. This included details of the District Council budget for 2025-26. This would result in a £5 increase for Band D properties in respect of the SDC element of council tax.

Cllr Juned updated Councillors on The Three Tuns reporting that a meeting arranged with the owners had been cancelled as the building was apparently up for sale.

Cllr Chester requested that, once a meeting was arranged with any new owners, Alcester Town Council would be invited. Cllr Juned agreed to report back when she knew more.

Cllr Juned also updated Councillors on the Competition and Markets Authority proposal for legislation to be introduced regarding estate management on new developments. SDC would be supporting such a change which reflected the local Supplementary Planning Document on the subject.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D Henderson (Deputy Mayor) and Cllr C Elliott.

Cllr P Daniell (County Councillor), 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 4<sup>th</sup> February 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 reported that during the month, he had attended civic events in Shipston, Redditch and Whitnash in addition to various events in Alcester. He had particularly enjoyed the pancake races which had taken place on the day of the meeting.



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**5. Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk presented her monthly report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She updated Councillors on the Banking Hub reporting that plans were being drawn up to set up a temporary Hub pending a site being secured for a permanent Hub. Various options were under consideration and hopefully more information would be known soon.

**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.

There were the following propositions from the Committee:

- 6.1** To approve the updated Cemetery Regulations dated February 2025. These were proposed by Cllr Forman, seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried by Council.
- 6.2** To consider for approval the annual Risk Assessment of the Council. The draft Risk Assessment which had been circulated in advance of the meeting was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr M Cargill, seconded by Cllr K Foster and carried by Council.

**7. Planning Committee**

Cllr M Cargill, as Chair, confirmed that no committee meeting had taken place in February and that all applications had been dealt with by email.

**8. South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)**

The draft joint parish response to the draft policies/policy directions (on behalf of Alcester Town Council, Kinwarton Parish Council, Arrow & Weethley Parish Council and Wixford Parish Council) had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cllr M Cargill congratulated the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk on producing such a well written and comprehensive response. On behalf of Kinwarton Parish Council, Cllr Forman also thanked the team for including that parish in the submission.

Cllr Mills proposed that the draft joint response was approved. This was seconded by Cllr K Cargill and carried by Council.

The draft Town Council response on specific Alcester sites included in the SWLP had also been circulated in advance of the meeting.

There was a discussion regarding elements of this response. Some councillors were concerned that it might appear that the Town Council was against any development in the town whereas others felt that the response was suitably balanced supporting organic, appropriate and sustainable development. It was noted that none of the brownfield sites of which the Town Council was aware, were included as potential sites in the consultation. Cllr Mills confirmed that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Steering Group was looking at these separately.

Cllr Mills proposed that the draft response was approved. This was seconded by Cllr Neal-Sturgess and carried by Council.



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The Town Clerk will arrange for both responses to be submitted prior to the SWLP deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**9. Lead Councillors**

**9.1 Health and Wellbeing**

A report from Cllr K Cargill as Lead Councillor had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the Youth Club would now be running two sessions on a Tuesday (rather than one on a Tuesday and one on a Thursday) to cover older and younger groups. The Youth Club Leader, Becky Gribben, was thanked for her continued efforts in running the club so successfully together with her team of volunteers. It was noted that the Club had 160 members. Cllr Leask was also thanked for volunteering.

In response to a question, Cllr M Cargill confirmed that the Alcester Community Shed was looking to increase its opening times/days once sufficient volunteers had been trained to enable it to be opened safely. The Repair Café sessions run at the Shed had been popular and would be repeated but the Repair Café would remain based at the Eric Payne Community Centre for its main monthly sessions.

**9.2 Eric Payne Community Centre**

A report from Cllr M Cargill had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Centre continued to run smoothly with costs reduced considerably following the resolution of the water leak. Both the Hertford Room and the Depot had been redecorated over the Christmas holidays.

**9.3 Allotments**

A report from the Facilities Manager on behalf of Cllr K Greenaway had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Greenaway suggested moving the allotment judging from August to earlier in the year. It was agreed to consider this for 2026 as the date for 2025 had already been advertised.

**9.4 Communications, Engagement and Corporate Strategy**

Cllr Mills reminded Councillors about the community engagement event on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Community Fridge. Various Councillors agreed to attend.

**10. Community Grants**

Cllrs M Cargill, K Cargill, A Foster, A Leask and K Greenaway were appointed to the Community Grants Working Group. The Town Clerk will arrange a meeting in early April to approve the grant allocation.

**11. A 46 Improvements**

Cllr M Cargill and Cllr Chester reported on the recent stakeholders meeting at Salford Priors Parish Council hosted by Dr Manuela Perteghella MP regarding the A46. After a discussion about various issues including the Binton/Billesley junction and the Bordon Hill/A46 link road, it was agreed that a working group of parishes could usefully be put together to make joint representations to Highways England and other statutory authorities regarding improvements needed to this road. Cllrs Cargill and Chester will progress and report back in due course.



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**12. Town Council Representatives**

**12.1 Alcester War Memorial Town Hall**

In response to a request from the Town Hall, Cllr Forman proposed that the Town Council support the introduction of double yellow lines along the Town Hall's wall to prevent the fire doors being blocked by parked vehicles. This was seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried unanimously by Council. The Town Clerk will respond to Warwickshire County Council.

**12.2 Moor Field Charity**

Following the resignation of Cllr V Blake, Cllr Neal-Sturgess was appointed as a replacement trustee. The Town Clerk will inform the charity.

**12.3 Town Council representatives**

Moor Fields Charity – Cllr A Foster reported on the recent AGM which was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Elizabeth Humphrey had been elected Chair, with Cllr Foster as Vice-Chair. Funds are generally distributed at meetings in May and November.

The Greig Hall CIO – Cllr A Foster reported that the AGM was on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**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 K Cargill, seconded by Cllr M Cargill and carried by Council.

**14. Dates of future meetings**

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

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

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 7pm at the Eric Payne Community Centre

Full Council - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7 pm.

All meetings at Globe House except for the APM.

The Mayor closed the meeting.