

# SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the forty-eighth Annual Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on  
Wednesday, 18 May 2022 at 7pm in the Literary Institution, Sandbach.

## PRESENT

Councillors: G Price Jones, Retiring Mayor  
K Flavell (Mayor Elect)  
S Corcoran  
R Hoffmann  
D Hegarty  
J Beddows  
S Crane  
L Crane  
R Hovey  
S Broad  
A Nevitt  
G Merry  
A Smith  
M Muldoon  
N Cook  
N Adams  
K Seymour (Arrived 19:02)

Also present were 20 members of the public and press.  
Dignitaries from Congleton and Knutsford were in attendance.

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The Opening Reflections were read by Cllr K Flavell

## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: S Kirkham  
P Eaton  
D Poole

### 2. THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed civic guests and local people in attendance.

The retiring Mayor stated that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Sandbach Mayor for the last two years.

The Staff have had to be flexible, innovative and resilient whilst working through Covid, and thanks were given to them as a team for pulling together keeping the Council function during the Pandemic.

The Councillors were thanked, and it was noted that the Council can now have a more settled and productive year prior to the May 2023 Local Elections.

All the volunteers, the businesses and individuals who contributed to the COVID response making many people's lives easier than they might have been while shielding or recovering from illness were thanked. The outgoing Mayor also took a moment to remember those residents of Sandbach who were lost to the pandemic; a number that unfortunately is still being added to.

The following events have taken place in the past 2 years to raise money for Charity: Golf Day at Malkins Bank Golf Club, Charity stalls at the Market, Mayor's Quiz and a fantastic music evening with 2 bands – GM7W and LOLI. The Council staff, were thanked for their support in these events, as well as the businesses and individuals who have sponsored tables, provided raffle prizes and made very generous donations.

£3225 has been raised during the outgoing Mayors Term in office, which will be split as follows:

Leighton Hospital (2020-2021, fundraising limited by COVID restrictions) - £220  
North West Air Ambulance (2021-2022) - £3005

As well as holding his own Events, the Outgoing Mayor was very pleased to confirm that he had also attended a great number of other events, both in Sandbach and the Local Area.

During his term in office, he was pleased to be involved in the recently launched Town Strategy consultation which will be a document that future councils will be able to add to make a living document to drive future work of the council. Also, the neighbourhood plan has undergone a successful, for which community volunteers and Cllr involved were thanked for. A complete reconstruction is now due and the outgoing Mayor hopes that Cllrs will get involved to make this a success.

Finally, Cllr Price Jones thanked his wife Christina for her support over the three years that he was Deputy Mayor then Mayor of Sandbach Town Council.

### **3. ELECTION OF THE TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2022/23**

Proposed by Cllr L Crane and seconded by Cllr S Broad.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Kathryn Flavell be elected Mayor for the year 2022/23.

### **4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – TOWN MAYOR**

The new Mayor read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Town Clerk.

### **5. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2022/23**

Proposed by Cllr Flavell and seconded by Cllr Nevitt.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Richard Hovey be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2022/23.

### **6. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

The new Deputy Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Town Clerk.

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The Mayoral Party withdrew from the Chamber whilst they were invested with their civic chains.

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## **7. TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR AND HIS CONSORT**

The Mayor, Cllr Kathryn Flavell

The outgoing mayor, Cllr Geraint Price Jones and his consort, Christina Price Jones, were thanked for all their hard work and dedication to their roles, as well as their amazing fund-raising efforts. Geraint has had the unenviable task of serving as mayor through two years of considerable difficulty due mainly to the pandemic. Also, the council itself has experienced a period of flux with staff changes and by-elections, and Geraint has had more demands on his time that might have been expected as Mayor. Cllr Price Jones was thanked for handing over to Cllr Flavell a stable council with a strong team of dedicated staff, whom were also thanked wholeheartedly for all their hard work and resilience during the past two challenging years.

A framed certificate of appreciation for the past 2 years was also presented.

