

# SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes for the meeting held on Monday 6 December 2021 at 7pm in The Ballroom, Sandbach Town Hall.

In attendance: Cllr R Hoffmann  
Cllr G Price Jones (Mayor)  
Cllr G Merry  
Cllr L Crane  
Cllr D Hegarty  
Cllr D Jack  
Cllr A Nevitt

Also present were five members of the public and the Senior Operational Support Officer.

*Cllr R Hoffmann opened the meeting as the outgoing Chair.*

### 1. **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR**

To appoint Community and Environment Committee Chair.

**Resolved:** That Cllr Laura Crane is the new Committee Chair.

*Cllr L Crane took over as Chair of the Meeting.*

### 2. **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE VICE - CHAIR**

To appoint Community and Environment Committee Vice - Chair.

**Resolved:** That Cllr Donal Hegarty is the new Committee Vice - Chair.

### 3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence: Cllr S Broad

Absent without apologies: Cllr K Flavell

### 4. **CO-OPTION TO THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

To co-opt Cllr Ann Nevitt to the Community and Environment Committee.

**Resolved:** That Cllr Ann Nevitt be co-opted to the Community and Environment Committee.

## 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

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## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public in attendance.

The author of Correspondence item 9.4, Climate Change Emergency, spoke to confirm that she was in attendance.

There being no further questions, the meeting was reconvened by the Chair.

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## 6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

[Attached: Minutes]

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2021 be approved as a true record.

## 7. VCP PHASE 2

[Attached: Briefing and VCP Agreement Principles]

Lead: Meeting Clerk

This item was deferred to the C&E Committee by Council at their meeting of 23 November 2021.

Two representatives from Cheshire East Council were in attendance at the meeting and explained that the original Volunteer Scheme was set up very quickly in response to Covid 19 with 4000 people in Cheshire East having helped as a part of it.

Phase 2 now aims to retain these volunteers in the programme for the long term, to continue providing help to those that need it, with Coordination responsibility being given to Local Councils.

During Members discussion, it became apparent that there are a number of different Community Groups on Sandbach already working to fulfil some of the aims of the project, and that it is important that the groups all be brought together to provide coordinated help most effectively. Members leaned towards option 1 during discussion (Proceed as a VCP and agree to the next steps) and agreed to setup a Working Group that would invite all applicable groups to its second meeting and work on a way forward as a network. Cllr L Crane agreed to facilitate the working group meeting.

**Resolved:** To set up a Working Group to investigate how VCP phase 2 can be progressed.

*Under item 9.2 of the meeting, it was also agreed that Community Resilience plans would be considered under the same Working Group.*

## **8. WHITE RIBBON ACCREDITATION**

[Attached: Public Speaking from Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021]  
Lead: Meeting Chair

Members confirmed that Congleton have recently undertaken accreditation, and that it would be worth reaching out to them to gain more information on the scheme and the application process.

**Resolved:** That the meeting Chair contacts Congleton Town Council for more information on the scheme and brings this information to the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **9.1 PLAQUE INSTALLATION FOR EDWARD WILLIAMS**

The Clerk of the meeting confirmed that the benches were not included on the Assets Register for Sandbach Town Council, which suggests that they are owned by the Partnership. Members agreed to write to the Partnership to gain permission for STC to install the plaque on a bench.

**Resolved:** That in principal, the Committee have no objection to a plaque being placed on a bench in the Town Centre. The Town Council is to write to the Partnership to confirm ownership of the bench and delegate placement of the plaque to staff, with the agreement of the Partnership.

### **9.2 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS**

The importance of this piece of work was stated by the meeting Chair. Members suggested that other towns should be spoken to see how a Community Resilience Plan has been set up elsewhere. It was agreed that making this plan be integrated into the work of the VCP Working Group formed under item 7.

**Resolved:** That making a Community Resilience Plan is incorporated into the work of the VCP Working Group formed under item 7.

### **9.3 CEC CONTROL ROOM UPDATE**

*The item was received.*

### **9.4 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

Members felt that a Sandbach response to the Climate Change Emergency would be best enacted as a part of the Sandbach Strategy. Whilst it is a more long winded solution, it would be much more efficient and effective.

**Resolved:** That the Climate Change Emergency is considered as part of the Sandbach Strategy.

#### **9.5 CHALC – SPEEDING ISSUES CONSULTATION UPDATE**

The Meeting Clerk confirmed that nothing had been received back from ChALC concerning detailed costs of the project. Without costs, members felt unable to progress the item at this time and it was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:** That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee pending more information.

#### **10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Wildflowers project  
Youth Survey for Leisure provision  
Diversity and Inclusion Training  
Friends Groups for Parish Parks  
ChALC – Speeding Issues Consultation Update.

*The Meeting Clerk requested that Councillors leading any of the above items bring a full report to the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee so that the items can be progressed.*

#### **11. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community & Environment Committee Meeting will be on Thursday 3 March 2022 at 7.00pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 7.37pm

Cllr L Crane, Chair.

K Pepper, Meeting Clerk

MW