

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday**, **15**th **October 2024** at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall**, **Ballroom**.

Present:

Cllr A Nevitt (Mayor)

Cllr J Arnold (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr S Corcoran

Cllr N Cook

Cllr L Crane

Cllr T Wheatcroft

Cllr M Muldoon

Cllr S Broad

Cllr S Wright

Cllr K England

Cllr D Poole

Cllr J Beddows

Cllr G Price Jones

Cllr M Hough

Cllr M Mitchell

Cllr D Hegarty

Mrs. N. Clarke – Clerk for the meeting

1 member of the public

1 member of the press

PART 1 : ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Gray, G Lindop, L MacGregor and S Richards.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

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 items 8 and 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.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

Speaker 1: A member of the press asked if there is an investigation underway at Sandbach Town Council? The mayor confirmed that she is unable to answer the question.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

5. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting is the taking place on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

PART 2: ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

6. CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING UPDATE

Lead: Mayor

The Mayor expressed dismay and anger that confidential information had been leaked to the press which now puts the council at great risk. Clarification was sought on who had access to the information with confirmation that it was only councillors. Councillors voiced concerns that leaks could undermine the current work being dealt with by a group of councillors and gave backing to the work taking place to conclude the staffing matter.

Cllr. Arnold updated members on confidential staff matters and that professional advice has been sought throughout the process to ensure compliance. Councillors were informed of how much of the current budget has been spent on professional services. Cllr. Hough quoted Standing Order 19 e in relation to different matter.

Resolved: To approve:

- i. expenditure of up to £10,000 for professional services from an appropriate available budget heading or from general reserves
- ii. that Standing Orders and personnel procedures are taken to Finance, Policy and Governance Committee for review.

Meeting Closed 8.00 p.m. Mayor Cllr A Nevitt / Meeting Clerk NC