## **8. APPOINTMENT BY THE NEW 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**

During the next year, the following 2 Charities will be supported by the Mayor:

The first is Sandbach Animal Rescue, an organisation close to the Mayor's heart, having adopted 2 beautiful kittens from them this week! They rely on a team of volunteers who work hard to rescue, look after, and ultimately rehome, cats of all ages.

The second is Cheshire Arts for Health, specifically the Sandbach Art Room, which, under the management of Tracey Mee, does amazing work with children and adults with learning or physical disabilities, as well as those with mental health problems or suffering from long-term illness.

The newly elected Mayor promises to try and match the efforts of the previous Mayor, but without a consort, hopes she can rely on the support of members in these endeavours.

The new Mayor noted that we now have a strong Town Council. Going forward, she hopes that the Town Council can work together with dignity, courtesy, and respect for each other, and that all can put aside their political differences in order to serve the residents of Sandbach in the best way they can. Cllr Flavell is looking forward to presiding over a council that can be innovative and creative in achieving the goals that it sets itself and she hope that all can share the commitment to, and the involvement in, the council's future events and activities, and support each other through any difficulties that may come our way as we work towards delivery of our new Sandbach Town Strategy. As a musician and ex music teacher, Cllr Flavell hopes to arrange one or two musical events this year, one of which will be a Christmas concert which will include a Town Council Choir for all Councillors to take part in!

Finally, a quote from Harry S Truman was shared, who said:

“It’s remarkable how much you can accomplish if you don’t care who gets the credit.

## 9. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2022/23

### i) Committee Membership Numbers

As presented in the schedule, both the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee and Personnel Committee are over the maximum number of members as prescribed by the individual Committee terms of reference. The Personnel Committee terms of reference can be changed to allow 9 members instead of 8 so all interested Councillors can be members, but the Finance Committee membership cannot be changed due to the Committee TOR being recently approved by Council. Cllrs Hegarty and Nevitt offered to step down from the running of the F,P&G Committee that the number of members requesting to be a part of the Committee matched the Committee TOR.

**Resolved:** *That the number of Members allowed for Personnel on the Committee Terms of Reference be increased from 8 to 9.*

### ii) Committee Appointments

#### **Assets & Services Committee (TOR 10)**

Cllrs A Nevitt, D Hegarty, G Price Jones, G Merry, J Beddows, L Crane, N Cook, R Hoffmann, R Hovey and D Poole.

**Resolved:** *That the above membership for the Assets and Services Committee be approved.*

#### **Small Common Redevelopment Sub-Committee (TOR 7)**

Cllrs D Hegarty, G Price Jones, G Merry, J Beddows, S Broad, L Crane and D Poole.

**Resolved:** *That the above membership for the Small Common Redevelopment Sub-Committee be approved.*

#### **Community & Environment Committee (TOR 10)**

Cllrs A Smith, A Nevitt, D Hegarty, L Crane, N Adams, N Cook, G Price Jones, J Beddows, R Hoffmann and S Broad.

**Resolved:** *That the above membership for the Community & Environment Committee be approved.*

#### **Events Sub-Committee (TOR 7)**

Cllrs D Hegarty, G Merry, J Beddows, P Eaton, L Crane, N Cook and D Poole.

**Resolved:** *That the above membership for the Events Sub-Committee be approved.*

#### **Finance, Policy & Governance Committee (TOR 10)**

Cllrs A Smith, G Merry, L Crane, M Muldoon, N Adams, N Cook, R Hovey, S Corcoran, S Crane and S Kirkham.

**Resolved:** That the above membership for the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee be approved.

**Planning & Consultation Committee (TOR 9)**

Cllrs G Price Jones, G Merry, M Muldoon, R Hovey, S Broad, S Crane, P Eaton and D Poole.

**Resolved:** That the above membership for the Planning & Consultation Committee be approved.

**Personnel Committee (TOR 9)**

Cllrs A Nevitt, G Merry, L Crane, N Adams, N Cook, R Hoffmann, R Hovey, S Corcoran and S Crane.

**Resolved:** That the above membership for the Personnel Committee be approved.

iii) **Committee Chair and Vice Chair Appointments**

**Assets & Services Committee**

**Resolved:** That Cllr D Hegarty be appointed Committee Chair and Cllr L Crane be appointed Committee Vice Chair for 2022/23.

