

# **“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”**

## ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011

Present: Councillor R Tyson (Chairman)

Councillor R Ashley  
Councillor S Bishop  
Councillor Mrs D Burgess  
Councillor C V Burgess  
Councillor Mrs M Camm  
Councillor D I Hough  
Councillor R Fletcher  
Councillor Mrs T E S Jones  
Councillor H Mawdsley  
Councillor Mrs H Robinson  
Councillor W H Stevenson

Mr T Fitton (Town Clerk)  
Mrs C Jennings (Assistant Town Clerk)  
Ms S Colclough (Secretary)

7 members of the general public  
1 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

11/161 Fire Procedure

The Chairman read out the Fire Action Procedure.

11/162 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess and W Howell.

11/163 Declaration of Interest

There was no Declaration of Interests.

11/164 Town Council Minutes

Resolved: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/165 Matters Arising

In relation to Min. 11/154 the Town Clerk reported that arrangements were being made for a Police representative to attend a Council meeting in January 2012.

11/166 Chairman's Announcements

20 <sup>th</sup> October	Britain in Bloom Awards, Southport
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Civic Hall Working Group meeting Christmas Tree Festival at Wesley Place
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Light Switch On and Market
28 <sup>th</sup> November	U3A Open Day, Civic Centre
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Lions Charter Night, Alsager Golf Club
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Meeting with representative of Sainsburys re: proposed supermarket
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Opening of Wood Park play area and Alsager Town FC

Events Attended by Vice Chairman

16 <sup>th</sup> October	Poynton Civic Sunday
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Chalc meeting
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Alsager Friends of Christies Coffee Morning
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Wesley Place gathering
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Vera Smith's 102 <sup>nd</sup> birthday at New Milton House
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Opening of the Peace and Remembrance Centre at St Marys Church
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service and Wreath Laying
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Enrolment of new Aldermen at Crewe Lyceum

11/167 Public Participation

The Chairman read out the procedural rules for the Public Participation part of the Agenda in accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders.

Peter Smith drew the Council's attention to the low water level of The Mere. It was thought that this was due to the recent lack of rain.

Mrs S Dyke asked for a public meeting to be arranged to discuss the Lagan planning application for the Twyfords site.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that there would not be time to organise a public meeting to discuss the Twyfords application and that if Sainsburys submit an application it would be in Spring 2012.

Councillor C V Burgess, Chairman of Planning, reported that there was an opportunity for members of the public to make their comments known in the public participation period at the start of each Planning Committee meeting.

11/168 Planning Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be received and noted.

11/169 Finance Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be approved and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

11/170 Transfer of Services from Cheshire East Council

The Council considered the report and recommendations from the Negotiating Team in relation to the proposed transfer of services of Alsager Civic Hall, Alsager Market, Alsager Allotments (4 sites) and Public Conveniences (Crewe Road, Alsager). In addition the Alsager Town Council offices, 3Lawton Road, Alsager were the subject of review and decision by the relevant Portfolioholder, Cheshire East Council.

Councillor W Stevenson, Chairman of the Negotiating Team, reported that the purpose of the report was to inform members of the work of the Town Council's Negotiating Team in its negotiations with Cheshire East Council and its development of a business case that sets down considerations and recommendations for the transfer of the Civic Hall, Public Conveniences, Allotments and the Outdoor Market. The considerations were mainly as a result of legal, property, financial and operational matters with the findings being brought together in the Town Council's Capital and Revenue Budget for the financial year 2012-13 that indicated the detailed financial impact of asset transfer and resulting precept increase.

The report additionally informed members of the corporate and other risks involved in the potential transfer of these assets and services.

In the interests of fully informed decision making the report detailed the results of public consultation and the statutory powers of the Town Council for asset ownership and local service delivery mindful of its duty for community wellbeing.

A Business Plan/Case for the Local Service Delivery had been prepared to assist the Town Council in its decision on the transfer of services.

The financial impact of the proposed service transfers was included separately in the Town Council's Draft Budget 2012/13.

Resolved: a) That, the transfer of the under-mentioned services from Cheshire East Council to Alsager Town Council be unanimously agreed:-

Alsager Civic Hall  
Alsager Wednesday Market  
Public Conveniences, Crewe Road  
Alsager Allotments (4 sites)

b) That, the Negotiating Team be authorised to complete the Transfer Negotiations with Cheshire East Council with a target date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

c) That, the Negotiating Team, on behalf of the Town Council, be authorised to hold talks with Cheshire East Council on the Implementation Plan for these services.

d) That, the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Negotiating Team, be authorised to prepare and issue a Press Statement on the transfer of services.

11/171 Draft Budget 2012/13

The Town Council considered the Draft Budgets for the Institute Committee and the Town Council for the financial year 2012/13 following a detailed review and recommendations by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

Notes of the informal Budget Briefing session held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were also circulated.

Councillor W Stevenson, Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee, reported that this budget marked a key milestone in the history of the Town Council with the return of service responsibility from Cheshire East Council for the Alsager Civic Hall, Market, Allotments and Public Conveniences. He also reported that the Finance Committee had made recommended amendments to the Town Council's Budget and recommended a Precept Levy of £270,000 for 2012/13. This increase equated to £15.27 per annum or 29p per week for a Band D property and was basically to fund the transferred services from Cheshire East Council.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Town Council's Budget for 2012/13 in the sum of £306,634 be unanimously approved and adopted.
  - b) That, the Precept levy for 2012/13 in the sum of £270,000 be recommended for formal ratification at the meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012.
  - c) That, the Institute Budget for 2012/13 be approved and adopted.
  - d) That, the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Negotiating Team, be authorised to prepare and issue a Press Statement on the 2012/13 Budget.

11/172 Local Development Framework

Councillor D I Hough reported on the draft strategy for the Alsager Town Local Development Framework. He further reported that the Draft Strategy from the findings of the Stakeholder Panel would need urgent consideration by the Town Council early in 2012 and was the opportunity for the Town Council and the people of Alsager to decide on future development in the town.

Resolved: That, the report be received and noted.

11/173 Phasing of the Co-op Development and location of the Market

Resolved: That, the report indicating that the Alsager Market was to be retained on Fairview Car Park during the development of the Co-op Store, together with details of its proposed location during each phase of the development, was received and noted.

11/174 Alsager Partnership

It was noted that the Partnership AGM was held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and a report of the meeting was awaited,

Resolved: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Partnership held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be received and noted.

11/175 Alsager Fairtrade Steering Group

Resolved: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Steering Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be received and noted.

At this point in the proceeding Councillor Tyson vacated the Chair in favour of the Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs D Burgess.

11/176 Cheshire East Councillor's Report

Councillor R Fletcher reported that the Prohibition Order on Coronation Avenue, Cranberry Land and Sandside Road would come into operation on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Councillor Fletcher also reported that Cheshire East Council had agreed a Puffin crossing in the west end of Alsager to be completed by March 2012.

It was noted by the Town Council had objected to the proposed closure of the Royal Mail Sorting Office at Kidsgrove.

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones gave an update on the Adult Care Services and expressed concerns about the future standard of care for the elderly in Alsager.

Councillor D I Hough reported on ambulance response times and that there would be place for a Housing representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm and concluded at 8.45 pm.

Councillor R Tyson  
Chairman