

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 16TH JUNE 2009

Present: Councillor S Roberson (Chairman)

Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor W Howell
Councillor Mrs S Jones
Councillor A Snape
Councillor W H Stevenson
Councillor R Tyson
Councillor Mrs J Williams

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)

12 members of the general public
1 member of the press

Councillor Tyson opened the meeting with prayers.

09/902 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs J Burgess.

09/903 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Snape declared a personal interest in all planning applications as a local building contractor.

09/904 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, subject to the alteration of the word “Farm” to “Quarry” on page 5, the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 5th May 2009, Pages 1 – 7 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

09/905 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

09/906 Chairman's Announcements

14 th May	Congleton Mayor Making
6 th June	Alsager Together
7 th June	Alsager Rotary Cyclathon
14 th June	Church Lawton Parish Council Civic Sunday
14 th June	Congleton Town Council Civic Sunday

09/907 Public Participation

Mrs Dyke commented on alleged acts of vandalism by youths and the accumulation of litter in Milton Park and Northholme Gardens. Sam Morris, Cheshire East Ground Maintenance staff, drew attention to a recent instance of bad behaviour he had been confronted with in the park and, together with Mrs Dyke, asked what preventative measures could be taken.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would bring the matter to the attention of Inspector Gammage and request the PCSO's be in attendance during the day and on Friday evenings in Milton Park to deal with these problems.

Mr Rivers-Latham attended and thanked the Town Council for their support for local residents regarding alleged instances of noise nuisance from Freshpack, Fields Road, Alsager. He reported that after the meeting two weeks ago, and following the Town Council's letter of concern to Cheshire East Council, operations from the factory had been quieter but, recently there had been a re-occurrence of early morning noise nuisance.

Councillor Mrs S Jones agreed to provide Mr Rivers-Latham with information regarding when the current Freshpack Planning Application would be considered by Cheshire East Council South Planning Committee.

09/908 Planning Committee

- Resolved:
- a) That, the notes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th May 2009 be received and adopted as Minutes of the meeting.
 - b) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd June 2009 be received.

09/909 Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Town Clerk reported that he had received notification from the Licensing Authority that a review hearing for the License for Alsager Cricket Club would be held on 23rd June 2009 and the Town Council were asked if they were to be represented.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd June 2009 be received.

b) That, the recommendations contained in the minutes be approved and adopted.

c) That, Councillor W Stephenson be appointed to represent the Town Council at the Review Hearing of the Licence for Alsager Cricket Club at Westfields on 23rd June 2009 at 9.30am.

09/910 Institute Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Institute Committee meeting held on 4th June 2009 be received.

09/911 Civic Hall Working Group

Resolved: a) That, the report of the Civic Hall Working Group meeting held on 10th June 2009 be received.

b) That, the recommendation to invite Councillor P. Mason Portfolio Holder and appropriate Officers for talks with the Working Group regarding the Civic Hall future be confirmed.

09/912 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor D I Hough reported that Cheshire East Council was to introduce fortnightly refuse collection service from 20th July 2009.

09/913 Electoral Review of the new Cheshire East Council – Warding Arrangements

The Town Council considered the report of the Town Clerk on Warding arrangements, the next stage in the Boundary Committee's review of Electoral Arrangements of Cheshire East Council, the outcome of which would come into effect at the 2011 elections.

The criteria for the Warding Review was:

- Electoral Equality (One Councillor per 3,500 Electors)
- Community Identity
- Convenient and Efficient Local Government

Consideration was also given to an additional report from the Town Clerk setting out Elector Information for the Wards of Alsager and those of its immediate Parishes. The Town Clerk further reported that Cheshire East Council were looking to establish single member wards which would be achieved by re-aligning existing wards.

It was noted that boundaries of existing Parish/Town Councils were not affected.

During the ensuing debate consideration was given to the elector numbers in parts of streets in Alsager which currently formed part of neighbouring parishes and it was:-

Resolved: That, consideration of this issue be deferred to the next meeting, in order for the Town Clerk to assemble further electorate information on which the Town Council could base its response to the Boundary Commission.