**Small Common Redevelopment Sub-Committee**

**Resolved:** That Cllr D Hegarty be appointed Sub-Committee Chair and Cllr G Price Jones be appointed Sub-Committee Vice Chair for 2022/23.

**Community & Environment Committee**

**Resolved:** That Cllr G Price Jones be appointed Committee Chair and Cllr A Nevitt be appointed Committee Vice Chair for 2022/23.

**Events Sub-Committee**

**Resolved:** That Cllr N Cook be appointed Sub-Committee Chair and Cllr G Merry be appointed Sub-Committee Vice Chair for 2022/23.

**Finance, Policy & Governance Committee**

**Resolved:** That Cllr N Cook be appointed Committee Chair and Cllr S Corcoran be appointed Committee Vice Chair for 2022/23.

**Planning & Consultation Committee**

**Resolved:** That Cllr R Hovey be appointed Committee Chair and Cllr G Merry be appointed Committee Vice Chair for 2022/23.

**Personnel Committee**

**Resolved:** That Cllr L Crane be appointed Committee Chair and Cllr G Merry be appointed Committee Vice Chair for 2022/23.

**10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2022/23**

**Sandbach Park Project**

**Resolved:** That Cllr Merry be appointed the Representative of the Outside Body for 2022/23.

### **Linden Bank Liaison Group**

As there were 3 Members putting themselves forward for 2 positions, the candidates were voted on individually, with each Cllr receiving two votes (17 Cllrs in attendance, Total of 34 votes available).

The vote split was as follows:

Cllr G Merry – 16 votes for, 1 abstention

Cllr N Cook – 16 votes for, 1 abstention

Cllr D Poole – None.

**Resolved:** *That Cllrs Merry and Cook be appointed the Representatives of the Outside Body for 2022/23.*

### **St Mary's Church**

**Resolved:** *That Cllr Adams be appointed the Representative of the Outside Body for 2022/23.*

### **Churches Together Fairtrade**

**Resolved:** *That Cllr Adams be appointed the Representative of the Outside Body for 2022/23, to attend on invitation.*

### **Foden's Supervisory Board**

As there were 2 Members putting themselves forward for 1 position, the candidates were voted on individually, with each Cllr receiving one votes (17 Cllrs in attendance, Total of 17 votes available).

The vote split was as follows:

Cllr L Crane – 16 votes for, 1 abstention

Cllr D Poole – None.

**Resolved:** *That Cllr L Crane be appointed the Representative of the Outside Body for 2022/23.*

### **Connected Communities**

**Resolved:** *That Cllrs Adams, Cook and Hovey be appointed the Representatives of the Outside Body for 2022/23.*

### **Sandbach Transport Festival**

**Resolved:** *That Cllr Price Jones be appointed the Representative of the Outside Body for 2022/23, and that Cllrs Nevitt, Poole and Broad to be invited to attend meetings of the Transport Festival.*

### **ASB Working Group**

**Resolved:** *That Cllrs Beddows, Broad, Adams and Hegarty be appointed the Representatives of the Outside Body for 2022/23, and that Cllr Nevitt attends in the absence of Cllr J Beddows.*

## **11. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022/23**

**Resolved:** *That the calendar of meetings 2022/23 is approved.*

## **12. INTERNAL AUDITOR**

**Resolved:** *that JDH Business Services be approved as internal auditor 2022/23*

### **13. OUTSIDE SUPPORT 2022/23**

- i. Resolved:** that Worknest be approved for Health and Safety support for 2022/23.
- ii. Resolved:** that John Greenall and Co. be approved for payroll and pension services for 2022/23.
- iii. Resolved:** that Dixon Rigby Keogh, Sandbach, be approved for Legal Support for 2022/2023
- iv. Resolved:** that John Greenall & Co be approved for Financial guidance and VAT return for 2022/23
- v. Resolved:** that Prism Computers be approved for IT Support for 2022/23.

### **14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Town Council is a business meeting scheduled for Wednesday 8 June at 7.00pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 19:50

Cllr K Flavell, Chair

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