

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the forty seventh Annual Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on Thursday, 6 May 2021 at 7pm on Zoom

PRESENT

Councillors: G Price Jones (Mayor)
G Merry
D Jack (Left during item 8)
M Muldoon
M Lea
K Flavell
A Smith
R Hovey
J Beddows
D Hegarty
R Hoffmann (Arrived 7.05)
S Crane
L Crane
S Corcoran
S Broad

Also present were approximately 10 members of the public and press, CEC Cllr Mike Benson and Revd. Bee Boyd.

The Opening Prayer was read by Revd. Bee Boyd

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Kirkham, Cllr Williams and Cllr Seymour.

Absent without apologies: Cllr Eaton and Cllr S Ashcombe Hurt

2. THE 2020/21 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

Cllr Geraint Price Jones noted that many personal plans and goals of the community have been put on the back burner in the last year, but that there has been a fantastic community response amid the COVID pandemic. This is something that Sandbach as a whole can be proud of. Keyworkers were also praised.

The Mayor noted that now the vaccination rollout is giving optimism for plans for the near future, he hopes that Sandbach many Community groups and events can return to normality. They have all been missed so much in the last year.

The Mayor noted that he has covered the following events in the past 12 months: Remembrance Day, VJ Day, Virtual Christmas Lights switch on, Care Home opening in Elworth and judging Christmas shop windows displays.

3. INVESTITURE OF THE TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

Cllr Merry proposed Cllr Price Jones as Mayor for 2021/22 and noted that she was extremely pleased to do so. She said that Cllr Price Jones has completed a difficult year as Mayor, and that Cllr Price Jones has to a large degree supported the loyal and committed Council Staff who have worked from home under constrained circumstances. Cllr Merry explained that Cllr Price Jones has chaired many remote meetings in difficult circumstances, but at the same time, not been able to attend any community events due to restrictions.

Cllr Merry felt that whilst this is a continuous term in office, it does not set a precedent and is simply a product of the times we are all experiencing. She hoped that Cllr Price Jones is able to some experience some lighter moments in the year ahead, as well as business as usual.

Cllr Smith seconded the proposal and supported Cllr Merry's points.

Resolved: that Cllr Geraint Price Jones be invested as Mayor for the year 2021/22.

4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. INVESTITURE OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

Cllr Corcoran congratulated Cllr Price Jones on his reinvestment, and proposed Cllr Kathryn Flavell as deputy Mayor for 2021/22 and noted that he was pleased to do so. Cllr Corcoran noted that Cllr Flavell has already done an excellent job of supporting the Mayor in 2020/21, and that he is sure she will make a good Mayor in due course.

Cllr Smith seconded the proposal.

Resolved: that Cllr Kathryn Flavell be invested as Deputy Mayor for the year 2021/22.

6. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7. APPOINTMENT BY THE TOWN MAYOR OF HONORARY CHAPLAINS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATES OF CIVIC EVENTS AND THE CHARITIES TO BE SUPPORTED AND PLANS FOR YEAR OF OFFICE

Cllr Geraint Price Jones asked Revd. Bee Boyd to be the honorary chaplain for 2021-22.

Cllr Price Jones noted that his charity for 2021-22 would be the NW Air Ambulance.

8. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2021/22

The Clerk noted that she has received written communication from Cllr Jack expressing that he would like to be considered for every Committee and Sub-Committee, as well as representative to the Sandbach Partnership. Cllr Ian Williams has expressed that he would like to be considered for Personnel and the Conditions Survey Sub-Committee.

Cllr Corcoran proposed that Council appoint the same Members as last year to Committees, except that Cllr David Jack's name is removed from the list of Members of the Personnel and Finance Committees, and that each of those Committees are authorised to co-opt a member to replace him.

The Proposal was seconded by Cllr Flavell.

Following an exchange, Cllr Corcoran raised a point of order – Under Sandbach Town Council Standing Order 2B, disorderly conduct at meetings, Cllr Corcoran moved that David Jack should be excluded from the Meeting.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hoffmann.

Cllr Jack left the meeting and so the vote did not go ahead.

Councillors voted on Cllr Corcoran's first proposal concerning Committee appointments:

Resolved: that Council appoint the same Members as last year to Committees, except that Cllr David Jack's name is removed from the list of Members of the Personnel and Finance Committees, and that each of those Committees are authorised to co-opt a member to replace him.

The Clerk reminded Council that Cllr Williams has requested to join Personnel and Conditions Survey Sub-Committee. Cllr Flavell noted that she would like to leave the Planning Committee and join the Personnel Committee.

Cllr Price Jones proposed that those changes are accepted. The proposal was seconded.

Resolved: That Cllr Williams joins Personnel Committee and Conditions Survey Sub-Committee and Cllr Flavell leaves Planning Committee and joins Personnel Committee.

Cllr Geraint Price Jones proposed that the Clerk find a suitable date and time to hold a meeting to appoint Committee chairs. This was seconded by Cllr L Crane.

