



SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday, 14th December 2022
at 7.00pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

PRESENT

Councillors: R Hovey (Deputy Mayor)
G Merry
S Corcoran
S Kirkham
D Hegarty
A Nevitt
G Price Jones
N Adams
R Hoffmann
N Cook
S Crane
L Crane
K Seymour

Also present were members of the public and press.

Opening Reflections were read by Cllr Merry.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies: Councillors K Flavell (Mayor), J Beddows, D Poole, S Broad,
A Smith, M Muldoon.

Absent without Apologies: Councillor P Eaton

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hovey

Declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 (Dementia Friendly Sandbach).

Cllr Corcoran

Declared, In the interest of openness and transparency, that he is leader of Cheshire East Council and this is relevant to item 10, though not a matter to be considered prejudicial.

Cllr L Crane

Declared that she is a Cheshire East Councillor and this is relevant to item 10 though not a matter to be considered prejudicial.

3. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Mayor provided an update on events and activities he had recently attended and noted his thanks to the Healthcare Professionals and Volunteers for the efficient running of the recently closed Covid Vaccine centre at Middlewich. Further thanks were expressed to everyone involved with the recent Sandbach Christmas Market. Future opportunity to feed into CEC vitality plan was also referenced.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The meeting was adjourned to allow questions relating to items on this Agenda from members of the public.

Speaker 1

Referenced Councils commitment and approach to tackling climate change and its acknowledgement of the climate emergency. They were pleased something is happening and paid tribute of Chief Officer's work in the strategy recommendations and urged Members to support in being part of solution to the problem.

Speaker 2

In reference to Dementia Friendly Sandbach, confirmed that Several Members of Council and Staff had previously attended Dementia Friendly training and Council provided a grant to assist the group start up virtual sessions, which continue to be well-received and are diarised through early 2023.

The Deputy Mayor reconvened the meeting.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2022 (DRAFT).

Minutes were unavailable and will be presented to the next Council meeting.

6. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE SMALL COMMON SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2022 (DRAFT).

Resolved: The draft minutes are noted.

7. A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COUNCIL

[Attached: Report of the Chair of the Dementia Friendly Task & Finish Group]

Cllr Hegarty introduced the report action plan and steps which can be taken in becoming a Dementia Friendly Council. The Chief Officer confirmed staff support and resource commitment to delivering the action plan.

Resolved: That Council Supports the steps outlined in the report action plan and works towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council within three months.

8. COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

[Attached: Report of the Climate Change Steering Group]
Cllr Adams, as one of Council's Climate Change Champions, referenced the three productive meetings attended and highlighted the level of positive achievements which can be made and areas in which we can encourage others to move forward to make changes.

Though supportive of the proposals, query was raised as to achievability of Council being Carbon Neutral, with buildings such as historic Town Hall, by 2025 or how this will be off-set? It was agreed that a start must be made on this issue and the target gives deadlines hoped to be met, in following the Steering Group proposals to obtain Council-wide commitment.

Resolved: That:-

- i) Council commits to be carbon neutral by 2025 and publish the plan to achieve that;
- ii) Council notes the current and planned actions to ensure that the Council fulfils its commitment providing leadership through effective joint working to tackling climate change.

9. ADOPTION OF CORPORATE STRATEGY

[Attached: Final Corporate Strategy Document]

Resolved: That:-

- i) The draft document is approved as the Council's Corporate Strategy, subject to any final presentational issues to be delegated to the Chief Officer prior to publication;
- ii) The continuing work of the Corporate Strategy Task and Finish Group is noted and further developments awaited.

10. PROPOSAL FOR FIT FOR PURPOSE ACCOMMODATION

[Attached: Report]

The Chief Officer spoke to the circulated report and confirmed the previous and current issues with accommodation provision and best options now available.

An amendment to proposed action i.) was proposed and seconded which removed delegation to Chief Officer for entering into the lease and stated that: *Before entering into a lease agreement the Chief Officer will obtain agreement of Mayor, Chair of Assets, Chair of Finance and Chair of Personnel.*

This vote was won and formed the substantive motion.

Resolved: That:-

- i) Transfer of staff to fit for purpose accommodation to the CEC Enterprise Centre is approved for a lease at a maximum net annual cost of £17,000, after taking into account additional room hire income, to be funded from earmarked reserves set aside for the office accommodation project and then considered as part of the 2024-25 budget setting process. Before entering into a lease agreement the Chief Officer will obtain agreement of the Mayor, Chair of Assets, Chair of Finance and Chair of Personnel.

- ii) In relation to the remaining aspects of the Fit for Purpose project, Council will await recommendations from the Assets and Services Committee

11. CORRESPONDENCE

None Received.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting Closed 7.55pm
Cllr R Hovey (Deputy Mayor in the Chair)

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