SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL Small Common Refurbishment Sub-Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandbach Town Council Small Common Refurbishment Sub-Committee held on 3 October 2019 at 6.30pm at Sandbach Literary Institution.

PRESENT Councillors: Jack (Chair)

L Crane Broad Merry Kirkham

There was one member of the or press in attendance.

The Clerk opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Muldoon

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public. There being no questions, the meeting was immediately reconvened.

3. RESULTS OF DROP IN SESSIONS

A drop in took place on Saturday 14 September in the Board Room, Sandbach Town Hall. The purpose of the session was to share early ideas for the refurbishment of the Small Common with members of the public and to seek feedback.

The session was not well attended; on this basis, the members took the consultation to the streets. They spoke to many members of the public and recorded comments as follows:

- On the whole feedback was positive.
- Some people did not know where the Small Common was.
- People were generally supportive of resurfacing.
- Everyone liked the idea of hard-landscaping and flower beds.

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- No-one raised the issue of public toilets.
- Many talked about vehicles power points.
- People liked the idea of entertainment and events on the site.
- Just one person was against the idea of covering the Small Common; several liked the idea of removable covers.
- It was felt that a noticeboard would be useful; especially close to the bus station.
- No reduction in parking places
- Additional and improved lighting.
- Giant Unicorn (from one of the younger members of the public).

Many of those who were spoken to found it difficult to visualise a covered area and it was felt that visuals would have helped.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

It was generally agreed that further consultation of public and stakeholders should be undertaken.

4. INSPECTION OF BRADWALL STORE

The Committee Chair reported that he had met the Mayor at Bradwall Store to review what is current stored externally.

Initial inspection shows a supply of York/Indian Stone, which in its current state is not suitable for use without major refurbishment; it is estimated that there are approximately $40m^2$. Additionally, there are about 16 one ton bags, which contain a mix of Cobbles, sets, rubble and half bricks. It is estimated that it would cost more to refurbish the materials that buy new. It is suggested that Council approval is sought to dispose of these materials through a local reclamation firm.

Once these materials have been stored, the Christmas Lights can be relocated and up to £3,500pa storage costs will be saved.

RESOLVED: that Council approval be sought to dispose of the landscaping materials and to delegate vacating the store to the Town Clerk.

5. CONSOLIDATION OF THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

It was reported that the Sub-Committee Chair and Town Clerk had discussed a number of possible options with David Trowler Architect. If Council is minded to pursue a covered area on the Small Common, it is felt that with careful design it could work.

Members considered how proposals should be delivered to Council and agreed an indicative timetable.

RESOLVED: that a report is taken to the next meeting of the Assets and Services Committee, with a view to making recommendations to Council in December, for the appointment of a Consultant Architect/Project Manager.

6. PUBLIC TOILETS

The cost and commitment of delivering a public toilet facility were discussed. It is suggested that the current disabled access public toilets could be modified to create a fully vandal proof multi-function toilet facility, that can be easily cleaned

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and maintained at a fraction of the cost of running the current facilities. If members agree, it is hoped that this alternative provision could be included in any emerging scheme.

<u>RESOLVED:</u> that the provision of public toilets should be a consideration in the car park refurbishment scheme and included in the report to the A&S Committee.

7. TIMETABLE

Report to A&S – 5 November 2019

Report to Council – 5 December 2019

A provisional sum may need to be included in the draft 2020/21 budget.

Next steps to be determined following the outcome of Council.

8. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 12 November at the Sandbach Literary Institution.

Meeting closed 6.55pm Cllr D Jack, Chair ALB