

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on 17 May 2005 in the Council Chamber, Westfields.

PRESENT

Councillor: J J Moore, Chairman

Councillors: Mrs D E Alcock
Mrs P E M Price
Mrs M E Smith
Mrs G M Thomas
D K Atkin
P J Darnes
J Iddon
D Lloyd-Griffiths
B E Moran
L Morris
E A Lea
N T Price
D Robinson
W W Scragg
M R Sherman

The Opening Prayer was read by the Councillor D Robinson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: Mrs P M Minshull
R W Sutton

2. THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

He welcomed Councillor Atkin to his first business meeting.

He had already attended two events as Chairman of the Council. They were the Mayor making ceremonies at Congleton Borough and Middlewich Town Councils.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public. Mr Fabrizio asked by what right the Council had turned down an application for funding by the 1651 Committee when last year's event had had large public support. Members of the Council explained that they took their responsibilities very seriously and the decision was considered very carefully. It was also true to say that there were a large number of people against the event.

Mr Corcoran, a candidate at the recent Town Council bye-election asked why it was necessary to have had the cost of a bye-election. There was some discussion about the circumstances of the bye-election.

The Chairman reconvened the Town Council Meeting.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 7 APRIL AND TUESDAY 10 MAY 2005.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAYS 14 APRIL AND 5 MAY 2005.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2005.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL DELEGATES / SUB-COMMITTEES

There were none.

7. SANDBACH LITERARY INSTITUTION

It was explained that the two rooms required decoration and carpeting, and that suitable furniture must be purchased. Approval was sought for the expenditure of up to £12,000.

RESOLVED: that a budget of up to £12,000 is approved to prepare the rooms for occupation by the Town Council.

8. SANDBACH TRANSPORTATION PROJECT AFTER-STUDY

A copy of the after-study format as far as is known is attached. It has been stated that the Town Council will be consulted formally.

The Chairman read a report on the current situation obtained by County Councillor Giltrap from from the County Council

The Prohibition of Waiting Order for Congleton Road adjacent to the new footway at The Commons was approved by committee in January 2005. The implementation date has since been advertised and the works order to Nuttall (our term contractor) to carry out the necessary lining work is being sent out by Chris Fernyhough from the Sandbach office. This should have gone out by the end of this week.

With regard to Market Square - The Sandbach Transportation Study recommended that all parking (including disabled) should be removed from Market Square and limited service vehicle access allowed. The method of management and control of service vehicle access is to be approved through the Local Joint Committee process. Malcolm (McCuaig) is leading on this one. He has identified funding for the proposal from monies obtained by the Borough Council through a Planning 106 Agreement with PB Developments/Pochins. The 106 Agreement was in relation to the redevelopment of the former ERF site in Sandbach and to be used for general town centre improvements. Malcolm is submitting a paper to the Borough Council Executive seeking approval for the expenditure. A paper also needs to go to the LJC seeking approval to amend the current waiting restrictions on Market Square to remove the disabled parking and to approve of the method of access control. The modifications to the Traffic Regulation Order will have to be advertised and is likely to attract objection. Malcolm and I have investigated automatic rising bollards (the preferred method of access control) and we have found a company in Manchester that makes a suitable product. The bollards are not going to be

introduced 'overnight' as there are statutory procedures to follow regarding the modification of the Traffic Regulation Order and a need to instruct the businesses around the square on the system.

Finally, I am dealing with the 'After Study'. We have already carried out a number of traffic counts in the town and the customer satisfaction survey will be carried out this month. The questions were endorsed by the LTP Working Group in April. It is proposed to report the findings of the 'After Study' to the LJC in autumn, probably the October meeting.

The Town Council had organised the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 23 May at the Town Hall. The subject would be on the agenda and would allow the Council the opportunity to assess public opinion. It was agreed that item 11.1 would be discussed at this meeting.

RESOLVED: that the subject is raised at the Town Meeting to be held on 23 May.

