



## **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in the Sandbach Town Hall Ballroom.

In attendance: Cllrs G Price Jones,  
K Flavell, Town Mayor (left at 8.30pm),  
A Nevitt,  
D Hegarty,  
L Crane,  
J Beddows,  
G Merry

Also present were Cllrs Corcoran and Muldoon, Local Police Representative and twelve members of the public and press.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs N Adams, N Cook and S Broad, due to personal reasons

Absent without apologies: Cllrs Smith and Hoffmann

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Crane declared non-pecuniary interest item 14.2 as a CEC Councillor and interest in agenda item 8.

Cllr Flavell declared non-pecuniary interest item 14.2 as a CEC Councillor.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The meeting Chair adjourned the meeting to allow questions relating to items on this Agenda from members of the public.

Six attendees spoke in relation to the Skatepark project to provide background information and confirm their support for undertaking the project. It was suggested that, if progressed correctly and in consultation with relevant groups, the facility will be appropriate for local requirements, used by all ages and therefore not attractive for anti social behaviour. As surrounding towns have Skateparks, with some due to be updated, it was further confirmed that representatives believed the parks are needed in our community and that the facility should not solely be for skating, but design and discussion ideas expanded, in appropriate consultation, to facilitate use from balance bikes and push bikes to skate boards.

#### A Resident

Confirmed skateboarding is for all genders and that the skateboarding community – including those represented this evening – should be consulted.

#### M Muldoon

Speaking on behalf of people who have approached him to check if there is opportunity to re-establish current requirement for the skatepark facility or to spend the money fairly amongst all wards of the parish, raised several concerns from Ward Constituents relating to unknown value of total spend on a skatepark/multi-use facility, anti-social behaviour impact and location within the park, along with safety/access concerns and supervision.

#### A Resident

Spoke in relation to STC tackling Climate Change and sought update on plans to mitigate and adapt for Climate Change.

The Chair reconvened the meeting.

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### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

[Attached: Minutes]

**Resolved:** the minutes of the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

### **4. SANDBACH POLICING TEAM**

An update on current policing structure, resources for Sandbach, priorities and relative information was received from the Local Officer in attendance.

It is hoped that all Cllrs are aware of, and are in touch with, PCSO's for their Wards; further communication and updates will continue to be received in Council meetings such as this Committee and via planned newsletters which will be copied to STC.

It is essential that issues are reported in order for police to review and act where applicable. If the issues are not reported through correct channels (999, 101 and online via [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)) the local team has no way of knowing about incidents. Following query from the Committee it was confirmed that the Anti Social Behaviour group will hold its first meeting once STC confirm suitable date.

### **5. PUBWATCH RADIOS**

[Attached: update report]

An update on the requirement for funding was confirmed by the meeting Clerk, as outlined within the report circulated, with all other detail of the funding per previous Council resolution to support the Pub Watch radio purchase.

Query was raised regarding surplus handsets, which will be replaced with the new units, to enable community events to access communication facilities.

Resolved: That:-

- i. Revised requirements are noted.
- ii. Costs specified within the report, totalling £5680 + vat and delivery, are approved from committed £6,000 project budget amount, with payment on receipt of invoice delegated to the Finance Officer.

- iii. Surplus radios are requested for return to the Council for community use.

## 6. STC TREE PLANTING

[Attached: Quote]

Following recommendation of Council as part of the Jubilee celebration, action was undertaken to review potential sites and trees/costs for planting trees to commemorate the Jubilee year. Following advice received, a selection of sites were proposed:

Elworth Park

Wheelock Playing Field

Ettiley Heath amenity land at play area off Goldsmith/Thornbrook

Mortimer Drive Play Area

Green Street Amenity Land

Newall Avenue Play Area

It was confirmed that these sites are not set in stone, if any were of concern to Members, though ANSA had reviewed the list for suitability and maintenance. Following order of the trees, ANSA would plant in October/November and plaques would be required once the trees are established; they need not be obtained in order to plant the tree.

**Resolved:** That trees specified within the report totalling £1488.97 + vat are approved with payment delegated to the Finance Officer and made from *budget 140 4880 (Community Events)*.

## 7. SANDBACH PARK GOALPOSTS

[Attached: Report]

Report details were reiterated to confirm requirement for the goalposts. Members supported the scheme and option for including nets was preferred, to enable facility to be used to its full potential; Council to allocate for community use where the nets are needed.

**Resolved:** That:-

- i) Subject to final confirmation from ANSA that they will deliver on matters raised within the report, to order the goalposts with nets at a total cost of £1095.60 (including vat and delivery).
- ii) Members confirm spend should be funded by Community Events Budget underspend, created through surplus income from Party in the Park.
- iii) Payment and delivery of the scheme delegated to the Chief Officer's office.

