

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of Informal Sandbach Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th
November 2021, held remotely at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors G Price Jones (in the Chair)
 K Flavell
 A Nevitt
 J Beddows
 D Jack
 S Kirkham
 A Smith
 D Hegarty
 S Crane
 M Muldoon
 L Crane
 R Hoffman
 R Hovey
 N Adams
 S Broad
 G Merry
 K Seymour

P Cooper (ChALC) attended to clerk and advise the meeting.

Also present were approximately 10 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Corcoran

Absent without apologies
Councillor Eaton

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Flavell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Cheshire East
Councillor in 13.1 and 14.1.

Cllr S Corcoran declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Cheshire East
Councillor in 13.1 and 14.1.

Cllr R Hovey declared a non-pecuniary interest in 13.1.

Cllr L Crane declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Cheshire East
Councillor in 13.1 and 14.1.

3. MAYORS COMMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following comments.

The visits so far this month have been limited following a busy October start but two were undertaken:

- the New Hope disco at Sandbach School which raised over £2000 pounds towards the education of three children with learning difficulties in Africa.
- a visit to Kids Corner nursery where the Mayor and Mayoress had a lovely afternoon judging the best pumpkin from a range of excellent entries.

Finally, the Mayor asked for a minute's silence in memory of Josh Spender, a young man killed in a road traffic incident in Crewe the previous weekend. As Josh and his family had close ties with Sandbach a minute's silence was appropriate and was duplicated in the council meeting held in Crewe.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

No questions were asked.

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 item **20** was considered.

5. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 22 September 2021.

The Minutes were noted, but could not be approved as this was an informal meeting. It was agreed that Cllr S Corcoran needed to be added to the list of apologies.

6. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 21st September 2021.

That the minutes were noted.

7. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. None held.

8. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE. None held.

9. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. None held.

10. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE. None held.

11. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE. None held.

12. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SMALL COMMON REDEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE. None held.

13. MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Item 13 was adjourned at this stage and the Mayor brought forward Item 18.

13.1 Planning Committee

Community Governance Consultation

Members discussed the Draft Response prepared by Cllr Hovey. Members gave a steer to the changes they wished to see before it was submitted to Cheshire East Council

Action:

Cllr Hovey agreed to circulate a revised document to be approved at the next formal Council meeting. If by any chance the meeting couldn't be held before the deadline of 29th November, Cheshire East Council would be asked to accept a late response.

13.2 Planning Committee

CEC Town Centre Vitality Meeting Feedback

Cllr Hovey summarised the report that had been circulated and which was noted by Council.

13.3 Assets and Services Committee

Christmas Market update

This item was adjourned to the proposed Extraordinary Council Meeting.

14. FINANCE MATTERS

Lead: Chair of FP&G Committee

14.1 CCTV Invoice

This item was adjourned to the proposed Extraordinary Council Meeting.

14.2 Ellis Whittam Invoice

This item was adjourned to the proposed Extraordinary Council Meeting.

15. PUB WATCH RADIOS SCHEME [DEFERRED FROM LAST MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL]

1. It was agreed that the interim Clerk would speak to Cllr Jack with regard to ensuring a report is available for the Extraordinary Council Meeting 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.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- *Email concerning a plaque for a former councillor.*
- *Email concerning Sandbach and the Climate Emergency.*
- *Email concerning an update on a speeding Issues Consultation from ChALC.*

These items were adjourned to the proposed Extraordinary Council Meeting.

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

The Mayor undertook to call Extraordinary Council Meeting as soon as possible. (see Item 18)

18. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS

The Mayor made a statement which explained that Emergency Regulations which allowed councils to hold remote meetings during the Pandemic ended on 7th May 2021, therefore any remote meetings are informal and any recommendations have to be ratified.

Remote meetings had been re-introduced because of the rapidly rising cases of Covid locally and the difficulty of having enough staff to clerk meetings. With informal meetings, Council has to rely on the Civil Emergency and Urgency delegation in Standing Orders to the Town Clerk in consultation with Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Certain matters cannot be legally be ratified in this way and now the Covid infections are again falling in Cheshire East, it is appropriate to move back to formal meetings as soon as possible and this will commence not later than the December Council meeting.

It may be necessary for some or all committees to be informal with for a short while with recommendations ratified by full Council.

After a lengthy discussion, the Council accepted the Mayor's undertaking that an Extraordinary Council Meeting would be called at the earliest opportunity.

19. FUNDING OF REMEMBRANCE PARADE

The Mayor explained that Sandbach British Legion are no longer able to be the principal organisers of the Remembrance Service Parade on the 14th November 2021 due to Royal British Legion regulations.

It was agreed that the Town Council becomes the principal organiser for the Remembrance Parade on 14th November 2021, and will work in conjunction with the Royal British Legion (Sandbach Branch). The Council will take on responsibility for insurance and the costs associated with road closures.

ITEMS CONSIDERED WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

20. STAFFING MATTERS

Members were formally advised that the Acting Town Clerk had now resigned.

Members asked the Officers and the Mayor to take forward the following:

- To request ChALC to try to recommend a replacement Acting Town Clerk.
- To appoint additional short term financial support.
- To appoint a lead officer for staffing negotiation.

The interim Clerk for the meeting that he had an interest but not a pecuniary interest in these issues.