

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY, 9th DECEMBER 2008

Present: Councillor Mrs T E S Jones (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor W Howell
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)

7 members of the general public

Councillor R Tyson opened the meeting with prayers.

08/782 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors.....

08/783 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Snape declared a personal interest in all Planning Applications as a local contractor and the proposed grant to the Alsager First Responders as a member of that organisation.

Councillor S Roberson declared a personal interest in the I.T. provision in the Budget as the Town Council's I.T. provider.

Councillor D I Hough declared a personal interest in the proposed grant to AYP.

Councillor Mrs. J Williams declared a personal interest in the proposed grant to the Chernobyl Children's Project UK.

The Town Clerk declared an interest in the proposed grant to Alsager Voluntary Care and the Staff Salary report.

The Assistant Clerk declared an interest in the Staff Salary report.

The Town Clerk had circulated a Fact Sheet from The Standards Board for England which provided key information and answered frequently asked questions about the declaration of personal and prejudicial interests.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would arrange for the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer to address the Town Council on this issue.

08/784 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18th November 2008, Pages 1 – 6, and Appendices A and B be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

08/785 Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting – 18th November 2008

White Moss Quarry (08/765)

The Chairman reported that the Secretary of State had not called in the recent application at White Moss Quarry and that the decision from Cheshire County Council to approve the application would now stand.

The Secretary of State's decision not to call in the application was because it did not conflict significantly with national policies and only related to local issues.

An email had been received from Mrs. Mainwaring thanking the Town Council for their support.

Street Sign - St. Andrews Court (08/769)

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council would arrange for the street name plate to be fixed.

Fairview Car Park – Provision of Disabled Car Park Spaces (08/773)

The Chairman reported that Congleton Borough Council had provided three disabled car parking bays and that thanks had been received from parents with children at Highfields for the Town Councils prompt action.

08/786 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that she had sent a letter of appreciation to Mrs. K Selbourne for allowing her husbands plate, which she had kindly donated to the Town Council, to be used as the Town's gift to the visitors from the Czech Republic who attended the switching on the Alsager Christmas Lights on Friday 28th November.

08/787 Public Participation

08/788 Alsager Partnership - Town Council Representation

Members reconsidered the appointment to fill the vacancy on the Alsager Partnership deferred from the last meeting. (Min 08/774 refers)

Resolved: That, the Councillor W Howell be appointed to replace Councillor Mrs M Camm as the Town Councils representative on the Alsager Partnership.

08/789 Accounts for Authorisation

Resolved: That, the report be received and the payments authorised. (Appendix A)

08/790 Publication – Walks in Alsager

Resolved: That, the aforementioned publication which contains a map and guide to footpaths in and around Alsager be reduced from £1 to 40p per copy.

08/791 Planning Applications

The Town Council considered Planning Applications registered with Congleton Borough Council as follows:

Week ending 21/11/08
Week ending 28/11/08
Week ending 05/12/08 (None for Alsager)

Resolved: That, the Town Council's formal comments on all applications registered with Congleton Borough Council up to week ending 5th December 2008, be forwarded to the Head of Planning and Estates, Congleton Borough Council. (Appendix B)

NOTE:

Councillors C V Burgess and D I Hough were not present whilst Planning Applications were discussed and so did not take part in any of the decision-making.

Councillor A Snape declared a personal interest in all Planning Applications as a local contractor and took no part in the discussion and did not vote on each application.

A letter from the residents of 176 Sandbach Road North Alsager relating to Planning Application 08/1734/OUT was circulated to all Members.

At this point in the proceedings the Chairman left the meeting and Councillor S Roberson Vice-Chairman took over the Chair for the remainder of the business of the meeting.

08/792 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: That, in accordance with the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information.

08/793 Draft Budget 2009/10

The Town Clerk presented the Draft Budget for 2009/10 as contains in the cream booklet.

The document included:

- Estimated balances on all accounts 31 March 2009
- General Risk Assessment and Budget Assumptions
- Statement of Budget Pressures
- Assessment of the current economic climate and its effects on the Precept for 2009/10
- Budget Heads 2009/10 and supplementary notes
- Schedule of Growth Items for consideration for inclusion in the Precept for 2009/10
- Schedule of Grants and new policy 2009/10
- Staffing Report 2009/10
- Draft Budget Summary
- Comparative Parish/Town Council Precepts
- Institute Budget 2009/10 and Annual Report 2008/9 which was adopted by the Institute Committee on 4th November 2008 (Min 08/119 refers)

Detailed consideration was given to the Budget and it was

Resolved: a) That, the Draft Budget for 2009/10 in respect of existing Town Council services and growth items be agreed and presented to the Town Council for formal ratification on Tuesday 6th January 2009 for the purposes of determining the Precept level for 2009/10.

b) That, the Institute Budget for 2009/10 as recommended by the Institute Committee be approved and adopted.

c) That, the Handyman Services Working Group be authorised to advertise the post of Town Handyman and conduct interviews in order to have the post in place by 1st April 2009.

d) That, a panel consisting of Councillors -----be appointed to progress the information gathering process and prepare the Town Council's vision for the future of the Civic Hall for adoption by the Town Council prior to consultation with residents of Alsager and possible future stakeholders.

e) That, the suggested form and media outlets relating to publicising the Budget as contained in the report be agreed.

NOTE:

Councillor A Snape declared a personal interest in the proposed grant to the Alsager First Responders as a member of that organisation.

Councillor S Roberson declared a personal interest in the I.T. provision in the Budget as the Town Council's I.T. provider.

Councillor D I Hough declared a personal interest in the proposed grant to AYP.

Councillor Mrs J Williams declared a personal interest in the proposed grant to the Chernobyl Children's Project UK.

The Town Clerk declared an interest in the proposed grant to Alsager Voluntary Care and the Staff Salary report.

The Assistant Clerk declared an interest in the Staff Salary report.

(Both the Town Clerk and the Assistant Clerk offered to leave the meeting during the consideration of the staff report which was declined)

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
Chairman