

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the forty-ninth Annual Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on
Wednesday, 24th May 2023 at 7pm in the Sandbach Town Hall

PRESENT

Councillors: K Flavell, L Crane, J Arnold, J Beddows, M Muldoon, A Nevitt,
S Corcoran, G Lindop, D Poole, G Price Jones, T Wheatcroft,
M Deakin, M Hough, L MacGregor, S Richards, S Broad, N Cook,
R Gray, D Hegarty and M Mitchell.

Also present were 50 members of the public, press and neighbouring Town/Parish
Council Dignitaries.

The Opening Reflections were read by Cllr K Flavell

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K England, due to personal reasons

2. THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

Cllr Flavell commented that she had had an amazing year in office, with 69 events attended; it had been a privilege to attend the varied and interesting community activities, which included the inaugural Sandbach Pride event. Additionally, the Coronation Concert, despite the rain, was a great event and a highlight of the year but, most of all, following the ancient tradition, making the proclamation of the King on the Cobbles was a real honour.

Funds were raised for Cheshire Arts for Health and Sandbach Animal Rescue, which Cllr Flavell will continue to support in various ways.

Thanks were expressed to past Councillors, Council and staff for input and hard work during Cllr Flavell's year as Mayor.

Cllr Flavell closed her remarks with a quotation from Harry S Truman:
"It is remarkable what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit".

3. ELECTION OF THE TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2023/24

Cllr A Nevitt Proposed Cllr L Crane. Seconded Cllr S Broad.

Resolved: that Cllr Laura Crane be elected Mayor for the year 2023/24.

4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – TOWN MAYOR

The new Mayor read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Deputy Chief Officer.

5. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2023/24

Cllr L Crane Proposed Cllr A Nevitt. Seconded Cllr G Lindop.

Resolved: that Cllr Ann Nevitt be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2023/24.

6. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – DEPUTY MAYOR

The new Deputy Mayor read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Deputy Chief Officer.

The Mayoral Party withdrew from the Ballroom whilst they were invested with their Civic chains.

7. TRIBUTE BY THE NEW TOWN MAYOR TO THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR.

The Mayor paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and commented on the term of office having been significantly busy and memorable. Most Mayor's have a busy time with the varied and wonderful community events, but Kathryn took on the role when Covid was still impacting the Town, a year which saw the Platinum Jubilee, the passing of Her Majesty the Queen, a historical proclamation of the King and Coronation of King Charles III, with recent celebration concert and a solo performance by the outgoing Mayor.

Thanks to Kathryn for leading during those difficult times and for being a fair Mayor, working in uniting the Council through the last twelve months.

8. APPOINTMENT BY THE NEW TOWN MAYOR OF HONORARY CHAPLAINS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATES OF CIVIC EVENTS, THE CHARITIES TO BE SUPPORTED AND PLANS FOR YEAR OF OFFICE

The new Mayor confirmed that she will be supporting two charities during her year of office. The first is the Ettiley Heath Playing field association, who have been chosen in order for the group to secure additional funds to support the playing field facility, open to all. The second is Ruby's Fund, which is a Charity close to the Mayor's heart and which is supporting numerous parents and siblings of children with additional needs in the area.

Mayoral events and activities are to be confirmed and will be advertised.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP PLACES

Resolved: that:

i. the membership numbers of the adopted Committee structure is agreed as:

- Planning, Consultation and Environment (Max 10)
- Assets and Services (Max 10)
- Finance, Policy and Governance (Max 10)
- Personnel (Max 9) (with its Appeals Committee consisting of 5 available Personnel Members)
- Community and Events (Max 10)

- Small Common Refurbishment Sub Committee (Max 7)
 - Any future sub-committee (Max 7)
- ii. The above maximum membership numbers be listed within the Terms of Reference presented at the at the first meeting of each Committee, and within Council's Standing Orders.

10. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- i. Members reviewed all committee appointments.

Assets and Services: Cllrs Flavell, Hegarty, Mitchell, Beddows, England, Nevitt, Gray, Arnold, Poole and MacGregor.

Resolved: *That the above Committee membership be approved.*

Community and Events: Cllrs Beddows, Nevitt, Cook, Hegarty, Price Jones, Arnold, MacGregor, Hough and Broad.

