

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sandbach Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd November 2021 at 7.00pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

PRESENT

Councillors: G Price Jones
K Flavell
L Crane
S Crane
S Corcoran
J Beddows
K Seymour
R Hovey
A Nevitt
N Adams
A Smith
R Hoffmann
D Jack
M Muldoon
D Hegarty
S Kirkham

Also present were P Cooper (ChALC), K Pepper (Assistant Town Clerk) and six members of the public and press.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: S Broad, G Merry.

Absent without apologies: Cllr P Eaton

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Corcoran

Confirmed he is Leader of CEC and declared an interest in agenda item 15.2 and will not participate in discussion.

Cllr Flavell

Advised that she and Cllr Crane are CEC Councillors.

3. **MAYORS COMMENTS**

The Mayor provided an update on several local community events he and his Consort had attended since the last Council meeting, including the Remembrance Parade and Sandbach Art Festival.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public and clarified allotted time for the address of questions and statements.

Speaker 1

Expressed concern that White Ribbon Day, 25th November 2021, had yet to be discussed at Committee and encouraged all male Councillors to join.

www.whiteribbon.org.uk

Further queried missing minutes and audio from the website and asked how many pubs are asking for Pubwatch radios.

In reply, the speaker was advised that staffing issues were unfortunately impacting the undertaking of some tasks and that radios would be clarified during the agenda item report from Lead Councillor.

Following questions the Town Mayor reconvened the Town Council Meeting.

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

Resolved: That item 8 should be considered with the exclusion of the public and press, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to Personnel nature.

5. NOTES OF THE INFORMAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER [ATTACHED].

Resolved: The notes of the meeting are approved as a true record and all recommendations detailed within the notes are ratified.

6. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting are approved as a true record with Cllr S Corcoran added to the list of apologies.

7. NOTES OF THE INFORMAL PLANNING & CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER AND 22 NOVEMBER

Cllr Hovey provided verbal clarification of several items within the 22 November minutes.

Resolved: The notes of the informal meetings be approved and all recommendations contained within the notes ratified.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER AND 18 NOVEMBER 2021 CONSIDERED DURING CLOSED SESSION.

Resolved: That the minutes of Personnel Committee held on 15 September and all recommendations be approved.

Resolved: That the notes of the informal Personnel Committee held on 18 November be noted and all recommendations approved.

Resolved: That the Town Clerk revert to standard conditions of employment from 1st December 2021 and the Lead Officer be requested to confirm this to her.

Resolved: That Personnel Committee be given delegated authority to determine how and when to action the Offensive Communications recommendations approved within the Notes of Personnel Committee of 18th November.

9. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – NONE HELD

Cllr Smith queried notes of the informal budget discussion, which were to be obtained for inclusion within next agenda.

10. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – NONE HELD.

11. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EVENTS SUB- COMMITTEE – NONE HELD

12. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 2nd NOVEMBER 2021.

Minutes to be presented to next meeting.

13. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SMALL COMMON REDEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE - NONE HELD

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

14.1 Planning Committee

Community Governance Consultation

During discussion Cllr Hovey declared he is also a Councillor for Haslington Parish.

Resolved: The draft response, as circulated, be agreed and submitted.

14.2 Assets and Services Committee

Christmas Market update (Deferred from the last meeting of Town Council).

Resolved: The updated report was received.

15. FINANCE MATTERS

15.1 Water Plus Invoice

Resolved: Invoice INV06971224 is approved for payment, minus the £70 late payment fee.

15.2 CCTV Invoice (Deferred from the last meeting of Town Council).

Cllr Corcoran did not participate in discussion.

Resolved: CEC Invoice 11700036755 is approved for payment of £6874.01, for 2021/22 provision of Public Space CCTV in Sandbach.

15.3 Ellis Whittam Invoice (Deferred from the last meeting of Town Council).

Resolved: Invoice 029727 is approved for payment of the annual HR and H&S support and E-Learning package.

15.4 Invoice from Acting Town Clerk

Resolved: Payment of invoice amount of £1739.42 is approved.

16. VCP PHASE 2

Members had received the updated VCP documents for review and confirmed support of the scheme, which ran well and assisted many vulnerable residents during the months of Covid lockdowns, but queried staff time available and requirements.

Resolved: the item be delegated to the Community and Environment Committee for consideration and thanks passed to Alsager volunteer group, via Cllr Nevitt, for their offer of support in setting up a longer-term scheme.

17. SANDBACH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Resolved: That the three year rental contract, as circulated, for Sandbach Christmas Lights be approved and specified costs agreed and to be budgeted during the years of the rental contract; that being 2021, 2022 and 2023.

18. PUB WATCH RADIOS SCHEME

Having circulated an update report to all Members, Cllr Jack provided further clarification of the scheme's early years of operation and the work of the local PCSO over more recent years in engaging with Licenced Premises within the Town, who have now all confirmed they are on board with the scheme and will be participating, along with two high risk target venues.

it was confirmed that 11 radios previously used for the earlier scheme participants will be held in a central location and available only for authorised use.

Resolved: That release of funds from budgeted amount for the 50% Town Council contribution towards purchase of 45 x F2000 (with display) is approved, and payment delegated to the Proper Officer/RFO.

19. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATION

Item deferred to the next Council meeting.

20. ADOPTION OF POLICIES

20.1 Quality Policy

Resolved: The updated Quality Policy is approved, as circulated.

20.2 Performance Management Policy

Resolved: The Performance Management Policy, as circulated, is approved.

21. MEMBERS ITEMS

21.1 Cllr Ann Nevitt – Notification by CEC Councillors to STC of decisions that affect Sandbach.

The Member Item recommendations be deferred to Finance, Policy and Governance Committee for consideration.

22. CORRESPONDENCE

22.1 Email concerning a plaque for a former Councillor, received on 17 July 2021 from a resident. (Deferred from the last meeting of Town Council).

Deferred to Community and Environment Committee for consideration, with information sought from the Partnership and resident regarding the benches.

22.2 Email concerning Sandbach and the Climate Emergency, received on 22 October 2021 from a resident. (Deferred from the last meeting of Town Council).

Deferred to Community and Environment Committee for consideration.

22.3 Email concerning an update on a Speeding Issues Consultation received on 4 October 2021 from ChALC. (Deferred from the last meeting of Town Council).

Deferred to Community and Environment Committee for consideration.

23. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed 10:10pm

Cllr G Price Jones, Mayor
KP/PC