

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 18 May 2017 at the Sandbach Literary Institution, Hightown.

PRESENT Councillors: M Benson
G Merry
M Forster (Town Mayor)
M Lea-O'Mahoney
K Southwell
R Wait
B Moran
P Eaton

1. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr Benson be appointed as Committee Chairman.

Cllr Benson took the Chair and provided a brief summary of working groups reporting to the Community and Environment Committee:

- Events
- Tidy Town
- Conservation
- Air Quality
- Partnership Liaison Group

2. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr Moran be appointed as Committee Vice-Chairman.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: C Lowe
A Smith

Absent without Apologies

Councillors: R Hoffmann
M Muldoon

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public.

Mr Bunte, representing South East Cheshire Cycling Action Group (SECCAG), advised the Committee that the group had launched its 2nd 'Let's Go Cycling' leaflet and expressed thanks to Sandbach Town Council for the grand towards the leaflet's production costs.

Members congratulated members of SECCAG for their excellent achievement and hope the promotion encourages residents and visitors to use the varied routes.

5. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held 19 January 2017 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. EVENTS WORKING GROUP

Lead: Cllr Benson

In his verbal progress report, Cllr Benson confirmed that the Events Group membership consisted of four Councillors and three STC Staff Members. Since the last update to this Committee, the planning of Sandbach's annual Party in The Park, with Foden's Band, and Family Fun Day has progressed, with £2500 in sponsorship from Sibelco and Bathgate for these key events. This funding, together with Party in the Park ticket sales, is vital as it allows the group to add STC budgeted funding towards organisation of additional town events. In the last twelve months such events included Queen's Birthday Picnic in the Park and support of Sandbach activities during the Tour of Britain's visit.

As 2017 will be the final year in which the current Day of Dance organisers will be co-ordinating the event, following their decision to retire, over coming months the Conference and Events Officer will shadow them through the event schedule and, in May 2018, STC will host its first Day of Dance in the Town.

Resolved: The verbal report be received.

7. CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Lead: Cllr Merry

Within the Conservation Working Group report, circulated with the agenda pack, Members received details of proposals to install five additional Sandbach Crosses Tourist Signs to encourage visitors to the historical site. Cllr Merry explained that Sandbach does not meet strict footfall criteria for installation of motorway signs however three members of the working group held several meetings with CEC to consider alternative signage and discussed suitable locations for these signs.

Origins of this proposal lie not only with the Conservation Area Appraisal report but in Sandbach Neighbourhood Development Plan (policy JLE2) and the Town Plan which necessitate suitable signage to improve tourism. Following their February site visit English Heritage has given approval to include their portcullis logo on the brown signs.

The proposed signs will be placed on strategically positioned existing directional signs by CEC at a cost of £2500 (+ VAT), with approval sought for the project and spend from funds set aside for Conservation Projects. An initial payment of £160 is required to accompany the CEC Application for Tourism Signs.

Councillors Lowe, Moran and Benson were thanked for their input in determining these signage locations.

Resolved: that:-

- i. The report be received*
- ii. Provision of Sandbach Crosses Tourist Signs is approved with total spend allocation of £2500 (+ VAT) from the Conservation Committed Reserves.*

8. 2017 TOWN HALL PANTO

Lead: Snr Admin Officer, on behalf of Ops Manager

Members received a brief report from the Operations Manager providing a background of the annual Town Hall panto and its continued popularity.

Approval is sought for spend of £1440 (budget line 190-4801 (ticket income)) to proceed and secure the 2017 'Dick Whittington' booking which will again be two shows, following the sell-out success of 2016 performances.

Resolved: Spend of £1440 from budget line 190-4801 is approved.

9. CCA (CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Lead: Cllr Benson

Having received help and support during Community Pride competitions and Neighbourhood Plan formation, the Committee fully supports renewal of the membership. CCA support Town and Parish Council's with a wide range of activities.

Resolved: Renewal of 2017/18 Membership at £100 be approved.

10. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Thursday, 7 September 2017 at 7.00pm in the Sandbach Literary Institution, Hightown.

Cllr M Benson

Meeting closed 7.29pm

KP