09/914

Alsager Together

The Town Clerk and Councillors gave feedback from the Alsager Together community event held in the Civic Hall on Saturday 6th June 2009 at which the Town Council had a stand.

It was noted that the Town Council display had generated considerable interest particularly the work of the council, its councillors and powers and duties. The Town Council's leaflet, together with Grant Application forms which had been distributed, had been appreciably received by those attending the event.

The local public transport information provided by Peter Smith, which formed part of the Town Council's display, was acknowledged.

- Resolved:
- a) That a vote of thanks be recorded to Suzanne Colclough and Carol Jennings for their considerable efforts in relation to the Town Council's successful display.
 - b) That a vote of thanks be recorded to Peter Smith for the public transport information.
 - c) That a vote of thanks be recorded to Councillor Mrs D Burgess for her efforts in the organisation of the event.
 - d) That, the 60 Footpath Maps given out at the event free of charge be approved.

09/915

Public Transport Services

Members considered a report prepared by Peter Smith the Town Council's Public Transport Coordinator on the fundamental review of the public transport network currently being carried out in the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough area which included Rural Rider services in Alsager.

Mr Peter Smith gave an update on the First route 20 service indicating that a higher quality bus was now being provided on the Sunday service and that he had been notified that the bus shelter was soon to be erected outside Pooch and Puss on Crewe Road.

Resolved: That the report prepared by Mr Smith be adopted as the Town Council's official response to the Head of Integrated Transport Services in relation to the current review of the Public Transport network.

09/916 Representation of Town and Parish Councils on the Local Strategic Partnership

The Town Council considered a request from the Chairman of Macclesfield and Trafford Area meeting for Town and Parish Council representation at Board level on the Cheshire East Council Local Strategic Partnership which had been afforded to representatives of the voluntary sector but not Town and Parish Councils.

Resolved: That, Cheshire East Council be requested to reconsider its decision not to have local Town/Parish representation on the LSP and to appoint a representative from ChALC to represent Town/Parish Councils in Cheshire East on the Local Strategic Partnership Board.

09/917 Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min 09/874 dated 21st April 2009 it was noted that there was no further information to report.

09/918 Alsager in Bloom

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meetings of the Alsager in Bloom Committee held on 16th April, 11th May and 18th May 2009 be received and noted.

09/919 Town Centre Signage

Councillor D I Hough addressed the Town Council seeking to increase and improve the directional signage in the Town Centre to Milton Park, Northholme Gardens and to the shops on Crewe Road in this area.

Resolved: That the Town Clerk be requested to prepare a cost analysis for this scheme and report back as soon as possible.

09/920 Car Parking Charges – Fairview Car Park

The report indicating that Fairview Car Park had been classified as a long stay car park and accordingly would rank for the following charges was circulated.

0 – 2hrs	0.50p
2 - 4hrs	£1.00
Over 4 hrs	£1.50

Councillors D I Hough and Mrs S Jones reported that the Cheshire East Cabinet meeting had approved the implementation of the car parking charges despite their representations and those of the Head Teacher of Alsager Highfields School for a concessionary half-hour period to enable parents to take their children into school at the beginning and end of each school day.

Councillor Mrs Jones indicated that it was now the intention to invoke the Call In procedure to get the Cabinet to refer the matter to the Environmental Select Committee for scrutiny.

The Town Clerk referred to the 21 day objection period and submitted a suggested response to Cheshire East Council on proposals to introduce car parking charges on Fairview car park.

Resolved: That, subject to the amendments made at the meeting, the report prepared by the Town Clerk on car parking charges on Fairview Car Park be adopted as the Town Council's official response to Cheshire East Council.

09/921 Statutory Proposals to change to Foundation School Status and acquire a Charitable Trust.

Further to Min 09/871 dated 21st April 2009 it was reported that the Town Council had given support to the proposal and had appointed Councillor W Stevenson to present the Town Council on the Board of Trustees for Alsager Schools.

Details of the Statutory Notices and proposal relating to Foundation School Status and acquiring a Charitable Trust were circulated and it was noted that the objection period ended on 28th June 2009.

Resolved: That, the information be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 8.50pm.

Councillor S Roberson
Chairman