

## SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 11 January 2018 at the Sandbach Literary Institution, Hightown.

**PRESENT** Councillors: M Benson  
M Forster (Town Mayor)  
B Moran  
K Southwell  
A Smith

Also present was one member of the public.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: G Merry  
M Muldoon  
C Lowe  
M Lea O'Mahoney  
R Wait

Absent without Apologies:  
Councillors: R Hoffmann  
P Eaton

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

#### Tracey Meigh, Sandbach Arts for Health

An event is being planned to showcase local talent through a 'Sandbach Arts Trail'. Local Artists will be able to exhibit a piece in public locations throughout, Sandbach; residents and visitors to the town will be able to view the pieces by following a pre-prepared trail (map). A small entrance fee will be charged to the exhibitors and prizes will be awarded. The aim is to put Sandbach on the map as an Arts Friendly Town, as well as to encourage visitors.

The event is not expected to be costly to stage, but there will be some costs in relation to printing. The Council is asked whether it could consider providing funding?

Members liked the idea and said they would be very happy to consider a grant application should one be submitted.

It was also noted that the High School is considering a similar project and suggested that both groups could work together.

Following the questions, the meeting was immediately reconvened.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes are approved as an accurate record.

**4. CCTV**

Item deferred to March.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD 7 SEPTEMBER 2017**

The item relates to a query concerning spend from the Tidy Town budget. It was explained that, on occasions, small sums of money are required for sundry items such as paint and that it is not always practical to seek approval from the committee due to timings. The Committee was asked if a small sum could be allocated, which will be administered by the Town Clerk, for incidentals only, with larger items having to be resolved by Committee. Members agreed with the approach, which will be formally reported and resolved at the next Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that a report be presented to the next meeting of C&E which will seek to authorise the Clerk to administer spend against sundry items against the Tidy Town budget.

**6. CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**

For several years, the Council has been investigating the possibility of installing brown tourism signs; the obstacle has been that a high footfall is required to support the installation, they are also cost inhibitive.

Through discussion with CEC, it was established that CEC Tourism Signs may be used. Council approved the procurement and installation of the signs when it met on 21 September 2017 and allocated £2,500 for this purpose.

It was reported that the signs have now been installed at six locations throughout the town, at a total cost of £1731.04 +VAT, less than expected. The surplus balance will remain in the Conservation Budget for alternative use.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be received.

**7. TIDY TOWN – BANNERS LEAFLET**

Five years ago, the Council worked jointly with CEC to produce an information leaflet to control the use of advertising banners in the Town.

The leaflet advised when and where ‘community’ banners may be safely displayed, and stated what would happen for non-compliance. The leaflet has

been an effective tool, however is in need of updating as some sites are no longer available.

A review of the document has been undertaken, with a price for the setting and printing being obtained. The Committee was asked to approve a re-print at a cost of £285+VAT.

**RESOLVED:** that the sum of £285 be approved from the Tidy Town Budget (Code 4604) budget, to print a revised version of the Banners General Guidance leaflet.

## **8. WEBSITE WORKING GROUP**

Consultation of residents, businesses, councillors and officers has been undertaken, with all appropriate responses being included in a website development brief.

The brief has been shared with prospective designers, with three being invited to present to the Website Working Group during December. All members of the group have been given the opportunity to review sample sites from each of the developers, before meeting again to determine a recommendation to Council.

A budget of £4,165 is available in committed reserves, this may need to be increased subject to the recommendation to Council.

It is expected that the report to Council will be presented on 22 February, with work commencing shortly afterwards; development of the site will take up to six weeks, therefore it is hoped that a new website will be in place by April 2018.

**RESOLVED:** that the progress report be received.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

An email from Jill Young dated 29 December 2017 was considered by members. The email outlines plans to develop a WW1 Commemorative Project. Members were not clear what was being asked of them, but felt that the interest of schools should be sought ahead of seeking the support or involvement of Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk convey members' comments.

## **11. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is Thursday, 1 March 2018 at 7.00pm in the Sandbach Literary Institution, Hightown.

Cllr M Benson

Meeting closed 7.44pm

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