

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on 12 September 2002 in the Council Chamber, Westfields.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mrs D E Alcock, Chairman
M J Wood, Vice-Chairman
Councillors: Mrs R D Frost
J Iddon
E A Lea
D Lloyd Griffiths
Mrs P M Minshull
J J Moore
L Morris
D Robinson
R W Sutton
A J Walker

The Opening Prayer was read by the Rev Janet Bacon.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: Mrs D Flint
Mrs E Rubidge
B Brindley
J M Goode
N T Price

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The highlight of a very active few months had been the opportunity to meet the Queen and Prince Philip. The Queen had asked whom she represented whereas the Prince was curious about the Sandbach crosses shown on the civic chain.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 JULY 2002

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved to be signed by the Chairman.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JUNE, 18 JULY, 8 AUGUST AND 29 AUGUST 2002

Cllr Lloyd-Griffiths declared an interest on the following items in the Planning minutes.

27th June, Nos. 34568/3, 34589/3.

8th August, Nos. T140, 34738/3

29th August, Nos. 34774/3, 34782/3, 34815/3

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved to be signed by the Chairman.

It was pointed out that with Cllr Lea being on both the Town and Borough planning committees he frequently had to declare an interest at the Borough meetings and hence was not able to participate fully in Sandbach matters. Cllr Lea agreed and tendered his resignation from the Town Council Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Minshull replaces Cllr Lea on the Planning Committee.

As a consequence Cllr Mrs Minshull resigned from the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Iddon replaces Cllr Mrs Minshull on the Finance Committee.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2002

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved to be signed by the Chairman.

6. TOWN HALL PROJECT

Harry Hopkinson gave a detailed illustrated presentation on the work and progress on the Town Hall project.

In answer to questions Mr Hopkinson said the contractor expected to complete the internal work mid-November so that use of the Town Hall should restart then. External work would continue after that date but should not interfere with use of the Hall.

The costing of additional work required was based on rates which had been agreed as part of the initial contract.

7. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2002

7.1 Town Hall Project

That the Town Council reserves a further £15,000 as its contribution towards the project.

RESOLVED: that the amount is confirmed.

7.2 Sandbach Partnership

That a donation of £1,000 on each of three years will be made to support a Project Manager subject to assurances.

RESOLVED: that the amount is confirmed.

7.3 Speed Restriction markings on all Sandbach Main Road Entrances

That a £1,500 contribution is reserved for the project.

There was a lengthy discussion on the merits of this work. It was noted that work had commenced before the Council contribution had been confirmed. The Old Mill Road limit should be moved further north east. When a low noise road surface was installed on Old Mill Road it would be

necessary to the gateway work again. There was agreement that the junction with Newcastle Road was very hazardous.

RESOLVED: that a letter is sent to Joint Highways stating that this Council believes that the right hand lane for traffic from the motorway direction should be used for right turns only.

RESOLVED: that the amount is confirmed.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL DELEGATES / SUB-COMMITTEES

8.1 Sandbach Market

The Sandbach Market Sub-Committee was unanimous in recommending the following resolution for the Town Council.

RESOLVED: *that this council is in favour in principle for the employment of a management company to run the Sandbach Market on the basis that the market is re-located and that the traders become responsible for their own stalls, but we would wish to discuss details of the agreement and seek the opportunity to comment on the financial and other content of the tender document.*

There was lengthy discussion about both the Thursday and May Day markets. There was some opposition to the use of a management company. A compromise on relocation whereby part of the Common was freed up for parking was raised. There was some criticism of CBC in their lack of control of traders' vans. It was felt that CBC had not helped the May Day Committee. The Traders' views on the matter should be considered.

The Chairman allowed Mr Hardiker an opportunity to respond. He refuted strongly the allegation that CBC had deliberately made things difficult on May Day. CBC wanted the event to be successful. Some traders needed their vans close at hand by nature of their product.

RESOLVED: that a letter is sent to Congleton Borough Council suggesting that the proceeds from the sale of Chapel Street car park are used to purchase land for a suitable alternative car park.

RESOLVED: that the Sub-Committee's recommendation is endorsed.

8.2 Sandbach May Day Market

A request was made that discussion on the Market Sub-Committee recommendation be deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: that the item is considered at the next Town Council Meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 CBC - Sandbach Town Hall

Letter of acknowledgement.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

9.2 CBC - Sandbach Town Hall

Offer of the use of the Town Hall free of charge

Members welcomed the concept but felt that something more far-reaching than a one-off event was appropriate.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman and Councillors Lea and Iddon have discussions with CBC about a joint arrangement to achieve ongoing usage of the Town Hall.

9.3 CBC - Sandbach Scotch Common

Letter of acknowledgement.

A letter was read confirming that the Common was conveyed to CBC on 11 January 1979. Cllr Morris demanded that the question of ownership of the Common was not raised again.

RESOLVED: that the letter of acknowledgement is received.

9.4 CBC – Market Square

Letter of acknowledgement.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

9.5 CBC - Sandbach Park Development Plan

A limited number of members are invited to a consultation meeting on the development of the Town Park.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman plus a member from each ward attend the meeting when it is arranged.

9.6 Cheshire County Council Bus Shelter Scheme

The Cheshire County Council will install a bus shelter in Wheelock opposite the Nags Head provided that this Council pays £1,000 towards the capital cost and £250 increasing each year for the maintenance cost.

RESOLVED: that a letter is written refusing the offer, asking what happened to the shelter promised as part of the Wheelock bypass work and enquiring about cleaning and maintenance work on existing shelters.

9.7 CCC – Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999 (COMAH)

An offer to make a presentation to the Council.

RESOLVED: that the offer is accepted and a date is set.

9.8 Ban on Drinking in Open Public Places

Letters of acknowledgement from CBC and Cheshire Constabulary.

The Chairman was disappointed the promised meeting had been cancelled without a new date being set. A new date is still awaited.

RESOLVED: that the letters are received.

9.9 Cheshire Planning Forum

Invitation to a Public discussion of Planning in Cheshire to be held on Friday 27 September 2002 at 2 pm at Vale Royal Borough Council, Winsford.

RESOLVED: that the invitation is received and that any member wishing to attend informs the Clerk.

9.10 Cheshire Association of Town & Parish Councils

Delegates are invited to the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils Annual Meeting and the Cheshire County Council's Annual Parish Conference on Tuesday 29 October.

RESOLVED: that the invitation is received and that any member wishing to attend informs the Clerk.

9.11 Cranage Parish Council

Request for information on the level of support to be expected from Sandbach Town Council and an invitation attend a meeting on 17 September.

RESOLVED: that the letters are received.

9.12 Sandbach Youth Project

Request for official Sandbach Town Council representation.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council representation is to be two members who will be selected at the next Town Council meeting.

10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Sandbach Town Council be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 17 October 2002 in the Council Chamber at Westfields.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

D E Alcock
Chairman

Ref: TCM 0902