



SANDBACH
Town Council

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held on **Wednesday, 24th July 2024** at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall.**

This meeting was held in a Pre Election Period.

Present:

Cllr A Nevitt (Mayor)

Cllr J Arnold (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr S Corcoran

Cllr N Cook

Cllr L MacGregor

Cllr T Wheatcroft

Cllr M Muldoon

Cllr S Broad

Cllr R Gray

Cllr S Wright

Cllr K England

Cllr D Poole

Cllr D Hegarty

Cllr J Beddows

Cllr M Hough

Cllr M Mitchell

Ceri Lloyd (Chief Officer) – Clerk to meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs L Crane, G Lindop, S Richards, G Price Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in relation to any item on the agenda were disclosed.

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

Under the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and accredited representatives of newspaper be excluded from the meeting for item 13 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 summarised her community activities since the last meeting which were numerous. She specifically thanked the Deputy Mayor Cllr Arnold for his assistance and willingness to step in for engagements when required. The Mayor also thanked Councillors Corcoran and Broad who also attended recent Summer Garden Party at Elworth Hall School and helped on the Tombola stall and making one young person a very happy young man.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Town Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public relating to items on the agenda.

Mr T Doyle raised a question about item 10 and felt that £4,000 was too high a figure to spend on the livery;

Mrs C Bruerer asked for more details regarding item 8.ii the open spaces working group;

Anne Marie Robinson of Sandbach Partnership also asked about item 8.ii and suggested that links could be made with the SP Green Spaces Project Group that had been recently launched.

After questions the Town Mayor reconvened the Town Council Meeting and referred all discussion to the items as set on the Agenda.

- 5. THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2024 WERE APPROVED.**
- 6. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, CONSULTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEES HELD ON 08th JULY 2024 (DRAFT) WERE NOTED.**
- 7. THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JULY 2024 WERE NOTED.**
- 8. MATTERS ARISING (ASSETS & SEVICES COMMITTEE 10 JULY 2024)**

Resolved:

8.1 Maintenance Reserve

- i. 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 approved.

8.2 Open Spaces Working Group

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

8.3 Gazebos

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

9. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT & TRAILER DISPOSAL

[Attached: Report of the Chief Officer]

Lead: Chair / Chair of Assets & Services Committee / Chief Officer

Several questions were asked of the Chief Officer in relation to this proposal.

The CO confirmed the following points:

- Although the mileage requirement of the vehicle is low it is not possible to run the Council's market without a van so this point is not relevant to the business case
- The Council reclaims VAT on most of its purchases including vehicles
- The business case is predicated on new equipment and vehicles reducing operating costs, improving effectiveness and reducing Health and Safety risks to employees through use of a Tail Lift;
- A double gazebo requires 3 operatives to erect; a single gazebo ideally 2
- The new operating model including all aspects would allow the Council to reduce from 4 additional 'casual' operatives to 2 above its permanent staffing structure.
- All insurance and driving licence details will be checked before purchase

Cllr Poole felt that the current vehicle base was sufficient and did not support the proposal. Cllrs Arnold and Muldoon were satisfied that the business case was sound. Some members had visited the store and been through the detail with the facilities manager in preparation for the decision.

Resolved:

- i. that the 16 year old Market Transit Van and 2 Trailers are disposed of and replaced with a new model is approved;
- ii. that the purchase of the Van, and disposal of the 2 trailers, is delegated to the Chief Officer up to a maximum net cost of £15K to be funded from the earmarked reserve of £10K, and balance from general reserves is approved.

10. TOWN CRIER LIVERY

[Attached: Deputy Chief Officer Report]

Lead: Chair

The Mayor provided the background to the proposal and reminded members that the Council had resolved to appoint a new Town Crier at an earlier meeting which would then require the necessary livery and support. At the time of the proposal one quote for £4K had been received hence this being quoted as the maximum amount for the livery. Strenuous efforts had since been made to source a high quality livery befitting the Town Crier of a Large Town Council at a more affordable rate. The Mayor felt that she was able to secure something significantly lower. Members felt that the purchase should go ahead but at a lower cap. The Town Crier was thanked for his patience and enthusiasm to get established in his role to promote the town and make community connections.

Resolved: expenditure up to £2,000 in order to provide the required livery, funded by general reserves, and delegated to the Chief Officer's office in consultation with the Mayor and the Town Crier, was approved.

11. MAYORAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Lead: Mayor

Resolved : Additional free-use Town Hall bookings during Mayoral year 2024/25, in order to host Young Sportsperson Dinner and an additional Mayor's Charity Evening/Dinner was approved.

12. SO 26 URGENCY APPROVALS

Community Grant awarded for Sandbach Pride event of £1,500 under the Council's urgency procedures was noted.

13. CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING UPDATE

Lead: Chief Officer

A verbal update was provided by the Chief Officer and proposals regarding staff absence were approved.

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting is the taking place on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall

Meeting Closed 8.25pm
Mayor Cllr Ann Nevitt / CL

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