

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Notes of the informal meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd November 2021 at 7.00pm, via zoom.

In attendance: Cllr D Hegarty
Cllr A Smith
Cllr L Crane
Cllr R Hovey
Cllr J Beddows (left 7:51)

Also in attendance were the Acting Town Clerk and Asst. Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs S Broad, Price Jones and R Hoffmann.

Absent without apologies: Cllr D Jack

2. CO-OPTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Members fully support Cllr Nick Adams joining the Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Beddows

Declared an interest in agenda item 6 and will not participate in discussion and in any discussion relating to the matters arising complaint from previous meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There being no public present the Chair did not adjourn the meeting for questions.

4. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

None.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 27 JULY 2021.

Members agree the minutes to be an accurate representation of the meeting held 27 July 2021.

6. MARKETS OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Cllr Beddows did not participate in the discussion

A correction to the Market Manager report was highlighted as Sandbach Town Council has not cancelled any of its markets due to adverse weather.

Members expressed some concerns during discussion of the report provided and proposal appendices; specifically in relation to the feasibility of changes for Sandbach's adverse weather routine and lack of consultation process in forming the recommendations.

It was agreed that the current adverse weather policy works well and allows staff to provide necessary and timely notice for traders of any equipment updates. The proposal delays such notification to a time at which contracted Market staff will have been on site for some time whilst awaiting a weather decision. At this time some traders may also be on site, or enroute, and potentially without necessary equipment from which to trade.

Key requirement before any changes or recommendations can be considered, is wide-ranging consultation, including all Market and Senior STC staff, traders and NABMA to ascertain suitability of changes proposed for Sandbach, benefit vs. negative impact for all and fit with current staff availability and contracted hours of work.

Increased capacity on Friday's; bringing in new traders and avoiding empty stalls is fully supported as an excellent idea.

There was some uncertainty regarding the provided list of Key Service Objectives due to missing details, such as Sandbach Town Council/Market specific reference, context of Sandbach market status and a timeline, which therefore limits any opportunity for measuring against the objectives set.

7. TOWN HALL OPERATIONAL UPDATE

A brief verbal update was received from the Assistant Town Clerk to confirm all bookings delivered in recent months and in the months following re-opening, along with numerous activities and events planned through to Christmas and the new year.

A written report will be presented to future meetings.

Members noted their thanks to the Town Hall team for continued hard work.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Community Asset Transfer Policy

Members discussed CEC correspondence and updated policy, received on 30th July 2021, which had been deferred to Committee by Full Council and agreed for Cllr Crane to liaise with the relevant department at CEC and obtain their list of available assets, in due course.

During discussion, an informal list of suggested assets for possible future consideration of STC were received from Members as: Sandbach Park, Sandbach Cemetery, The Cobbles and Scotch Common.

9. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Updated Market report and further update from Market Manager on enhancing Market Offering.

Update on Market Manager review of Sandbach Trader Policy and Shopper Charter.

CEC Asset Transfer policy/list

Before closing the informal meeting a discussion surrounding a Market complaint (considered initially at the last Assets and Services meeting).

Cllr Beddows left the meeting at this stage.

It was confirmed that the complainant had been asked, via the Mayor, to provide supporting information to facilitate investigation, however, no further details had been received.

The Acting Clerk will write again to the complainant stating deadline for documentation to be provided. The complaint is to be closed if no reply is received and complainant notified of status in writing by the Acting Clerk.

10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Assets and Services Committee is Tuesday 25th January 2022 on Zoom.

Meeting Closed 8.06pm
Cllr D Hegarty, Chair.