

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Sandbach Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 22nd September 2021, Sandbach Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors G Price Jones (in the Chair)
 K Flavell
 R Hovey
 G Merry
 K Seymour
 S Kirkham
 D Hegarty
 S Broad
 J Beddows
 A Smith

Also present were approximately 8 members of the public.

Prayers were led by Cllr Merry.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors M Muldoon
 R Hoffman
 M Lea
 L Crane
 S Crane
 D Jack (Apologies were late)

Absent without apologies
Councillors Eaton

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Flavell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Cheshire East Councillor.

3. MAYORS COMMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following comments.

- Attended a Royal British Legion event at the end of August 2021
- Attended the Sandbach Animal Rescue event and will be interested to hear about their plans for the future
- Attended NHS Day in the Masonic Hall and thanked the NHS for their work
- Attended various civic services including those in Congleton and Knutsford
- Attended long-service award ceremony for local Guide Leader
- Attended the High Sheriff's party

- Attended the Sandbach Town Festival – lovely to see young people attending and a good attendance overall
-

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public.

Speaker Number One

It was reported that Old Mill Road is blighted by the noise of HGVs. It was asked whether STC was aware of these issues and what is planned to do about it.

In addition, referred to Item 16 on the agenda – plans for Pub Watch radios. The speaker was supportive of any initiative which prevents and reduces crime but any proposal needed to be effective, value for money and committed to by local pubs and businesses. The speaker highlighted that there was no written proposal in relation to item 16.1 which requested £6k. The speaker asked that the Council request this before making a decision so that the public have an opportunity to comment.

The speaker asked how many new pubs have committed to an extension of the scheme, and have alternative solutions based on app based mobile phone technology been considered, as they are likely to be more cost effective than the scheme currently being used.

The Mayor responded by saying that STC knew about Old Mill Road but will follow up with Cheshire East Highways.

In relation to item 16, the Mayor said that this would be debated and a request for a more detailed proposal would be made.

Speaker Number Two

It was reported that Sandbach Drama Group is seeking to get back into action and asked that STC promote their work, including the performance of 'Brewster's Millions' from 18-20 November 2021. Cllr Beddows asked that an official invite is sent to the Mayor and it was also agreed to include on the 'What's On' section of the STC website.

Speaker Number Three

Referred to the Sandbach Pride Group, which had just been constituted and planned an event for June 2022. It was hoped that they could work with STC to secure a legacy of community support for LGBT+ issues. It was suggested that this could be done via the Diversity Champion in order to promote diversity in Sandbach. It was requested that a member of the Town Council join the group. Cllr Flavell said that the Council will support the group and will consider the request under the Diversity Champion item on the agenda.

Speaker Number Four

It was asked whether councillors still had free parking at Westfields in the town. The Mayor stated that he did not know, as this was a matter for Cheshire East Council. Cllr Flavell said that this parking was provided for Cheshire East Council staff.

Speaker Number Five

It was stated that Alsager Town Council was looking for a round table discussion with STC and Cheshire East Council on the establishment of the 317 bus service. It was agreed to email ATC/CEC.

4. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, public and press will be excluded whilst items 7 and 13.1 were considered.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 1ST JULY 2021 AND 19TH AUGUST 2021 (EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING)

RESOLVED That the minutes be accepted as an accurate record.

6. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 28TH JUNE 2021, 19TH JULY 2021, 9TH AUGUST 2021 AND 31ST AUGUST 2021.

RESOLVED That the minutes are noted.

7. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH JULY 2021 AND 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED That the minutes are noted (considered under Part 2 of the agenda as per minute 4 above).

8. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 23RD AUGUST 2021

RESOLVED That the minutes are noted.

9. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – NO MEETINGS HELD

RESOLVED The minutes were not available at the time of the meeting.

10. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH JULY 2021

RESOLVED That the minutes are noted.

11. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE – NO MINUTES AVAILABLE

RESOLVED The minutes were not available at the time of the meeting.

12. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SMALL COMMON REDEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE – NO MEETINGS HELD

RESOLVED The minutes were not available at the time of the meeting.

13. MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

13.1 Personnel Committee – Staffing Matters

Lead: Deputy Town Mayor

Action:

To agree on any further actions as needed.

RESOLVED Members agreed further actions under Part 2 of the agenda (see minute 4 above).

13.2 Personnel Committee – Employee Handbook

Lead: Chair of Personnel

Action:

To approve the Employee Handbook.

RESOLVED It was agreed to consider the document at Personnel Committee.

13.3 Finance Policy and Governance Committee – Diversity Champion

Lead: Chair of Finance, Policy and Governance

Action:

To appoint a Diversity Champion.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to appoint Cllr Donal Hegarty as the Town Council's Diversity Champion up to the next Annual Council Meeting in 2022. It was noted that both councillors and staff needed to take responsibility for the policy and be aware of its contents.

14. FINANCE MATTERS

Lead: Chair of FP&G Committee

14.1 Cheshire Community Action Invoice

Action:

To approve payment of invoice amount £2,223.00 for services from Cheshire Community Action.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to pay this invoice.

14.2 Waterplus Invoice

Action:

To approve payment of invoice amount £3,406.40 for water charges.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to pay this invoice, less the £70.00 levied for 'late payment'. This meant a payment of £3,336.04 was approved by the Council.

15. SANDBACH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – REGULATION 15

It was reported by Cllr Kirkham (Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) that the matter had been sent out for public consultation with assistance from Cheshire Community Action/Cheshire East Council and STC have since developed the document further. This will now be re-submitted to Cheshire East for Regulation 15 work and will be examined by the External Examiner to make the amended Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: This was approved by the Council and the Working Group was thanked for its work.

16. MEMBERS ITEMS

16.1 Cllr David Jack – Police and Crime Commissioner

This item was introduced by Cllr Kirkham in the absence of Cllr Jack.

Action:

- 1. To receive a verbal report on the visit of the PCC*
- 2. To recommend the release of £6,000.00 held in reserves to the radio suppliers at Northwest Radio as the STC contribution to the Pub Watch scheme.*

RESOLVED: The Town Council deferred the item, pending more information on the proposals.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence had been received by the Town Council.

- *Email – Transport for Medical Appointments – to liaise with organisations on sharing information in order to identify volunteers for the Communicare Scheme.*
- *Email -Community Asset Transfer Policy (Cheshire East Council) – agreed to add this to the Assets and Services agenda for 2nd November 2021.*

18. DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 7pm (Sandbach Town Hall).

DRAFT