



SANDBACH
Town Council

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

For the **Fiftieth Annual Meeting** of Sandbach Town Council
and
Mayor Making Ceremony
held on **Wednesday, 15th May 2024**
in the **Ballroom, Sandbach Town Hall**, commencing at **7pm**.

Present:

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

Officers: Chief Officer C Lloyd clerked the meeting, assisted by Deputy Chief Officer K Pepper.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs K England, M Hough, and M Muldoon. Cllr L MacGregor was absent without apology.

2. The retiring Town Mayor's remarks

Cllr Laura Crane spoke in support of the new Council she had lead over the past year and how much strength and energy there now was in the Council. She had attended over 80 events, despite being poorly for the later part of the Mayoral year. She thanked Cllr Flavell for her unstinting support and the Chief Officer and the Council team for the progress they are making to deliver the policies of the Council after a previous period of disruption. Cllr Crane also paid tribute to the incredible volunteers who do so much for the community and was pleased to have reintroduced the volunteer award event which had been an enormous success.

3. Election of the Town Mayor for the year 2024/25

Resolved: Cllr Ann Nevitt was unanimously elected as Town Mayor.

4. **The Clerk will call upon the new Deputy Town Mayor to read and sign their declaration accepting the office of Deputy Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor read and signed their declaration accepting the office of Sandbach Town Mayor.

5. **Election of the Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2024/25**

Resolved: Cllr John Arnold was unanimously elected as Deputy Town Mayor.

6. **The Clerk will call upon the new Deputy Town Mayor to read and sign their declaration accepting the office of Deputy Town Mayor**

The Deputy Town Mayor read and signed their declaration accepting the office of Sandbach Deputy Town Mayor.

The Mayoral Party withdrew from the Ballroom whilst they were invested with their Civic chains and then re-entered to applause from all participants of the public meeting.

7. **Tribute by the new Town Mayor to the retiring Town Mayor.**

The new Town Mayor, Cllr Ann Nevitt paid tribute to the contribution of the retiring Mayor, Cllr L Crane and reflected also on the scale of her activities during her mayoral year. She fully endorsed the notable legacy that she had been the first (and probably last) town Mayor who had lead a Mayoral Procession during the pride event dressed as a pink flamingo! She hoped to carry on the great work which had been done and was looking forward to working together across the Council to deliver value for money and to ensure that as far as possible political differences would not get in the way. She noted that her and the new deputy were wearing purple to emphasise this point.

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 Town Mayor's charities are Foden's Band and the Friends of Sandbach Cemetery. The civic events are currently being arranged and will be announced in due course.

9. **Committee Appointments [See attached summary for details]**

Resolved:

- i. Committee appointment were approved.

ii. *Committee Chair and Vice Chair appointments were approved.*

10. **Appointments to Outside Bodies [See attached summary for details]**

Resolved: *Representation on outside bodies was approved.*

11. **Calendar of Meetings and Activities**

Resolved: *the 2024-25 Calendar of Meetings and Council activities was approved.*

12. **General Power of Competence (GPoC) and Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS)**

[Attached: Chief Officer Report and GPoC criteria]

The Town Mayor congratulated the Chief Officer on her recent acquisition of CiLCA, required for the Council to adopt the Power of Competence, per the Localism Act 2011.

Resolved:

- i. *the General Power of Competence with immediate effect was adopted.*
- ii. *the aspiration to achieve LCAS at Quality level by the end of this year was endorsed.*

13. **Internal Auditor**

Resolved: JDH Business Services as internal auditor 2024/25 was approved.

14. **Outside Support 2024/25**

Resolved

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

15. **Constitution Document review**

Council have agreed to review committee terms of reference at the AGM of election year, and all policies once every 4 years.

Resolved:

- i. *The Council's [Financial Regulations](https://sandbach.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Financial-Regulations-2020.pdf) (link: <https://sandbach.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Financial-Regulations-2020.pdf>) were approved;*
- ii. *The Council's [Standing Orders](https://sandbach.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Sandbach-Town-Council-Standing-Orders-2022.pdf) (link: <https://sandbach.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Sandbach-Town-Council-Standing-Orders-2022.pdf>) last approved 22 November 2023; item not considered – previous approval stands.*

16. Hosting Cheshire East 'Star Awards' Event at Sandbach Town Hall

This is a wonderful annual event aimed at recognising cared for children and care leavers. Around 150 children and young people attended this event last year with their carers. Over 50 members of staff volunteered their time. (Cllr A Nevitt declared a non pecuniary interest and withdrew from the vote)

Resolved:-

- i) *Free use of the Sandbach Town Hall for the CEC Cared for Event on Sunday 24 November 2024 was approved.*

17. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council is a business meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 7.00pm in the Ballroom, Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 8.05pm

Mayor, Cllr A Nevitt / CL

DRAFT

Committee Membership 2024-25

Name	Mayor	Deputy	A&S	Chair	Vice	C&E	Chair	Vice	Finance	Chair	Vice	Personnel	Chair	Vice	Planning	Chair	Vice
Mike Muldoon															Y	Y	
Sam Corcoran									Y		Y						
Tim Wheatcroft									Y						Y		
Robert Gray			Y			Y									Y		
John Arnold		Y	Y			Y			Y	Y		Y					
Gareth Lindop									Y						Y		
Simon Richards												Y			Y		Y
Mark Mitchell									Y			Y	Y				
Kelvin England			Y						Y						Y		
Michelle Hough			Y			Y			Y			Y					
Donal Hegarty			Y		Y	Y			Y								
John Beddows			Y			Y	Y										
Geraint Price Jones						Y		Y				Y			Y		
Sandra Broad			Y			Y						Y		Y	Y		
Laura Crane			Y	Y													
Kath Flavell																	
Dave Poole			Y									Y			Y		
Nicola Cook			Y			Y			Y								
Ann Nevitt	Y																
Luke MacGregor									Y			Y					
Vacancy																	
Total	1	1	10	1	1	8	1	1	10	1	1	8	1	1	9	1	1
Max Allowed			10			10			10			9			10		

Representation/Lead Member

Name	Sandbach Partnership	Transport Fest	Fairtrade	Linden Bank	ASB Group	St Mary's	Foden's	Conn. Community	Schools	Police	Climate	Dementia	Rail (CRP)	Diversity	Pantry	Alms House
Mike Muldoon																
Sam Corcoran						Y										
Tim Wheatcroft											Y					
John Arnold								Y								
Simon Richards									Y							
Kelvin England										Y						
Michelle Hough														Y		
Donal Hegarty												Y				
Geraint Price Jones		Y														Y
Sandra Broad		Y														Y
Laura Crane		Y					Y						Y			
Kath Flavell																
Dave Poole																Y
Nicola Cook																
Ann Nevitt		Y													Y	Y
Luke MacGregor	Y		Y													
Robert Gray																
Gareth Lindop																
Mark Mitchell																
John Beddows																
Total		1	4	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Available Officer Link	CL	JB	4		CL			KP	KP	KP	CL	KP	CL	CL		4