

“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE ON TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2011

Present: Councillor W Howell (Chairman)

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

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)

1 member of the general public
1 member of the press

11/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess and S Roberson.

11/02 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones declared an interest in Item 16 (War Memorial) by reason of being a member of the Royal British Legion.

11/03 Town Council Minutes

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 7th December 2010, Pages 1 – 6 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/04 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

11/05 Chairman's Announcements

10 th December	Dennis Round Court Christmas refreshments with Special Treasures Greenways Music Concert at Wesley Place
13 th December	Pips Day Nursery Christmas Party
13 th January	B'Hoys Annual Dinner
18 th January	Chamber of Trade meeting

11/06 Public Participation

Peter Smith raised the following matters for information:

- Consultation process had commenced by Network Rail which could see the possible loss of Alsager's direct service to London
- CCTV cameras now in operation at Alsager Station covering both platforms
- Rail timetables available from "Shop & Save" Bank Corner
- Community Day to be arranged at the Station in Spring 2011

11/07 Planning Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14th December 2010 and 11th January 2011 be received and noted.

11/08 Finance and General Purpose Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 11th January 2011 be confirmed and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

11/09 Alsager Partnership

Lindsay Lewis, Project Manager, and Adrian Perry of Alsager Partnership reported on the Partnership's Draft Plan 2011 containing details of their current and future projects. (Appendix A)

Lindsay outlined the revised organisational structure based on "Thematic Groups" which included a specific Town Plan group. In relation to the preparation Neighbourhood Plan, Lindsay reported that Cheshire East Council had agreed that Alsager would become a 'pilot project'.

Discussion ensued on the various aspects of the Partnership Draft Plan, at the end of which it was generally agreed that the Town Council welcomed and supported the Draft Plan.

Finally, the Chairman thanked Lindsay and Adrian for the presentation.

11/10 Precept 2011/12

Further to Min. 10/88 dated 7th December 2010 Members considered the Budget booklet prepared by the Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer containing the recommendations for formal ratification of the Town Council's Budget for 2011/12 and confirmation of precept requirements for 2011/12 as required by Cheshire East Council, the precepting authority.

Resolved: a) That, the Budget for 2011/12 in the sum of £200,928 be confirmed.

b) That, the Town Council Precept for 2011/12 in the sum of £200,000 be unanimously confirmed and Cheshire East Council informed accordingly.

c) That, the Budget 2011/12 Press Release be confirmed without amendment for issue to the local media and for publication, together with the Budget details on the Town Council's website.

11/11 Local Service Delivery

Further to Min. 10/188 dated 7th December 2010, the Chairman reported on the meeting of the Negotiating Team held on Friday 7th January 2011.

The Council's Consultant Architect had presented his report setting out works of planned maintenance of repair together with capital costs based on the information contained within the Disability Access Audit, the Building Control Survey and the Type 2 Asbestos Survey as instructed by Alsager Town Council in 2009 by Property Tectonics of Manchester.

The team also discussed the financial and site information provided by the Secretary of Alsager Allotment Society in relation to allotments in Alsager.

It was noted that the first negotiating meeting with Cheshire East Council was to be held on 4th February 2011 followed by a joint meeting with neighbouring towns and parishes involved with Transfer Negotiations on 16th February 2011.

The next meeting of the Negotiating Team was scheduled to meet on Friday 28th January 2011 to discuss the strategy for the forthcoming meeting with Cheshire East Council.

Resolved: That, the Chairman's report be received and noted.

11/12 Cemetery Provision in Alsager

Further to Min. 10/171 dated 7th December 2010, consideration was given to the appointment of representatives to meet with local churches and funeral directors regarding future burial provision.

The Town Clerk reported that on a meeting with the Town Clerk of Middlewich and the Chairman of the Middlewich Cemetery Board, who had recently undertaken an extension to the Middlewich Cemetery.

Resolved: That, the under mentioned members be appointed to hold exploratory talks with representatives of the local churches and funeral directors regarding cemetery provision in Alsager.

Councillors D I Hough, Mrs T E S Jones and R Tyson

11/13 The Localism Bill

Consideration was given to the Town Clerk's report on the Coalition Government's Localism and Decentralisation Bill published in December 2010.

The Bill included the following measures:

- A new power for local people to approve or veto excessive council tax rises through a local referendum, but with the intention that the majority of local councils will fall below the level set by the Secretary of State;
- A right for local councils – as well as voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and local authority employees delivering a service – to challenge a local authority, by expressing an interest in running any service for which they are responsible;
- The chance for communities to develop a bid and raise the capital to buy a local community asset when it comes on the open market;
- Measures to give people, councillors and councils the power to instigate a local referendum on any local issue;
- A new general power of competence to provide local authorities – including certain local councils – to enable them to do anything apart from that which is specifically prohibited;
- Freeing up councillors to be able to campaign, to express views on issues and to vote on those matters, without fear of being unjustly accused of having a closed mind on a particular issue;
- The abolition of the Standards Board regime;
- Changes to the community infrastructure Levy including provisions requiring some of these funds to be passed to neighbourhoods where the development has taken place;
- A new right for local councils to shape their local areas through neighbourhood plans which will enable communities to permit development – in full or in outline – without the need for planning applications;
- The power for communities to take forward development in their area without the need to apply for planning permission, subject to meeting certain safeguards and securing 50 per cent support of the community through a referendum.

Debate ensued on the issues in the Bill and it was:-

- Resolved:
- a) That, the information be received and noted.
 - b) That, the under mentioned members be appointed together with the Town Clerk to consider matters relating to the Localism Bill and to report back to the Town Council.

Councillors C V Burgess, Mrs D Burgess, D I Hough and Mrs T E S Jones

11/14

PCSO issues

- Resolved:
- a) That, the report of the meeting between the Chairman, Town Clerk and Sgt Cook held on 1st December 2010 be received and noted.
 - b) That, it be noted that the weekly police surgery would now be held on Saturdays between 10 -11am in Alsager Library.
 - c) That, a vote of thanks be recorded for the work of the PCSO's in Alsager.
 - d) That, the Town Council enquire if monthly reports of PCSO activities in Alsager could be displayed on local notice boards for community information purposes.

11/15 Playbuilder – Wood Park

The Chairman reported that the Steering Group meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 19th January 2011 to discuss the equipment to be installed in Wood Park and ideas for the additional equipment from the £10,000 provided by Alsager Town Council.

Resolved: That, the report be received and noted.

11/16 War Memorial - Alsager

Councillor D Hough reported that he had been approached by a resident expressing a view that the bayonet should be affixed permanently to the soldier's statue on the War Memorial.

Resolved: That, enquiries be made with Cheshire East Council regarding the permanent placement of the bayonet on the soldier's statue on the War Memorial in Sandbach Road South.

11/17 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones reported on the following matters:

- Meeting with Cheshire East Council and WRVS on 27th January 2011 regarding the future of the Alsager WRVS Luncheon Club
- Cheshire East Council's charging policy for transport, in particular for vulnerable persons, to day care centres and hospitals and the need for provision of good public transport services
- Loss of pharmacy services in Alsager on Sundays

Councillor D Hough reported on the following matters:

- Progress with Milton Park (Phase 3 Sunken Garden) and the possible provision of a possible 7 a-side football pitch at Wood Park
- Details of Highway resurfacing work in Alsager, which had already been circulated to Councillors

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 9.05pm.

Councillor W Howell
Chairman