Resolved: *That the above Committee membership be approved.*

Finance, Policy and Governance: Cllrs Lindop, Corcoran, Mitchell, Wheatcroft, England, Nevitt, Deakin, Cook, Hegarty and Arnold.

Resolved: *That the above Committee membership be approved.*

Planning, Consultation and Environment: Cllrs Price Jones, Muldoon, Mitchell, Wheatcroft, England, Richards, Gray, Arnold, Poole and Broad.

Resolved: *That the above Committee membership be approved.*

Personnel: Cllrs Flavell, Nevitt, Mitchell, Deakin, Price Jones, Arnold, MacGregor, Hough and Broad.

Resolved: *That the above Committee membership be approved.*

Small Common Sub-Committee: Cllrs Hegarty, England Beddows and Flavell.

Resolved: *That the above sub-Committee membership be approved.*

- ii. Members discussed the Chair and Vice Chair roles.

Assets and Services: Cllr Flavell (Chair) and Hegarty (Vice Chair).

Resolved: *That the above Committee Chair and Vice Chair be approved.*

Community and Events: Cllr Beddows (Chair) and Nevitt (Vice Chair).

Resolved: *That the above Committee Chair and Vice Chair be approved.*

Finance, Policy and Governance: Cllr Lindop (Chair) and Corcoran (Vice Chair)

Resolved: *That the above Committee Chair and Vice Chair be approved.*

Planning, Consultation and Environment: Cllr Price Jones (Chair) and Muldoon (Vice Chair).

Resolved: *That the above Committee Chair and Vice Chair be approved.*

Personnel: Cllr Flavell (Chair) and Nevitt (Vice Chair)

Resolved: *That the above Committee Chair and Vice Chair be approved.*

Small Common Sub-Committee: Cllr Hegarty (Chair) and England (Vice Chair).

Resolved: *That the above sub-Committee Chair and Vice Chair be approved.*

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved: The representation to outside bodies and Lead Councillors is approved as:

Diversity Champion:	Cllr M Hough
Sandbach Partnership Mgmt Team:	Cllr D Hegarty
Sandbach Almshouse Trust:	Cllrs Wheatcroft, Nevitt, Price Jones and Broad
Linden Bank Liaison Group:	Cllrs Flavell and Gray
ChALC Area Committee:	Mayor and Clerk
ChALC AGM:	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk
ChALC Clerk Forum:	Clerk
St Mary's Church:	Cllr Corcoran
CEC Town/Parish Conferences:	Mayor and Clerk
Churches Together Fairtrade:	Cllr MacGregor
Foden's Supervisory Board:	Cllr Crane
Connected Communities:	Mayor + Cllrs Nevitt, Arnold, MacGregor and Hough
Sandbach Transport Festival:	Cllrs Broad, Price Jones and Nevitt
(Police) ASB Group:	1 Member from each Ward: Cllrs Flavell, Wheatcroft, England and MacGregor.
<u>Lead Members</u>	
Climate:	Cllr Wheatcroft
Dementia Friends:	Cllr Hegarty
Police:	Cllr England
Rail:	Cllr Flavell
Schools:	Cllr Richards

12. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Resolved: the 2023-24 Calendar of Meetings and Council activities is approved.

13. INTERNAL AUDITOR

Resolved: That JDH Business Services is approved as internal auditor 2023/24.

14. OUTSIDE SUPPORT 2023/24

Resolved: that:-

- i. Worknest is approved for Health, Safety and Employment support.
- ii. John Greenall & Co Ltd is approved for payroll and pension services.
- iii. Dixon Rigby Keogh, Sandbach, is approved for Legal Support.
- iv. John Greenall & Co is approved for Financial guidance and VAT return.
- v. Prism Computers is approved for IT Support.

15. CONSTITUTION DOCUMENT REVIEW

Resolved: That: --

- i. The Council's financial regulations are approved.
- ii. The Council's Standing Orders are approved, subject to inclusion of revised Committee Membership above (item 9).

16. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council is a business meeting scheduled for Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00pm in the Ballroom, Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:05pm

Cllr L Crane, Mayor

KP