



SANDBACH
Town Council

ASSETS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 10th July 2024 at 7.00pm, in Sandbach Town Hall.

Present: Councillors D Hegarty (Vice Chair)
A Nevitt (Mayor)
S Broad
J Arnold
D Poole
J Beddows
N Cook
R Gray
L Crane (arrived 7.12pm)

The Vice Chair advised the Committee that he would open this meeting as the Chair would be slightly late arriving and that, for continuity, he would remain in the Chair for duration of meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor K England.

Absent without apologies: Councillor M Hough

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Beddows declared (unspecified) interest in agenda items 6 and 7.

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

It was confirmed that no items needed to be considered without press or public in attendance.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No members of the press or public were present at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10TH APRIL 2024.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held 10th April 2024 are approved as a true record.

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5. ASSET MAINTENANCE UPDATE & PROPOSALS

Members were encouraged to visit the Market Store, where the Facilities Manager is working to continue implementing plans for additional shelving areas, a lockable workshop and further potential office space. Query was raised regarding the high cost estimate for re-wire of the store, which it was confirmed was a fully itemised quotation and that two additional quotes have been requested.

Resolved:

- i) The significant progress across the Council's asset portfolio is noted.
- ii) The rewiring of the Market Store is approved, at a maximum cost of £8,000, funded from the Maintenance Earmarked Reserve and delegated to the Chief Officer to implement.
- iii) The removal of toilet and sink in the Town Hall 'green room' at a cost of £475 is endorsed, with the remainder of the work to remove the wall to be undertaken by the Facilities Manager in order to maximise necessary storage space.
- iv) Payment of £1,800 for a replacement hot water cylinder in the ballroom toilets is approved, to be funded from the current year annual maintenance budget.
- v) It is recommend to Council that the application of use of Maintenance Earmarked Reserve is delegated to the A&S Committee to a limit of £10K in order to streamline approvals.

6. MARKET MODERNISATION REPLACEMENT GAZEBOS

Members discussed the newly purchased gazebos and queried cost-effectiveness and any issues encountered since their introduction. The Facilities Manager advised that he did not know of any issues, but that the Market Manager would be able to confirm this, and stated that the new gazebos are much lighter and manageable for staff on site.

It was requested that further updates on this transition timeline be obtained.

Resolved: that purchase of the remaining single gazebos (as outlined in the approval last year) at a maximum cost of £12,000 is recommended to Council for approval and to be funded from the earmarked reserve for this purpose and to allow the further reduction of operating costs.

7. TOWN HALL / MARKET OPERATIONAL UPDATE

In the absence of the Chief Officer, the Meeting Clerk provided brief information update confirming that the Chief Officer would not be requesting a price rise this year and that future pricing reviews would take place annually, in March. This item is requested for deferral to the next meeting, at which Chief Officer will provide full update on Town Hall/Market Operations.

Before moving to next item, Members asked how the Market was performing, due to varying reports being received. It was agreed to refer this query to relevant staff for response. Additional query was raised relating to a Shop Unit email which required reply. The Meeting Clerk was not aware of any email being received, however, Councillors suggested individual responses were sent.

8. RANGER / OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

In referencing the report received, it was suggested that, as Sandbach partnership have an existing Green Space group, including several Sandbach Councillors, a conversation would be necessary to avoid duplication of task and

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efforts. All Members, including Sandbach's CEC Ward Councillors, are to be invited by the Meeting Clerk to join the working group, which requires one Member from each Ward.

Resolved: **That:-**

- i. The committee agrees recommendation to Council that this working group is created.
- ii. An invitation to join be sent to all Members, seeking a representative from each Ward.

9. HERBAL GARDEN UPGRADE

Within the accompanying agenda item report, members were updated on the status of the Herb Garden and cost options for this to be replanted and maintained by ANSA. As the Rotary Club have expressed interest in continuing to support, there was some concern raised regarding paying for a service which local volunteers were willing to undertake for free. Where finance was only issue faced an amount could be committed in order for the Rotary Club to undertake the work.

Resolved: The Committee approves spend from the unspent Ranger cost centre, up to total suggested budget within Chief Officer's report, with proviso that Rotary Club, along with other community groups and the Ranger service are contacted to establish interest in taking over the maintenance of the Herb Garden - If not, the maintenance will defer to ANSA.

10. TRANSIT VAN REPLACEMENT

In discussing the agenda item report, there were questions raised regarding anticipated usage, purpose of replacement and the high cost requested for approving like-for-like vehicle without other available options being explored or presented. The Facilities Manager provided information update on the last MOT, where advisories were numerous, and anticipated that it would not be cheap to repair. The van was not expected to pass next MOT in October, though quote for repair had not been obtained. It was also confirmed by the Meeting Clerk, during the vehicle discussions, that the Ranger van was not due to be sold.

Clarification was requested regarding mileage and suggestion made of possible trailer use. It was confirmed that mileage is six hundred (average) per year and the Council's trailers are intended to be sold. Other options could be investigated. It was felt by Members that there was time to delay this decision in order to obtain a comprehensive overview of the Market plans from the Chief Officer, view the connections of market/vehicle proposals, all available options and then move this item forward accordingly.

Resolved: that a succinct options report be presented to the next Assets and Services Committee meeting by the Chief Officer, detailing the market and associated vehicle plans.

11. ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA FOR PUBLICITY

The Herb Garden update.

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12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Market Modernisation Anticipated Timeline
Town Hall and Market Update
Market Van Replacement.

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on 9th October 2024 in the Town Hall Ball Room.

Meeting Closed 7.37pm

Cllr D Hegarty (Vice-Chair in the Chair)

Meeting Clerk: KP

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