

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL
Small Common Redevelopment Sub-Committee

MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held on Monday 30 May 2022 at 6.00pm in The Ballroom, Sandbach Town Hall.

Committee Members: Cllrs D Hegarty (Chair), G Price Jones (Vice Chair), G Merry, J Beddows, S Broad, L Crane and D Poole.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
CLLR G MERRY

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

None considered for the exclusion of press and public as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

The following questions were raised:

How was this meeting advertised as we had difficulty finding information?

When will our feedback be answered?

Have various operational aspects of the glider canopies been considered?

What are the running costs of this project?

We appreciate the intention to improve the town but the canopy design is not in keeping with the town and is too expensive.

After the questions, the Chair reconvened the Meeting.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SMALL COMMON REDEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

5. SMALL COMMON PROJECT UPDATE & NEXT STEPS

Lead: The Meeting Chair

The Chair summarised the report findings and suggested that the debate be dealt with in 3 stages based on the engagement feedback, the operational assessment and the updated costs. It was noted that the Council had received a good response to the 7 week engagement process with over 90 feedback forms and additional emails for more specific comments. It was noted that fewer residents than expected attended the public meeting and the clerk agreed to check how meetings could be better advertised in future as there appeared to be some confusion around this.

Sub Committee members were asked for their views and, overall, although some favourable views had been expressed regarding the canopy design, many more had been unfavourable and it was unanimously felt that this part of the specification should be dropped.

Several other suggestions were made as a result of the feedback received and it was felt that the environmental and disability access improvements should be promoted in the final design.

Resolved: That:

- i)** The comprehensive feedback from residents and stakeholders received during the 7 week public engagement exercise is welcomed;
- ii)** The updated costs and that these far exceeded the earmarked reserve for this project is noted;
- iii)** Council is requested to support the outcome of the public engagement exercise;
- iv)** Council is requested to endorse that a modified public space design is developed to include public feedback and Sub Committee suggestions in particular with regard to the inclusion of disability and environmentally friendly features, and the removal of the gilder canopy;
- v)** Council endorses that the revised design is fully costed to ensure affordability;
- vi)** Revised costed plans are brought back to Council for sign off pre-planning application stage.

6. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

This is to be confirmed depending on the revised project plan.

Meeting Closed 18.50 Cllr D Hegarty (CL)