## 8. TEMPORARY ARTWORK DESIGN

Images to accompany this item were circulated to the Committee and public in attendance.

A temporary piece of artwork was proposed to be added to the Market Store shutter door, in support of the Pride Event taking place 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Sandbach Park. It is anticipated that the temporary art will enhance the area and attract visitors to take their photo with the wings, posting on social media,

whilst visiting the event and town. There is no cost to Council for this activity/artwork.

*Cllr Crane did not vote on this item.*

**Resolved:** The temporary artwork is supported and Option 1 preferred.

## 9. SKATEPARK WORKING GROUP UPDATE

[Attached: Report]

A verbal update was received on behalf of the Working Group Chair, via the Community and Environment Chair, which stated that, though the facility is needed, she does not believe the Park to be a suitable site. As skateparks may be out-dated, further consideration is needed to include such options as a pump track.

As this view was not in line with the report and recommendations received with the Committee agenda pack, it was confirmed that the verbal update was the personal view of the Working Group Chair and had not been received from the group itself. It was therefore felt necessary for the group to meet urgently and agree proposal requirements.

In further comment, concern was expressed that all projects seem to be Town Centre focussed and that the limited funds/resources should be shared between the Wards.

The Town Mayor would like to be invited to the next Working Group meeting.

**Resolved:** This be referred back to the Skatepark Working Group for an urgent meeting to take place and report and definitive project recommendation back to Council.

## 10. COMMUNITY ORCHARDS

Lead: Cllr K Flavell

Brief details of Orchard projects were received, which would be for community use on land within each ward.

**Resolved:** The meeting Clerk to email all Members seeking expressions of interest in joining a Community Orchard Task and Finish Group, with further request that Ward Cllrs identify suitable sites within their ward. This group will generate a report back to a future Community and Environment Meeting.

## 11. WILDFLOWERS PROJECT

[Attached: Councillor Report]

In the absence of Cllr Hoffmann, members discussed the report, proposals and budget requirements.

It was suggested that preferred supplier be removed from recommendations to allow alternative, reduced, costs to be sought.

**Resolved:** That:-

- i. Staff investigate the Wildflower reserves for Council meeting.
- ii. Subject to amendment above, the report is supported and recommended for funding approval from Council.
- iii. Following Council approval and funds available, write to ANSA per report recommendation.

## **12.NHS 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Suggestion was received to mark the anniversary in some form via the Small Common project.

An additional Mayoral 'thank you' afternoon tea can be organised following routine for Civic event planning and budget.

**Resolved:** This idea for small common be delegated to Chair of Small common sub-Committee, in conjunction with the Chief Officer, to return a proposition to Council.

## **13.DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING**

Having received a recommendation for training provider, members discussed necessity for training Members and Staff during current year, to support policies in place, in addition to forming part of Councillor induction following next election.

**Resolved:** the training is recommended to Council for approval and funding, with booking subsequently organised.

## **14.MEMBERS ITEMS**

### **14.1 SKATEPARK EARMARKED RESERVE**

[Attached: Report]

M Muldoon spoke to his report during earlier section of the meeting and recommendation made relating to Skatepark within item 9.

### **14.2 LITTER AND CEC ENFORCEMENT TEAM**

[Attached: News Articles]

It was verified that the most effective method for obtaining Enforcement support regarding problem areas is to report via

<https://fixmystreet.cheshireeast.gov.uk/>. Resources are limited and raising issues, as and when spotted, will ensure they reach the relevant team systems to justify visit and resource necessity.

Councillors, Residents and visitors can be encouraged to report issues via link above regularly through STC social media and it can be ascertained whether Tidy Town group should now be considered.

**Resolved:** That:

- i. Write to CEC to invite Enforcement Officers to a future meeting to discuss how best to work together with the Town Council to improve the situation.
- ii. STC Staff actively promote the fix my street reporting route via social media.

## **15.CORRESPONDENCE**

### **15.1 SANDBACH CONNECTED COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP**

[Attached: Email received 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and accompanying documents]

**Resolved:** The email and documents are received.

**15.2 INFORMATION FROM CONTAMINATED LAND TEAM AT CEC**

[Attached: Email received 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022]

**Resolved:** The information is received.

**15.3 CCTV QUARTER ONE REPORTS FROM CEC**

[Attached: Email and report received 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022]

**Resolved:** the reports are received.

**16. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Tidy Town

Pub Watch – Invitation for Council representative to join the group

**17. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community & Environment Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 8.50pm

Cllr G Price Jones, Chair

KP