

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held at 7.00 pm on 10 November 2011 at the Sandbach Literary Institution, Hightown.

PRESENT Councillors: V J Thompson, Vice-Chairman in the Chair
 Mrs G M Merry
 Mrs U Griffiths
 Miss G Morris
 S A M Corcoran
 L Morris
 W W Scragg
 B E Moran

Also present were four members of the public and press.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Mrs C Lowe, Chairman
 D Robinson, Mayor
 P Goode

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Miss J Griffith

Miss Griffith queried whether the festival should be self-funding after 21 years of operation. She also drew attention to the number of food and drink outlets in Sandbach and questioned the need to 'pay' for food vans.

Mrs A Jones

Mrs Jones feels that it is time the festival seeks alternative sponsorship and became self-funding.

Mrs P Minshull

Supported the statements made by Miss Griffith and Mrs Jones.

The meeting was reconvened.

A statement from Cllr Mrs Lowe, Chairman of the Finance Committee was made available.

**3. SANDBACH TRANSPORT FESTIVAL
APPLICATION FOR DONATION**

A request for a donation of £14,000 to run the 2012 Sandbach Transport Festival was received.

This item was initially presented to a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 20 October 2011; the Committee was unable to make a decision at that time as further information was required, therefore the item was deferred.

Additional information was requested by the Clerk and has been shared with members, members were asked to consider and agree a recommendation for funding which will be made to Sandbach Town Council when it next meets.

There was no doubt from members that the Festival is an excellent annual event and that the Council should continue to support it. However concern was expressed about several aspects of the application:

- The impact that a two day event has on some of the businesses within the town.
- The rising costs of the event; reference was made to 2006/07 when the event was being run for £3,000 and included the Town Crier competition.
- Little evidence of funding applications to or pledges from alternative sources of funding.

A proposal to recommend that £11,000 should be awarded was put to the vote and lost.

RESOLVED: that Sandbach Town Council be recommended to award £10,000 to the Transport Committee in accordance with the 2011/12 budget.

4. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Thursday 19 January 2012 at 7.30pm at the Sandbach Literary Institution.

The meeting on 19 January will be a budget setting meeting to which all members of the Council will be invited and a final decision made in respect of budget and precept requirements.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

Cllr V J Thompson
Vice Chairman in the Chair

FCM111110