



SANDBACH
Town Council

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held on **Wednesday, 22 January 2025** at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall.**

Present

Councillors:

A Nevitt (Mayor)
J Arnold (Deputy Mayor)
S Corcoran
H Merrick
S Wright
T Wheatcroft
D Poole
J Beddows
G Price Jones
L Crane
S Richards
D Hegarty
M Mitchell
M Muldoon
M Hough
N Cook
K England

Also in attendance were four members of the press and public, Deputy Chief Officer and P Turner (acting as meeting clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs G Lindop, S Broad, L MacGregor and R Gray.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were 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 11, 16 and 17 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

As it had been only a short period of time since last Council meeting, the Mayor provided a brief summary of recent events attended.

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.

Spoke in relation to spend of CIL funding and requested the adopted NDP document is respected to ensure it remains a valid and useful document when CEC and the Planning Inspectorate consider additional development proposals

The Mayor reconvened the meeting.

5. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th DECEMBER.

Several revisions to the minutes were discussed and voted upon, including typographical amendments and additional text within item 14 to read that “..the installation of five poles, *if needed*, across the Parish..”

Resolved: The minutes are agreed as a true record, subject to the administrative corrections and amendment above.

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & CONSULTATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2025 (DRAFT).

The minutes were noted.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 Personnel Committee TOR - Personnel Committee

Councillor Arnold provided an overview of the revisions to both the Personnel and Appeals Terms of Reference, to facilitate hearing panel formation, if needed, during various adopted Council Personnel processes and to meet deadlines in place within policy.

Amendment to include additional text '*for purpose of oversight only*' in reference to Personnel Chair/Vice Chair interview attendance (Item 5 - Management and appointment of Staff) and to footer of the Terms of Reference to read: *For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these terms of reference should*

be seen as preventing the Personnel Committee from delegating to a panel of councillors and involving councillors not on the Personnel Committee.
were received and accepted.

Resolved: Subject to agreed amendments, the Personnel Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee are approved and adopted.

7.2 Appeals Committee TOR - Personnel Committee

Resolved: The Appeals Committee Terms of Reference, as circulated, be approved and adopted.

8. BLOOM SERVICE AGREEMENT 2025

Resolved: The service agreement and costs of £13,205.12 (plus vat) for the planting and supply of floral display in Sandbach town centre for Summer and Autumn 2025 was approved.

9. MUSIC LICENCE RENEWAL 2025-26

Resolved: The quotation is accepted and cost of £1,478.17 (plus vat) for 12 month licence is approved with associated overspend against allocated budget line 180 6300 (Performing Rights Licence) noted.

10. SLCC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Resolved: The annual individual membership will not be renewed.

11. INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT

Considered within Part 2 of the meeting.

12. MEMBERS ITEM – BUS USE DURING EVENTS

Cllr Crane introduced her proposal for the Council to underwrite cost of travel to bus users travelling into and out of Sandbach Town Centre on public buses within the Sandbach Parish Boundaries at a cost of £1600 for a trial over the Transport Festival weekend; not only increasing footfall within the town but encouraging residents to access public transport. Funds for this trial to be vired from reserves to cost centre 140 4820 (Community Event Costs).

Resolved: the proposal and budgetary requirements as outlined are supported and approved.

13. MEMBERS ITEM – OUTSIDE BODIES FEEDBACK

Cllr Crane referred to the circulated Members item report and suggestion that all Council appointed representatives to outside bodies, with effect from the Council's 2025 AGM, report back to Council on a quarterly basis.

Resolved: The motion is approved.

14. MEMBERS ITEM – TERRACYCLE TRIAL

Cllr Crane confirmed that, during further research it would be more cost-effective to purchase the medium sized teracycle box, at increased cost of £145 and proposed this amendment to her original motion.

Resolved : Purchase of a medium teracycle box is approved, allocated to cost centre 101 6140 (Waste), and its use monitored during the trial, as proposed.

15. MEETING CALENDAR 2025

The Mayor confirmed revision to the circulate March meeting date.

Resolved: the revised schedule is approved.

16. DEFFERED FROM LAST MEETING

Considered within Part 2 of the meeting.

16.1 CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING UPDATE

Lead: Chair

Action: *To receive a verbal update from the Mayor, consider and agree next steps.*

16.2 Additional Services - Personnel Committee 21 November 2024

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Broad / Arnold

Action: *To recommend to Full Council whether or not to employ additional services on a temporary basis to ensure back log of work is completed.*

16.3 Personnel Matter - Personnel Committee 21 November 2024

Lead: Chair / Cllrs Broad / Arnold

Action: *To recommend approval of the decision by the Personnel Committee to Full Council relating to a personnel matter.*

17. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Considered within Part 2 of the meeting.

Lead: Chair

Action: *As circulated to Members.*

18. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence has been received for this agenda.

19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS & PUBLICITY

Items for future publicity to include Cllr Crane's Member items.

20. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council Meeting is the taking place on Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall

Before close of Part 1 of the meeting, Cllr Richards thanked those Council members who attended the Schools Council Meeting earlier in the week.

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

A suggestion to amend the order in which items were considered was supported.

16.2 Additional Services - Personnel Committee 21 November 2024

The Deputy Chief Officer highlighted current staffing position, capacity and ongoing requirements. In addition, the meeting Clerk highlighted the urgency of necessary operational resilience.

Resolved: That the specified roles can be recruited via agency immediately, for avoidance of delay and to meet statutory deadlines.

16.3 Personnel Matter - Personnel Committee 21 November 2024

Resolved: This item be removed from agenda.

17 ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

Actions: to:-

- i. Consider and agree a way forward to address staffing challenges
- ii. To consider and agree through consensus, processes, approach and actions for recruitment to posts within the structure
- iii. To seek immediate credit control support
- iv. To consider, understand and review timescales, risks and impacts (operational, strategic and financial) associated with addressing staffing capacity gaps

Resolved: Item deferred to next meeting.

16.1 CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING UPDATE

Lead: Chair

Action: *To receive a verbal update from the Mayor, consider and agree next steps.*

Resolved: Item deferred to next meeting.

11. INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT

[Circulated via email]

Action: to review and approve.

Resolved: Item deferred to next meeting.

Before closing the meeting, it was agreed that the next Council meeting will take place 29th January 2025 for consideration of deferred items above, and all pending Assets and Services agenda items will be included.

Meeting Closed at 9.05pm

Cllr A Nevitt (Mayor)

KP