

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 12th APRIL 2011

Present: Councillor R Tyson (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor S Morris
Councillor W H Stevenson
Councillor Mrs J Williams

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)

9 members of the general public
2 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

11/37 Fire Procedure

The Chairman read out the Fire Action Procedure.

11/38 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess, W Howell (Chair), Mrs T E S Jones and A Snape.

11/39 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

11/40 Town Council Minutes

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 1st March 2011, Pages 1 – 5 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/41 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

11/42 Vice-Chairman's Announcements

23rd March South Cheshire Branch of the Samaritans AGM at Crewe
26th March National Tree Planting Event at Wood Park and Wayside Linley
 Cheshire Carers' Association event at Alsager Leisure Centre
9th April Launch of chamber of Trade's "It's all about Alsager" – Manor House

11/43

Retiring Councillors

At this point the Chairman reported that Councillors Mrs. G Burgess, S Morris, A Snape and Mrs. J Williams were not seeking re-election to the Town Council at the forthcoming elections being held on 5th May 2011 and it was:

Resolved: That, that the appreciation of the Town Council be placed on record in recognition of their work for the Town during their respective periods of service on the Town Council.

11/44

Public Participation

Mr Beavon Bates asked the Town Council to consider a change of name from Northolme Gardens to “The B’Hoys Community Garden” and circulated diagrams of the type of new signage to be displayed to celebrate their centenary.

The B’Hoys together with the Alsager Partnership had agreed to fund restoration work at Northolme Gardens.

Resolved: a) That, Cheshire East Council be informed that Alsager Town Council support the proposed rewording of the notice inside Northolme Gardens to read “ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL B’HOYS COMMUNITY GARDEN”, and also the proposed rewording of the plaque on the entrance gates to read “REFURBISHED AND RENAMED TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF THE B’HOYS OF ALSAGER”.

b) That, the proposed renaming of Northolme Gardens on the entrance gate be deferred for consideration until the outcome of service transfer negotiations with Cheshire East Council are finalised.

Mr D Huss representing Alsager Guides and Scouts addressed the Town Council regarding recent vandalism to the Alsager Guide Hall in Cedar Avenue Alsager and referred to an email giving details of the damage to the building and discussions with the local police, which was circulated at the meeting.

Councillor D I Hough agreed to co-ordinate a meeting with the Local Area Partnership on this issue.

Mrs Dyke raised concerns about the imminent introduction by Cheshire East Council of the silver bin collection, which included the collection of bottles and glass with other recyclables in one bin.

It was noted that Cheshire East Council were to ask the public to see what individual collection arrangements they would like.

Councillor R Fletcher indicated that Cheshire East Council had given an assurance that the Shotton Recycling Plant could deal with the separation of recycling materials, and that Cheshire East Council were also investigating the suitability of existing refuse vehicles under the new system

11/45 Planning Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15th March and 5th April 2011 be received and noted.

11/46 Finance and General Purpose Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 5th April be confirmed and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

11/47 Town Council Finance

Hon. Alderman D Bould addressed the Town Council and presented his report on the Town Council's Budget 2011/12 and Finances in general.

His report dealt with the following:

- how and why the Town Council collects money from local residents
- how it manages any reserves
- identifying the level of support from residents concerning the major change to local services and associated increases in precept
- the financial responsibilities of the Town Council

In his conclusion he suggested certain courses of action in relation to future budgetary strategy and presentation.

After a length debate it was:

Resolved: That, the report be referred to the meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee to be held on 31st May 2011 for detailed consideration, and Alderman Bould be invited to attend this meeting.

11/48 Local Service Delivery

Further to Min. 11/29 dated 1st March 2011, Councillor W Stevenson (Chairman of Finance and General Purpose Committee) gave an update on progress with negotiations with Cheshire East Council.

Progress continued on the relative business plans for the Civic Hall and other transferred services, and the Civic Hall Financial Viability Report.

The Consultant Architect, Financial Consultant and the Town Council's Auditor were now included in the Negotiating Team meetings.

Further meetings were to be arranged with the Allotment Society and City Markets in the near future.

Peter Smith had produced a comprehensive report on the current state of the town's bus shelters.

The next meeting of the Negotiating Team had been arranged for Friday 15th April 2011, but before that the Negotiating Team would meet with Cheshire East Council on Friday 8th April 2011 to receive the schedule of services to be transferred.

Arrangements were being made for consideration by the Town Council during late May/early June and that a definitive decision was required by Cheshire East Council by 17th June 2011.

Resolved: That, the report be received and noted.

11/49 Parish Elections 5th May 2011

The Town Clerk reported that there was to be a contest in Alsager Central Ward where there were 6 nominations for 4 seats.

In each of East and West Wards the nominations were one short for the number of seats available, which would result in a By-Election or Co-option.

In respect of the Alsager Ward of Cheshire East Council there were 10 nominations for 3 seats.

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/50 Alsager Partnership

Councillor Mrs J Williams updated members of the discussions at the meeting of the Partnership held on 4th April 2011. The minutes of that meeting had been circulated earlier.

Resolved: a) That, the minutes of the meetings of the Partnership held on 15th February and 4th April 2011 be received and noted.

b) That, the revised Terms of Reference for the Congleton LAP be accepted.

11/51 Plus Dane Group

Resolved: That, the Shared Neighbourhood Vision document be received and noted.

11/52 Alsager Chamber of Trade

Resolved: a) That, the minutes of the meeting of the Chamber of Trade held on 15th March 2011 be received and noted.

b) That, the congratulation of the Town Council be conveyed to the Chamber of Trade for the launch of "It's all about Alsager".

11/53 Queens Diamond Jubilee 2012

Resolved: That, the Civic Sub-committee responsibility for overseeing Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Cheshire East Council and to consider how the Council plans to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee was noted.

11/54 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games

Resolved: That, notification from Cheshire East Council of how the authority intends to maximise the opportunities of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games be received and noted.

11/55 WRVS – Luncheon Club

On behalf of Councillor Mrs T E S Jones, the Town Clerk reported that a working group had been set up to preserve the future of the luncheon club. A business plan was being prepared for the future of the club and Councillor Mrs Jones had arranged a further meeting with Cheshire East Council on 20th April 2011. She had been given assurances that the luncheon club would continue to have free use of the Civic Hall for 12 months to enable the current matters to be settled.

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/56 Playbuilder – Wood Park

Councillor D I Hough reported that work had begun on the installation of play equipment at Wood Park. Consideration was now being given to the provision of security lighting.

Resolved: That, report be received.

11/57 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor R Fletcher reported as follows:-

- Cheshire East Council had received £2 million additional finance from the Coalition Government for pot hole repairs
- The new Highways maintenance contract would commence in October 2011
- Bus shelters would now be inspected quarterly instead of monthly
- Cheshire East Council had agreed its pricing strategy for 2011/2012

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 9.45 pm.

Councillor R Tyson
Vice-Chairman in the Chair