

“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 18TH MAY 2010

Present: Councillor W Howell (Chairman)

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

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)
Mrs C A Jennings (Assistant Town Clerk)

4 members of the general public
1 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

10/69 Dress Code

The Chairman reminded members of the importance of council meetings and asked that everyone observe an appropriate dress code when attending meetings.

10/70 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/71 Minutes – Town Council

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

b) That, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting pages 1 – 8 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10/72 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

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A discussion paper prepared by the Town Clerk identifying various issues relating to proposed operation of services at local level was discussed, and it was:-

- Resolved:
- a) That, the criteria for a devolution framework as contained in the discussion paper be adopted.
 - b) That, the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to consider the financial impact on the precept of undertaking local service delivery and undertake an information gathering exercise on which to base future financial strategy.
 - c) That, Cheshire East Council be requested to arrange a meeting with representatives of all Town and Parish Councils in the Borough to explain how they propose to manage the transfer of services, including the financial and service management arrangements.
 - d) That, following the meeting in (c) above Cheshire East Council be then asked to arrange meetings with those individual Town and Parish Councils who indicate an interest in delivering services locally.
 - e) That, clarification be sort from Cheshire East Council regarding the responsibility for future delivery of Cemetery Services particularly with regard to future burials in Alsager.

10/80

Alsager Library and Customer Information Point

Further to Min. 10/28 dated 23rd February 2010 the Chairman reported that the Cheshire East Information Point , 3 Lawton Road, Alsager, would close on 7th June 2010 when the service would transfer to Alsager Library.

A report on a meeting arranged by Councillor A Knowles, Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being, Cheshire East Council, to discuss issues surrounding the move, with the 3 Cheshire East Councillors, Councillor Stevenson Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Clerk were discussed.

The Points raised with Councillor Knowles were noted as follows:

- The transfer of the information point to the library was to take place on 7th June 2010 without the promised consultation exercise.
- Your members felt that there was insufficient library staff to accommodate both library and information work given that the automatic book system would not now be introduced at Alsager library until the earliest December 2010.
- There was to be no provision for a private interview room in the library.
- Although there was to be a transitional period of 1 month when Alsager library staff would be trained in information services, this was to be undertaken by staff from Congleton library and would not include existing staff from Alsager One Stop Shop, and it was felt that the existing staff could give experience to the library staff
- It was important to preserve the individual market town feel of Alsager and therefore the following services should continue to be provided from the library:-

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Opportunity for local clubs, organisations etc. to advertise events in the windows of the library

Selling of tickets for local events

Selling of local publications

- There was need for publicity for the move
- Planning applications – the procedure for the public to view planning applications to be reviewed

Councillor Knowles gave an assurance that there would be no reduction in information service and that a payment point would be provided in the Library and the information point would be located on the ground floor of the building.

It was further noted that negotiations regarding the future management of the Alsager Civic Hall were on hold pending the policy decision on devolved services.

Resolved: That, the report be received and noted.

10/81

Alsager Town Council – 3 Lawton Road

Arising from the discussion on the transfer of the Cheshire East Council Information Point to the Library, members discussed the required amendments to the building to enable the Town Council to continue to provide a customer access point Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm for its services.

The Town Clerk reported on discussions with Cheshire East Property Services and the measures to be taken initially to enable residents to access the building to contact Town Council staff and it was:-

Resolved: That, the following adaptations be agreed to be financed from the £3000 reserve for customer services:-

- a) A bell to be located on the inner door of the Foyer.
- b) Signage of the building as circulated at the meeting.
- c) A record be kept of the number of customers.
- d) The arrangements be agreed prior to the December 2010 Budget Meeting.
- e) That, a further report be presented to the Council on the long term future of 3 Lawton Road when the intentions of Cheshire East Council become available.

10/82

Town Plan Preparation

Further to Min. 10/29 dated 23rd February 2010, the Town Clerk reported that since the presentation given by Bron Kerrigan Parish Plan Development Officer, Cheshire

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Community Action, to the Town Plan Working Group on 21st January 2010 there had been no further progress in the development of a Town Plan for Alsager.

Notification had been received from Cheshire East Council that a new Parish Planning Network was to be launched in conjunction with Cheshire Community Action, the purpose of which was to provide an opportunity to develop and build on existing Parish Plan work and to provide ways to share information.

Two meetings had been arranged:-

Monday 14 th June 2010	Yoxall Village Hall, Haslington
Wednesday 16 th June 2010	The Hall, Marthall, Near Knutsford

The meetings will commence at 6pm and conclude at 8.30pm.

Discussion then ensued on the way forward and it was:-

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Alsager Partnership be requested to take responsibility for the preparation of the Alsager Town Plan.
 - b) That, an early meeting be arranged between the members of the Town Council Town Plan Working Group and representatives of the Alsager Partnership together with Bron Kerrigan to prepare arrangements for the initial public meeting.
 - c) That, a representative(s) of the Town Council be authorized to attend one of the initial meetings arranged by Cheshire East Council and referred to above.

10/83

Play Builder – Wood Park

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Minutes of the resident group meetings held on 24th March and 12th April 2010 be received and noted.
 - b) That, the Minutes of the steering group meeting held on 28th April 2010 be received and noted.
 - c) That, in principle part of the Town Councils contribution of £10,000 towards the scheme at Wood Park be used to finance the proposed new BMX track, subject to confirmation from Cheshire East Council that the annual maintenance and insurance etc will be their responsibility be confirmed.

10/84

Alsager Shoppers Guide

With the permission of the Chairman, Mr P Smith addressed the Council with his views on this matter.

The Town Council considered a request from the Alsager Chamber of Trade for a financial contribution towards the cost of publishing 5000 copies of the Alsager Shoppers Guide.

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The production costs were £807.23 and examples of the guide were circulated at the meeting.

After a lengthy and informative debate it was:

Resolved: That, the application for Alsager Chamber of Tree be refused.

10/85 Alsager Partnership

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of Alsager Partnership held on 1st April 2010 be received and noted.

10/86 Milton Park Steering Group

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Milton Park Steering Group held on 30th March 2010 be received and noted.

10/87 Cheshire East Councillor’s Reports

Councillor R Fletcher asked for the Town Councils Planning Committee to consider making representations to Cheshire East Council for the repositioning of the 30MPH speed limit sign on Crewe Road from its existing location to Radway traffic lights.

Councillor D I Hough reported that following a meeting of the Congleton LAP a meeting was to be arranged to discuss the preparation of an Action Plan for Milton Gardens.

10/88 Police Community Support Officer Service.

The Town Clerk reported that the PCSO Partnership Service Level Agreement had now been signed with Cheshire Constabulary for a further 3 years, in respect of the provision of 2 PCSO’s for the Town.

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm and concluded at 9.30pm

Councillor W Howell
Chairman