



SANDBACH
Town Council

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held on **Wednesday, 18th December 2024** at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall.**

Present Councillors

Cllr A Nevitt (Mayor)
Cllr J Arnold (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr S Corcoran
Cllr N Cook
Cllr H Merrick
Cllr R Gray
Cllr S Wright
Cllr T Wheatcroft
Cllr D Poole
Cllr J Beddows
Cllr G Price Jones
Cllr L MacGregor
Cllr L Crane
Cllr S Richards
Cllr D Hegarty
Cllr M Mitchell

Officers

P Gorzka (meeting Clerk)

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs G Lindop, M Muldoon, S Broad and K England. Cllr M Hough was absent without apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (ELWORTH WARD)

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *Elected Elworth Ward Councillor, Helen Merrick, signed her declaration of acceptance of office and immediately joined the council meeting.*

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL SANDBACH MATTERS

Cllr Corcoran updated the Council on a number of items including tree planting, the Bloor Homes Consultation and potential future housing developments around Sandbach. The focus of the update was Planning Applications, and upcoming changes to planning rules. Finally, Cllr Corcoran wished everyone a very merry Christmas.

5. 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 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4 and 22 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.

6. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor provided a summary of recent events, including the introduction of the new Town Crier. She extended her gratitude to Mr and Mrs Sproston for producing the Town Crier's livery. The Mayor also acknowledged the Rugby Club's food deliveries, which took place last week, expressing thanks to the companies that donated the food and to the councillors and residents who volunteered to assist with the deliveries. She further noted that the deliveries were filmed by BBC North West and are scheduled to be broadcast on BBC One on Friday evening.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

Speaker 1. P Jennings. The speaker commented on item 16. The speaker shared his research and opinion about Automated External Defibrillator (AED) presence in Sandbach. Speaking in general opposition to the member's item.

Speaker 2. The speaker commented on item 4. Asking for clarification about some points discussed by Cllr Corcoran in regard to consultation closing dates.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting.

7. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EGM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30th SEPTEMBER 2024 [ATTACHED].

Resolved: *The minutes of the meeting of 30th September 2024 were approved as an accurate record with the amendments to the participation of Cllr Crane and Richards, as well as changes to writing mistakes of item 4 of that agenda.*

8. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EGM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th OCTOBER 2024 [ATTACHED].

Resolved: *The minutes of the meeting of 15th October 2024 were approved as an accurate record with the following amendments:*

- i. The date on the minutes to be changed from September to October.*
- ii. **Item 6.** That the quotation of Standing Order 19 e in relation to different matter was made by Cllr Hough and not Cllr Mitchell.*

9. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 04th DECEMBER 2024 [ATTACHED].

Resolved: *The minutes of the meeting of 04th December 2024 were approved as an accurate record.*

10. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEES HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2024 WERE NOTED.

11. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2024 (DRAFT) WERE NOTED.

13. MARKET TRANSIT VAN REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Lead: Chair / Clerk

Resolved: *The decision: "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" remained unchanged.*

14. MEMBER'S ITEM – PURCHASE OF SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

[Attached: Member's item form]

Lead: Cllrs N Cook, M Hough, M Muldoon, K England, T Wheatcroft
Members discussed the necessity of the five poles, noting discrepancies in the information provided regarding their requirement. The discussion then shifted to the impact of Speed Indication Devices on roads where they are installed, and the available data.

Resolved: *the purchase of one mobile speed indicator device, and the installation of 5 poles, if needed, across the Parish of Sandbach, at a total*

cost of £9,000, to be funded from the Council's General Reserves was approved.

MEMBERS ITEM – WHITE RIBBON ACCREDITATION

[Attached: Member's item form]

Lead: Cllrs N Cook & M Hough

Members discussed the necessary steps to complete the White Ribbon accreditation with the Council discussed in the past.

Resolved: *The Council's application for White Ribbon accreditation and the undertaking of the necessary actions required was approved.*

15. MEMBER'S ITEM – BLEED CONTROL KITS

[Attached: Member's item form]

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Cllr Gray

Cllr Gray addressed and clarified misunderstandings regarding the Member's Item. This included confirming that the changes to the AED boxes are intended to accommodate the inclusion of a Bleed Control Kit and will not affect the AEDs already in place. Cllr Gray also provided further details on the funding for the project.

