



ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday, **18th October 2023**
at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall**.

Present Councillors: Cllrs K Flavell (Chair), J Arnold, K England, M Mitchell, A Nevitt, L Crane (Ex Officio).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Hegarty, R Gray L MacGregor and J Beddows. Absent without apology was Cllr D Poole.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider items that, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for any items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

Lead: Chair

Resolved : *Item 14 to be excluded from press and public, due to sensitive HR issues.*

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

Cllr T Wheatcroft attended the meeting to support the proposal at item 10 and provided the following statement:

After the questions, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19TH JULY 2023.

[Attached: Draft minutes of the meeting]

Lead: Chair

Resolved : *The minutes of the Assets & Services Committee meeting held 19th July 2023 were approved as an accurate record.*

5. ASSETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE 2023-24 BUDGET

[Attached: RBS 2023-24 Budget & Actuals September Summary]

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *the actuals against budget position for Assets & Services Committee activities were noted.*

6. TOWN HALL COMPLEX UPDATE

[Attached: Update report from Chief Officer / Business & Events Manager]

Lead: Chief Officer

Members welcomed the report and progress to date. The Chief Officer was asked to confirm how many community bookings were rejected due to commercial activities and to ensure that sufficient opportunity existed for community use, whilst balancing this with the necessity to generate income. The Ball Room sound system review was discussed and the potential cost. Chief Officer to explore testing out new systems in advance of significant investment.

Resolved:

- i) The progress report was welcomed and noted.*
- ii) STC Market Regulations to be amended to allow piercings, subject to the trader having the necessary training and licences;*
- iii) To recommend to Council opening of the Indoor Market Hall on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a trial period wef 1 January 2024;*
- iv) To recommend to Council that a '4 for 3 weeks new starter trader offer' for the first 2 months of trading is approved;*
- v) to recommend to Council that the community rate is reduced to 50% for Monday to Friday daytime bookings;*
- vi) To recommend to Council to prevent the rental of its land to traders except Friday and Saturday evenings and under the current market charter arrangements.*

7. ASSETS AND PUBLIC REALM UPDATE

Lead: Chief Officer

Committee welcomed the update and noted the progress to date with regard to Ranger and Caretaker Services, particularly in the context of the current staff absence challenges. Cllr Nevitt raised her concerns for the state of the cobbles and whilst it was understood that this was beyond the staff resource of the town council, and was a CEC owned asset, the Town Council could consider funding a 'top up' service from ANSA to clear the cobbles annually.

Resolved:

- i) the update from the Chief officer regarding current progress and issues was noted;*
- ii) Cllr Muldoon & Chief Officer to check the charge from ANSA to clear up the cobbles.*

8. CEC CCTV CONTRACT RENEWAL

[Attached: CEC CCTV Contract]

Lead: Chief Officer

Resolved: *To recommend to Council to approve a 3 year fixed price contract.*

9. TOWN FURNITURE & ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE CONSIDERATIONS

[Attached: Report from the Chief Officer]

Lead: Chair

The Chief Officer updated the Committee regarding the town's furniture and that discussions with SP had confirmed there was no clear ownership documentation. The partnership had no desire to own and maintain the assets. Members supported the Town Council taking ownership subject to discussions with the Council's auditor and Chief Officer.

The Committee noted that Sandbach Partnership has returned the entertainments licence for the Cobbles to CEC wef 1 April 2024. Members considered the advantages and disadvantages of applying to run the licence and felt that on balance at this stage there was no obvious benefit to undertake this task which would require resources and present additional risk to the Town Council. It was agreed to monitor the situation with CEC and reconsider at a future stage.

Resolved:

- i) *That Council explore ownership and maintenance of Sandbach town street furniture;*
- ii) *It was noted and supported that notice boards are managed and updated by Sandbach partnership;*
- iii) *The Committee noted that the operation of the Entertainments Licence for the Cobbles, wef 1 April 2024, is being transferred from Sandbach partnership to CEC and will review in due course.*

10. MEMBERS ITEM - BENCH ON THE HILL

[Attached: Members item form]

Lead: Chair / Cllr S Corcoran

Resolved: *To recommend to Council that Sandbach Town Council should accept responsibility for maintenance of a bench on The Hill outside Griffiths & Booth Funeral Directors.*

11. ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA FOR PUBLICITY

Lead: Chair

Resolved: publicise the bench; market and town hall developments; cobbles maintenance aspirations.

12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Lead: Chair

Shop Units; Furniture Review; Ball Room Sound System Review.

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on 31 January 2024 in Sandbach Town Hall.

PART 2

14. RANGER SERVICE UPDATE & REVIEW

[Attached: Chief Officer Confidential Report]

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *recommendations to Personnel Committee and Council were agreed.*

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