



SANDBACH
Town Council

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held on **Wednesday, 12th June 2024** at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall.**

Present:

Cllr A Nevitt (Mayor)

Cllr J Arnold (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr S Corcoran

Cllr G Lindop

Cllr N Cook

Cllr L Crane

Cllr L MacGregor

Cllr G Price Jones

Cllr T Wheatcroft

Cllr M Muldoon

Cllr S Broad

Cllr R Gray

Cllr S Richards

Ceri Lloyd (Chief Officer) – Clerk to meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Beddows, M Hough, M Mitchell, K England and D Poole.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To provide an opportunity for members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in relation to any item on the agenda.

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved :

That under the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and accredited representatives of newspaper be excluded from the meeting for item 9 of business on this agenda on grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

The Mayor outlined her first 3 weeks in office which had been incredibly busy. A successful fund raising packed out event for Foden's, the return of the Day of Dance event which had been enjoyed by many and filled the town and the poignant 80th commemoration of D Day, where the newly appointed Town Crier made his first announcement.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Town Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public relating to items on this agenda, at which point she introduced the Council to the newly appointed Town Crier, Mr Dave Hypson. Mr. Hypson outlined his vision for the role and was looking forward to serving for many years. He raised the issue of the Town Crier's livery which the Chief Officer confirmed would be considered at a future meeting. The Mayor thanked Mr. Hypson for his presentation and look forward to working together with him.

Town Mayor reconvened the Town Council Meeting.

5. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2024 [ATTACHED].**

Resolved; the minutes were approved as an accurate record.

6. **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, CONSULTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 JUNE.**

Resolved; the draft minutes were noted.

7. **STC 2023-24 FINAL ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW**

[Attached: Chief Officer Report]

Lead: Chief Officer

The Chief Officer outlined the main features of the final accounts for 2023-24 which had culminated in an underspend against the revenue budget of £160K. the Chief Officer summarised the report she had circulated which itemised the main contributing factors to create the underspend, which included underspending on staffing budgets, despite sickness absence and unexpected income due to the increase in interest rates following the Council's investment of reserves in the Government's CCLA account.

The Chief Officer was asked to explain why it was necessary to increase the Town Hall Reserve at this stage and responded that she felt it was prudent to ensure some of the underspend was reserved due to a lack of investment in the Town Hall and the likelihood of significant expenditure if the asset were to retain its condition and attraction as a commercial and community asset. The Mayor and other members endorsed the additional investment and the Council agreed to increase the reserve.

Resolved:

- i. *To note the Council's 2023-24 financial position;*

- ii. *the transfer of £50,000 from General Reserves to the Town Hall Maintained Earmarked Reserve was approved.*

8. AGAR and ANNUAL AUDIT 2023-24

Lead: Chief Officer / RFO

8.1 Internal Audit & Management Response

[Attached: Internal Audit]

Resolved: *the final 2023-24 Internal Audit including the STC Management Response was considered and approved.*

8.2 External Audit – Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24 (AGAR)

[Attached: AGAR]

Council considered the Annual Internal Audit Report and confirmed their understanding and acceptance of section 1 of the AGAR.

Resolved:

- i. *Section 1 of the Annual Governance statement was considered and approved;*
- ii. *Section 2 of the Annual Governance Return based on the supporting documents and final accounts was considered and approved.*

9. CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING UPDATE AND PROPOSALS

Circulated via email – Chief Officer Report

Lead: Chief Officer

The Chief Officer outlined a number of proposals regarding the staffing structure, which were supported by members.

Resolved: The Chief Officer's proposals were noted and approved.

10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting is the taking place on **Wednesday 24th July** 2024 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall

Meeting Closed 8.10pm
Mayor Cllr A Nevitt / CL

DRAFT