

# **“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”**

## ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2011

Present: Councillor W Howell (Chairman)

Councillor C V Burgess  
Councillor Mrs D Burgess  
Councillor Mrs M Camm  
Councillor D I Hough  
Councillor S Morris  
Councillor S Roberson  
Councillor W H Stevenson  
Councillor R Tyson  
Councillor Mrs J Williams

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)

4 members of the general public  
1 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

11/18 Fire Procedure

The Chairman read out the Fire Action Procedure.

11/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess, Councillor Mrs T E S Jones and Councillor A Snape.

11/20 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

11/21 Town Council Minutes

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Pages 1 – 5 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/22 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

11/23

Chairman's Announcements

24<sup>th</sup> January Alsager in Bloom meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> January Chamber of Trade meeting  
27<sup>th</sup> January Conference of Town Councillors  
28<sup>th</sup> January Town Council Negotiating Team meeting (Transferred Services)  
4<sup>th</sup> February Cheshire East Council Negotiating Team meeting (Transferred Services)  
4<sup>th</sup> February Sandbach Civic Ball  
7<sup>th</sup> February Alsager Partnership meeting  
9<sup>th</sup> February Lagan Developments/Twyfords  
11<sup>th</sup> February Town Council Negotiating Team meeting (Transferred Services)  
14<sup>th</sup> February Alsager in Bloom meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> February Fairview play area meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> February Alsager Partnership meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> February CVSCE Conference  
26<sup>th</sup> February LAP event  
27<sup>th</sup> February Senior Citizens Show at Civic Centre

On behalf of Councillor Mrs T E S Jones, the Chairman reported that following consultations with WRVS, Cheshire East Council will continue to find the Civic Hall Luncheon Club until at least the end of May 2011. This will enable the WRVS to plan the long term future of the club.

Councillor Howell informed Members that this was his last meeting before going into hospital for surgery and that Councillor R Tyson (Vice Chairman) would be fulfilling his duties for the rest of the Civic Year.

11/24

Public Participation

Honorary Alderman D Bould addressed the Council on the School Funding Settlement for 2011-12 and in particular referred to the Pupil Premium and Dedicated Schools Grant announced by the Secretary of State for Education on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

He outlined the concerns for Alsager School regarding the large reduction in the school's Formula Capital Grant and the adverse effect this could have on the school's I.T. equipment and infrastructure replacement.

It was noted that Alsager School would gain very little from the Pupil Premium because of the area it serves, with schools in more deprived areas gaining from H.M. Governments new policy and it was:

Resolved: That, whilst expressing sympathy with the anticipated funding problems for Alsager School the Town Council could take no further action.

**Note:** The full copy of Alderman Bould's address would be circulated to all Members for information.

Mrs. Dyke raised the issue of rubble from the unfilled potholes and grit accumulating on the sides of the roads and the footpaths in Alsager and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would bring this matter to the urgent attention of Cheshire East Council.

11/25 Planning Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 be received and noted.

11/26 Finance and General Purpose Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 be confirmed and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

11/27 Alsager Institute Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Institute Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 be received and noted.

11/28 Calendar of Meetings 2011/12

Resolved: That, subject to the change of the date of the Council meeting from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012 to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012, the Calendar of Meetings for the Civic Year 2011/12 be approved.

11/29 Local Service Delivery

Further to Min. 11/11 dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Councillor W Stevenson (Chairman of Finance and General Purpose Committee) gave an update on progress with negotiations with Cheshire East Council.

He reported the original list of transferred services was:

Civic Hall  
Public Conveniences  
Alsager Allotments  
Street Nameplates  
Street Furniture  
Bus Shelters  
Alsager Market  
Christmas Lights/Tree

In addition CEC were now offering the ownership/maintenance of Northolme Gardens, Coronation Gardens and 5 Play Areas in the town and the Negotiating Team had asked for the Offices currently under lease from CEC to be considered for transfer.

The Negotiating Team was meeting weekly and had held its first meeting with CEC Project Team on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

The Consultant Architect had prepared his reports identifying the costs for replacement of the roof of the Civic Hall and a priority list of planned maintenance and repair work

The Consultant Accountant was to meet with CEC Accountants to assemble financial information on which to update the original report prepared in 2009 on the financial viability of the Civic Hall.

Details of the Transfer Timetable were circulated and a Press release would be considered at the Town Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Finally it was noted that the Negotiating Team was working towards a formal presentation and recommendations on which the Town Council could then make an expression of interest to meet CEC's May 2011 deadline

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Draft Press Release be approved for issue to local media, Alsager Partnership and Alsager Chamber of Trade.
  - b) That, the Transfer Timetable be received and noted.
  - c) That, the Negotiating Team list of Transferred Services as set out above be agreed and supported.

11/30 Cemetery Provision in Alsager

Further to Min. 11/12 dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011, it was noted that a meeting of local clergy and the local funeral director had been held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The Town Clerk was now in the process of setting up an exploratory meeting with Alsager School Trust concerning possible land use for an extension to the cemetery at Christ Church.

Resolved: That, the report be received and noted.

11/31 Youth Council

Resolved: That, the Chairman's initiative to establish a Youth Council in the town be supported.

11/32 War Memorial - Alsager

At the last meeting it was agreed that, subject to the agreement of Cheshire East Council, arrangements be made for the permanent placement of the bayonet on the soldier's statue on the War Memorial in Sandbach Road South.

No objection had been received by Cheshire East Council and so the bayonet had been affixed.

The Council now considered a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 from the Royal British Legion (Alsager Branch) stating their preference that the bayonet be affixed on significant ceremonies only.

Resolved: That, the letter be received.

11/33 Parish Elections 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Resolved: That, the notification from Cheshire East Council of the Parish Briefing Sessions to be held prior to the forthcoming Elections be received and noted and the Town Clerk indicated that he would be attending the session at Westfields on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

11/34 Sandbach Town Plan

Resolved: That, the Sandbach Town Plan Process, as detailed in the letter from the Chairman of the Town Plan Steering Group, be supported.

11/35 Playbuilder – Wood Park

The Chairman and Councillor Hough reported that the project was due to start in mid March with completion by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Resolved: That, the report be received and noted.

11/36 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor Hough reported that the In Bloom group was to undertake tree planting at Borrow Pit, Wood Park and Linley during the weekend of 26/27<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

It was also noted that Lottery Funding had been refused for Phase 4 of Milton Park

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 8.30pm.

Councillor W Howell  
Chairman