

# SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the forty fifth Annual Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on  
Thursday, 23 May 2019 at 7pm in the Literary Institution, Sandbach.**

## **PRESENT**

Councillors: R Hovey, Retiring Mayor  
M Muldoon, (Mayor Elect)  
G Merry  
S Kirkham  
R Hoffmann  
P Eaton  
G Price Jones  
S Ashcome-Hurt  
K Flavell  
J Beddows  
D Jack  
J Belsham  
S Corcoran  
S Crane  
L Crane  
I Williams  
S Broad  
M Lea

Also present were 37 members of the public and press.

Dignitaries from Cheshire East, Alsager, Knutsford, Northwich and Winsford were in attendance.

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The Opening Prayer was read by Rev. Thomas Shepherd.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors: K Seymour

### **2. THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The Mayor welcomed civic guests, councillors, public and press. He welcomed new and established members returning to Council and thanked those who had not been re-elected for their service.

He has attended two CEC Mayor Making Ceremonies during his year in office and yesterday saw Cllr Birkill become Mayor for CEC, Cllr Edgar became Deputy and Sandbach Town Councillor, Sam Corcoran became Leader of the Council; congratulations and good wishes were tendered.

Members were reminded that they are volunteers, but that they are not alone, as there are many community groups within Sandbach that contribute to the culture of the environment.

He referred to the challenges of the adopted Local Plan, which will see an increase in the population of Sandbach of 40% by 2030 and stated that we need to work together in managing this.

During the year he has attended many events throughout Cheshire East and the old county of Cheshire to mark the end of WW1. These include the Edwin Firth and Foden's Concerts, the upgraded Middlewich War Memorial, Tatton Park – When the Lights Go Out and a Concert of Remembrance involving the music and poetry from Sandbach Schools.

Musically, Crewe Male Voice Choir celebrated its 60 years, concerts of the Sandbach Concert Series and Sandbach Choral Society were attended. A Celebration Concert was hosted for Foden's Band when they won the National Championships; Foden's Band also played at the Town's Party in the Park.

Within Sandbach, he had had the privilege to open the newly refurbished Market Hall, with its historic Sandbach shutter graphics from the Minshull Archive. He had awarded prizes to participants in the Christmas Market competition and to entrants of the Transport Festival. Finally, not forgetting the opening of the new, but very wet, play equipment at Wheelock Park.

Sincere thanks were given to Thomas Shepherd, representing Sandbach Churches Together as the Mayor's Honorary Chaplain and to Dennis Robinson, Town Crier. Thanks too to the Town Clerk and her staff for their hard work during the year.

At the beginning of the year, the Mayor pledged to support the encouragement of learning and playing musical instruments for residents of school age. Concerts of the Lions Youth Brass and the Spotlight Series have been attended, along with a music for youth competition held during the Transport Festival and a Christmas Concert at St Mary's by the two secondary schools. The Mayor reported that music appears to be thriving among the young people of Sandbach; supported by gifted tutors and experienced musicians.

Being a dementia champion was also a priority through an initiative started by the Sandbach Partnership, using knowledge gained from other communities, especially Alsager, the aim of which is to make life better for those living with dementia. This initiative progressed and saw the formation of 'Dementia Friendly Sandbach', Cllr Hovey will continue to take an active role.

A modest cheque will be passed to both the Sandbach Dementia Group and the Sandbach Concert Series to support these causes.

### **3. ELECTION OF THE TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2019/20**

Proposed by Cllr Merry and seconded by Cllr Kirkham.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Mike Muldoon be elected Mayor for the year 2019/20.

### **4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – TOWN MAYOR**

The new Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Town Clerk.

**5. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2019/20**

Proposed by Cllr Hovey and seconded by Cllr Flavell.

**Resolved:** that Cllr Geraint Price Jones be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2019/20.

**6. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

The new Deputy Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Town Clerk.

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The Mayoral Party withdrew from the Chamber whilst they were invested with their civic chains.

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**7. TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor, Cllr Mike Muldoon.

The new Mayor paid tribute to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Richard Hovey.

Richard has missed just 6 of 51 public meetings; for each of these occasions he was attending to his civic duties elsewhere.

He has been an excellent Mayor and has done his utmost to attend everything that he has been invited to. As the chair at Council meetings, he has always kept order and remained impartial, he has spent a great deal of time preparing for meetings, which has paid off in the Chamber.

He has kept the office project moving and now working with the Clerk to deliver improvements to the Town Hall Office.

He opened the refurbished Market Hall following a project led by Cllr Forster.

He hosted a concert to celebrate the successes of Foden's Band and to raise awareness and re-establish pride in the band's link to Sandbach.

He passionately embraced his role on the Dementia Support Group and plans to continue his work with this Group.

He always takes a great interest in planning matters and despite not being the chair of planning over the past 12 months, has not missed a single planning meeting. He takes the time to inspect applications and as necessary, view the sites to be developed.