Members discussed the impact of Bleed Control Kits and considered whether the funding might be better allocated towards installing additional AEDs around Sandbach.

Cllr Mitchell clarified that the Police and Crime Commissioner's SWAP fund, which is being used to support this project, is not applicable for funding AED equipment due the funds criteria.

Resolved:

- i. The submission of a grant application to the Police and Crime Commissioner SWAP fund on behalf of Sandbach Town Council for £5,000; for bleed control kits and appropriate cabinets to support storage of both Bleed control kits and AED equipment (defibrillators) where the latter is required was approved.*
- ii. The budget of £2,000 from the general reserves for bleed control kits and appropriate cabinets to support storage of both Bleed control kits and AED equipment (defibrillators) where the latter is required was approved.*

16. COMMUNITY CINEMA

Lead: Cllr Wheatcroft

Cllr Wheatcroft presented the Community Cinema Project and raised the discussion of potential funding options to complete the initiative. This included the possibility of using CIL funding, which specifies "open-air cinema" as an eligible use. While the Community Cinema is not an open-air cinema, it was argued that the project is closely aligned with this category.

Members discussed the merit of the use of the CIL funding, and the possibility of leasing the necessary equipment instead of purchasing it.

Resolved: *To defer this item to a future Assets and Service committee meeting to discuss upon receiving a full report which takes into consideration all of the issues raised.*

17. CIL SPEND RECCOMENDATIONS

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Cook / Arnold

Resolved: *To delegate authority to the Assets and Services committee to decide on the CIL spend during the 29 January 2025 committee meeting.*

18. HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY AND HANDBOOK UPDATE

[Link:

<https://sandbach.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Sandbach-Town-Council-Health-and-Safety-Policy-Manual-Aug-2024-3.pdf>

<https://sandbach.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Sandbach-Town-Council-Health-and-Safety-Handbook-Aug-2024-1-1.pdf>

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *The proposed updated WorkNest Health and Safety Policy and Handbook was approved.*

19. TIME OUT GROUP USE OF TOWN HALL

[Attached: Time Out Group Information]

Lead: Chair

Members discussed the potential implications of permitting free use of the Town Hall.

Cllr Crane proposed the consideration of establishing a 'Free Use Policy' to provide clear criteria for evaluating future requests for free use.

Resolved: *To request that the Time Out Group follow the Sandbach Town Council Grant Application process to cover the cost of hiring the Town Hall Charter Room for their charity functions.*

20. 2025 EVENT DATES CALENDAR

[Attached: Sandbach Town Council Events 2025 document]

Lead: Chair

Resolved:

- i. the 2025 Sandbach Town Council Events calendar was approved with the following changes: the addition of Sandbach Pride.
- ii. to consider that the dates for Party in the Park and Sandbach Town Festival are swapped in future years to accommodate the weather.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence has been received for this agenda.

22. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS & PUBLICITY

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *The following to be considered on the next Agenda:*

- i. *Items 12.3, 12.4 and 22 were deferred to the next Agenda.*
- ii. *An update from WorkNest on the inclusion of coverage for volunteers to the Sandbach Town Council Health and Safety Policy and Handbook.*
- iii. *An update on the Schools Project.*
- iv. *An updated Sandbach Town Council Meeting Calendar.*

23. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting is the taking place on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

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

12. MATTERS ARISING

12.1 Policy/Process Review - Personnel Committee 10 December 2024

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Broad / Arnold

Resolved: *The additional visit from JDH Auditor for full policy/process status review. Delegate arrangements and meeting to the Deputy Chief Officer and a Cllr was approved.*

12.2 Youth Council - Personnel Committee 10 December 2024

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Broad / Arnold

Resolved: *To look for an appropriate venue with consideration for accessibility for the Youth Club.*

12.3 Additional Services - Personnel Committee 21 November 2024

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Broad / Arnold

Resolved: *The item was deferred to a future meeting.*

12.4 Personnel Matter - Personnel Committee 21 November 2024

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Broad / Arnold

Resolved: *The item was deferred to a future meeting.*

22. CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING UPDATE

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *The item was deferred to a future meeting.*

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm

Cllr A Nevitt (in the Chair)

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