RESOLVED: that a letter is written to Joint Highways reminding them of the pot hole adjacent to the Congleton Road pedestrian crossing.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Brian Harrison (Investigations) Ltd

The company claims to be able to provide evidence to solve local level crime.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

9.2 Trafalgar Week-end

The bicentenary of the battle of Trafalgar is to be celebrated on the weekend of 21 to 23 October 2005. Local communities are encouraged to take part.

The Chairman said that he was considering a talent contest for local children. He was also investigating the possibility of the Foden-Richardson Band involvement.

RESOLVED: that the information is received.

9.3 Cheshire County Council – Refurbishment of the Cobbles

A positive response had been received from Peter Cocker, Director of the Environment.

RESOLVED: that the subject is made an agenda item for subsequent Town Council Meetings until the matter is satisfactorily resolved.

9.4 Congleton Borough Council – Grant Scheme

They would be grateful to receive any comments the Town Council may have on their grant programme and how it compares with the Town Council scheme.

RESOLVED: that the information is received.

9.5 Harris Group – Civic Feature between Ashfields and Aldi

Email correspondence indicated that the Council's position had been misunderstood.

The Councillors Price had been invited to view the MAN/ERF proposals in their Borough role.

RESOLVED: that a letter is sent to CBC asking for an explanation.

10. TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

To complete the appointments that were not made at the Annual Meeting on 10 May.

10.1 To appoint the Finance Committee of 10 Members

Already appointed: -

Councillors Mrs D E Alcock
 D K Atkin
 D Lloyd-Griffiths
 B E Moran
 W W Scragg
 M R Sherman

RESOLVED: that the following 4 Members be appointed to serve as the Finance Committee for the year 2005/6: -

Councillors Mrs G M Thomas
 E A Lea
 J Iddon
 P J Darnes

10.2 To appoint the Planning Committee of 10 Members

Already appointed: -

Councillors Mrs P M Minshull
 D K Atkin
 P J Darnes
 D Robinson
 W W Scragg
 M R Sherman
 R W Sutton

Following advice from members Cllr Atkin withdrew.

RESOLVED: that the following 4 Members be appointed to serve as the Planning Committee for the year 2005/6: -

Councillors Mrs M E Smith
 Mrs P E M Price
 J Iddon
 N T Price

10.3 To appoint the Quality Committee of 10 Members

Already appointed: -

Councillors Mrs D E Alcock
 P J Darnes
 D Lloyd-Griffiths

B E Moran
M R Sherman
R W Sutton

RESOLVED: that the following 4 Members be appointed to serve as the Quality Committee for the year 2005/6: -

Councillors Mrs G M Thomas
 D K Atkin
 E A Lea
 W W Scragg

10.4 Environmental Liaison Committee - Albion Chemicals Ltd

Already appointed: -

Cllr J J Moore with a named substitute to share or deputise.

RESOLVED: that the following is also appointed: -

Cllr EA Lea

10.5 Vale Royal and Congleton Police Division Local Consultative Committee

Already appointed: -

Cllr R W Sutton with substitutes to be arranged if necessary.

RESOLVED: that the following also is appointed: -

Cllr J Iddon

10.6 NWDA “Sandbach Futures” Project Development Workgroups

Already appointed: -

1. Delegated Fund – Cllr M R Sherman.

3. Business Landscapes – Cllr R W Sutton

5. Business Centre - Cllr B E Moran

RESOLVED: that the following are also appointed: -

2. Retail Development Grants – Cllr D Lloyd-Griffiths

4. Virtual Sandbach – Cllr P J Darnes

10.7 Sandbach Literary Institution Trustees

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Cllr E A Lea

10.8 Sandbach Youth Project

Already appointed: -

Cllr Mrs M E Smith

RESOLVED: that the following is also appointed: -

Cllr W W Scragg

10.9 Appointment of Public Rights of Way Officer

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Cllr P J Darnes

11. MEMBERS' ITEMS — MATTERS AFFECTING THE TOWN OF SANDBACH

11.1 361 – Cllr D Lloyd-Griffiths – Traffic, Transport and Parking Policies

That the Council agrees a policy.

This item was covered by agenda item 8.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Sandbach Town Council be held on Thursday 7 July 2005 at 7.15 pm in the Sandbach Literary Institution.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

J J Moore
Chairman

Ref: TCM170505