He has attended over 70 mayoral engagements, of note have been the Boys School Awards Ceremony, an Anti-Bullying Conference and events supporting the Dementia Friendly Group.

He has judged the Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window, which this year went to William R Shoes and was the 'car' judge at the transport festival – no mean feat.

He has excellent qualities: he is caring, thoughtful, listens to and considers others. He is passionate about Sandbach and a true gentleman.

We are all pleased to see that he has been re-elected.

A framed certificate of appreciation for the past year and a small gift from the new Mayor was also presented.

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

The Mayor's Chaplain for the coming year on behalf of Churches Together, is the Rev. Thomas Shepherd; Thomas was thanked for agreeing to this.

Current and new Councillors were welcomed, with all outgoing Councillors being thanked for their work and efforts.

Cllr Geraint Price Jones was congratulated on his appointment as Deputy Mayor with the retiring Mayor being thanked for making 2018/19 a quiet year and delegating only a handful of deputy events.

Sgt Frost, from the Air Cadets was introduced. Two air cadets have been appointed and will be in attendance at a number of civic events.

The Council was thanked for their trust.

**9. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2019/20**

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen will be appointed at each first Committee meeting, when Terms of Reference will also be reviewed for the forthcoming year.

**Resolved:** The Committee appointments were approved as:

**Assets & Services Committee**

Cllrs Hovey, Eaton, Hoffmann, L Crane, Williams, Seymour, Beddows and Price Jones.

**Community & Environment**

Cllrs Merry, Jack, Lea, Hoffmann, Broad, L Crane, Price Jones and Flavell.

**Conditions Survey Sub Committee (Reports to A&S)**

Will now be dealt with by A&S.

**Events Sub Committee – Reports to C&E**

Cllrs Eaton, Jack, Hoffmann, Merry, L Crane, Flavell.

**Finance, Policy & Governance**

Cllrs Hovey, Merry, Ashcombe-Hurt, Jack, Seymour, Kirkham, L Crane, Eaton, Williams and Corcoran.

**Market Hall Steering Group Sub-Committee**

Will now be dealt with by A&S

**Planning & Consultation Committee**

Cllrs Hovey, Eaton, Lea, Broad, Flavell, S Crane, Merry and Price Jones.

## **Personnel**

Cllrs Hovey, Merry, Lea, Hoffmann, Corcoran, Belsham, S Crane and Jack.

## **Working Groups:**

Lead member appointments, lead member to contact other members.

**Air Quality** – Cllr Flavell

**Conservation** – Cllr Hovey

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** – to become a Sub Committee under Planning

**Office Accommodation** – Cllr Hovey

**Sandbach Cycling Group** - Closed

**Sandbach Skatepark Group** – Cllr Corcoran

**Strategic Planning** – Planning and Consultation Committee

**Tidy Town** – to become a Sub-Committee under Community and Environment

## **10. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20**

**Resolved:** the calendar of meetings (as agreed STC 11.4.19) 2019/20 is noted.

## **11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2019/20**

**Resolved:** the appointments be approved.

[List attached]

## **12. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

**Resolved:** that the Council notes that it remains eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence

## **13. INTERNAL AUDITOR**

**Resolved:** that JDH Business Services be approved as internal auditor 2019/20

## **14. OUTSIDE SUPPORT 2017/18**

- i. **Resolved:** that Wirehouse Employer Services be approved for Health and Safety support 2019/20.
- ii. **Resolved:** that John Greenall and Co. be approved for payroll and pension calculations/services 2019/20.
- iii. **Resolved:** that Dixon Rigby Keogh, Sandbach, be approved for Legal Support 2019/20.
- iv. **Resolved:** that John Greenall & Co be approved for Financial guidance and VAT return 2019/20.
- v. **Resolved:** that Prism Computers be approved for IT Support 2019/20.

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

The next meeting of the Town Council is a business meeting scheduled for Thursday 6 June at 7.00pm in the Sandbach Literary Institution, Hightown.

Cllr M Muldoon, Mayor

AB

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**Agenda Item 10 – Appointment to Outside Bodies**

<b>Sandbach Partnership Mgmt Team:</b>	Cllr Jack
<b>Sandbach Park Project:</b>	Cllr Eaton
<b>Sandbach Almshouse Trust:</b>	Cllrs Flavell, Eaton, Hovey and Price Jones
<b>Linden Bank Liaison Group:</b>	Cllrs Merry and Broad
<b>CHALC Area Committee:</b>	Mayor & Clerk
<b>CHALC AGM:</b>	Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk
<b>CHALC Clerks' Forum:</b>	Clerk
<b>St Mary's Church</b>	Cllr Merry
<b>CEC Town/Parish Conferences:</b>	Mayor and Clerk
<b>Churches Together Fairtrade</b>	Cllr Seymour (supported by Cllr Broad)
<b>Foden's Board</b>	Cllrs Merry and L Crane
<b>Connected Communities</b>	Mayor + Cllrs Merry, Eaton and Hovey