

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 19th JULY 2011

Present: Councillor W H Stevenson (Chairman)

Councillor R Ashley
Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor Ms H Robinson
Councillor R Tyson

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

1 member of the press
No members of the public

11/40 Apologies for Absence

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

11/41 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interests.

11/42 Minutes of the Meeting – 31st May 2011

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 31st May 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/43 Public Participation Period

There were no matters raised.

11/44 Love Life Loyalty Card – Alsager Chamber of Trade

Further to Min. 11/04 of the Finance and General Purpose Committee dated 11th January 2011, the Committee considered a report on the request for sponsorship from Alsager Chamber of Trade for the implementation of Love Local Life Loyalty Scheme.

The Town Council had initially indicated its support for this scheme, which was designed to support local independent retailers, and encourage local residents to utilise shops and businesses in Alsager in return for rewards and benefits by a loyalty card.

Cheshire East Council was assisting with the development of the scheme so that it can be rolled out to other towns across the borough.

Members indicated that they would only want to fund this scheme if there was enthusiasm from businesses to bring the scheme to Alsager.

In accordance with Min. 11/34 of the Finance and General Purpose Committee meeting held on 31st May 2011 John Poulson, Secretary Alsager Chamber of Trade, attended the meeting and outlined the format of the scheme for local traders and the benefits for local shoppers.

He reported that the Cheshire East wide scheme was in operation in Macclesfield and was being considered for implementation in several other towns.

The internet backed scheme already had 15,000 loyalty cards in circulation and the aim was to get 80,000 in circulation in the coming year.

Loyalty cards would be free to Alsager residents and 22 of the 58 businesses in the town had signed up to the scheme.

The Town Council were asked for a financial contribution of £4,500 to fund the scheme.

There then followed a question and answer session and it was:

Resolved: That, the Town Council re-iterates its support in principle for the Love Life Loyalty scheme. The Town Council would like to receive a fully costed proposal indicating contribution from members of the Chamber of Trade, and that alternative income streams have explored together with details of the future financial commitment from the Town Council to the scheme, for inclusion in the Budget for 2012/13.

11/45 Local Service Delivery

The Chairman reported that the Town Council's indicative decision on the proposed service transfer by Cheshire East Council to Alsager Town Council has been lodged with Cheshire East Council by the due dates and that a decision would on which services would be transferred would be forthcoming after the Cabinet meeting on 1st August 2011.

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/46 War Memorial – Sandbach Road South Alsager

Following a presentation from Les Bickerton, Secretary Royal British Legion Alsager Branch, regarding the future repair and maintenance of the War Memorial, at the Town Council meeting held on 21st June 2011 (Min. 11/89 refers) the Town Council decided as follows:

“a) That, the Town Council seek to establish the ownership of the land on which the War Memorial stands together with the surrounding gardens with the Land Registry.

b) That, an application be made to Cheshire East Council to have the War Memorial designated as a Listed Building for conservation purposes.

c) That, the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to consider and make recommendations on the Town Council funding the future repair and maintenance of the War Memorial.

d) That, further investigation be undertaken with the County Archivist to ascertain if the former Alsager Urban District Council took ownership of the War Memorial.”

Accordingly the Committee is now asked to consider the funding issues relating to the costs of future maintenance of the War Memorial should this service be taken on by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk reported that he was researching the Alsager Urban District Councils minutes with the Cheshire Archive Service to establish ownership of the War Memorial.

Resolved: That, financial issues relating to the future repair and maintenance of the War Memorial be deferred until the ownership had been established.

11/47

Accounts 2010/11

Resolved: a) That, the Town Council Accounts and Statement of Balances for the year ending 31st March 2011 be approved.

b) That, the Institute Committee ‘s Accounts and Statement of Balances for the year ending 31st March 2011 be received and referred to the Institute Committee for approval.

11/48

Budget Monitoring Statement to 31st May 2011

Resolved: That, the Budget Monitoring Statement of estimated income and expenditure to 30th April 2011 be received and noted. (Appendix A)

11/49

Accounts for Authorisation

Resolved: That, the report be received, the income noted and the payments authorised. (Appendix B)

11/50

Audit Commission – Audit Report on the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011

Resolved: That, the Certificate of the Audit Commission indicating a clean audit report for the financial year ending 31st March 2011 be received and noted.

11/51 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 items of business on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of private and confidential information.

11/52 Internal Auditors Report – Town Council Accounts

Mr T J Maddock, Auditor, attended and presented his Annual Audit Report on the Town Council Accounts for the financial year 2010/11.

He highlighted potential weaknesses in financial systems which could affect the maintenance of the current high quality standard of accountability.

He suggested that the Town Council review:-

- Cash Investments, Bank Accounts etc
- “Value for money” review of contracted services
- Institute and Town Council recharge
- Asset Identification, Risk Assessments
- Staffing requirements

Mr Maddock then took questions on individual aspects of his report and it was:-

Resolved: That, the Internal Auditor’s report be received and Mr Maddock be thanked for his presentation.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and concluded at 8.15pm.

Councillor W H Stevenson
Chairman