Resolved: that the Clerk find a suitable date and time to hold a meeting to appoint Committee chairs.

[The full list of Committee appointments is attached.]

9. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2020/21

Sandbach Partnership

Cllr Smith proposed Cllr Broad as the Outside Representative to Sandbach Partnership. This was seconded by Cllr G Merry. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Jack had requested to retain his role as Outside representative to Sandbach

Partnership. The Mayor requested a seconder for Cllr Jack, of which there was none.

Resolved: The Cllr S Broad be appointed to the Sandbach Partnership as an outside representative.

Sandbach Park Project

Resolved: The Cllr S Broad be appointed to the Sandbach Park project as an outside representative.

Sandbach Alms-house Trust

The Clerk confirmed that these appointments remain the same. Cllr Flavell noted that she has resigned and that Cllr Hegarty has taken her spot.

Resolved: That Cllr Hegarty take Cllr Flavell's spot with the other Members retained.

Linden Bank Liaison Group

Resolved: That Cllrs G Merry and S Broad remain as the Outside Representatives.

St Mary's Church

Resolved: That Cllr G Merry remains as the Outside Representative.

Churches Together Fairtrade

Resolved: That Cllr Seymour remains as the Outside Representative.

Foden's Supervisory Board.

Cllr Merry noted that she is now a Trustee and that it would not be appropriate for her to retain this position.

Resolved: That Cllr L Crane is appointed as the Outside Representative.

Connected Communities

Resolved: That The Mayor and Cllrs G Merry, R Hovey and P Eaton are retained as the Outside Representatives.

Sandbach Transport Festival

Resolved: That Cllr Price Jones is retained as the Outside Representative.

[The full list of appointments is attached]

10. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021/22

The calendar of meetings 2021/22 is noted.

11. INTERNAL AUDITOR

Resolved: that JDH Business Services be approved as internal auditor 2021/22

12. OUTSIDE SUPPORT 2021/22

- i. **Resolved:** that Ellis Whittam be approved for Health, Safety and Employment support 2021/22.

- ii. **Resolved:** that John Greenall and Co. be approved for payroll and pension services 2021/22.
- iii. **Resolved:** that Dixon Rigby Keogh, Sandbach, be approved for Legal Support 2021/22.
- iv. **Resolved:** that John Greenall & Co be approved for Financial guidance and VAT return 2021/22.
- v. **Resolved:** that Prism Computers be approved for IT Support 2021/22.

13. INVOICE 6263 – BARNES WALKER

Resolved: payment of £2432.40 (Inc VAT) for Landscape Design Services for the Small Common Car Park Project is approved. Payment to be delegated to the Finance Officer and allocated to committed reserve line 332 Car Park.

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council is a business meeting scheduled for Thursday 17 June at 7.00pm. The venue is TBC.

Cllr G Price Jones, Chair

MW

Agenda Item 8 – Committee Appointment 2021-2022

1. Assets & Services Committee

Cllrs Beddows, Hovey, L Crane, Broad, Hoffmann, Smith, Jack and Hegarty.

- **Conditions Survey Sub Committee**

Cllrs Hovey, L Crane, Jack, Williams and Beddows.

- **Small Common Redevelopment Sub-Committee**

Cllrs Kirkham, Beddows, Merry, Broad, Smith, Jack, Hegarty and L Crane.

2. Community & Environment

Cllrs Merry, L Crane, Broad, Hoffmann, Lea, Flavell, Jack and Hegarty.

- **Events Sub Committee**

Cllrs Beddows, Merry, L Crane, Broad, Hoffmann, Jack and Hegarty.

3. Finance, Policy & Governance

Cllrs Hovey, Kirkham, Merry, Williams, Muldoon, L Crane, S Crane, Hegarty, Smith and Corcoran.

4. Planning & Consultation Committee

Cllrs Hovey, Merry, Muldoon, Broad, Eaton, Lea, Jack and S Crane.

5. Personnel

Cllrs Hovey, Merry, L Crane, Broad, Hoffmann, Eaton, Williams, S Crane, K Flavell and S Corcoran.

The Mayor is an ex-officio member, with voting rights, of all the Council's Committee's, sub-committee's and working groups

**Agenda Item 9 – Appointment to
Outside Bodies 2021-2022**

Sandbach Partnership Mgmt Team:	Cllr S Broad
Sandbach Park Project:	Cllr S Broad
Sandbach Festival of Transport:	Cllr G Price Jones
Sandbach Almshouse Trust:	Cllrs D Hegarty, P Eaton, R Hovey and G Price Jones
Linden Bank Liaison Group:	Cllrs G Merry and S Broad
CHALC Area Committee:	Mayor & Clerk
CHALC AGM:	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk
CHALC Clerks' Forum:	Clerk
St Mary's Church	Cllr G Merry
CEC Town/Parish Conferences:	Mayor and Clerk
Churches Together Fairtrade	Cllr K Seymour on invitation
Foden's Supervisory Board	Cllr L Crane
Connected Communities	Mayor + Cllrs G Merry, R Hovey and P Eaton.