

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 20TH JULY 2010

Present: Councillor W H Stevenson (Chairman)

Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough

Mr. T Fitton (Town Clerk)

1 member of the press

10/45 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess, W Howell and A Snape.

10/46 Minutes of the Meeting – 8th June 2010

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 8th June 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10/47 Public Participation Period

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

10/48 Local Service Delivery

Further to Min. 10/37 dated 8th June 2010 the Committee considered the undermentioned documents received since the last meeting:-

- Letter from the Leader of Cheshire East Council Councillor W Fitzgerald dated 29th June 2010 setting out details of the administrative process to be put in place to discuss this issue with Town and Parish Councils.
- Commission for Rural Communities and Guidance notes on service delegations to Town and Parish Councils
- Cheshire East Council Report to Cabinet on 19th July 2010 on Local Service Delivery (Town and Parish Councils)

The Chairman referred to the Guidance Notes from the Commission for Rural Communities in which it stated that services transferred/devolved should be delivered better for no extra cost.

The attention of the Committee was drawn to the difference between the 'transfer' and 'devolution' of service which were the two different models in terms of handing over control and had significantly different operational and financial implications.

It was being suggested that functions and services were transferred and devolved over a 2 year period. However, Civic Halls could be the subject of an earlier transfer.

Arrangements were being made in August/September for a meeting within each LAP area for Town and Parish Councils to discuss the approach adopted, negotiated and delivered.

The Town Clerk reported on a meeting on Friday 16th July 2010 with Local Town Clerks and circulated a report setting their observations on the proposed process.

After a lengthy and informative debate it was:-

Resolved: That, the aforementioned documents be received and noted and await further details from Cheshire East Council.

10/49

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

a) That, the undermentioned members be reappointed to the Grants Panel to consider and make recommendations on grant applications for inclusion in the 2011/12 Budget.

Councillors	Mrs G Burgess
	D I Hough
	W Howell
	Mrs T E S Jones
	A Snape
	W Stevenson (Chairman)

b) That, the meeting of the Grants Panel be arranged for 27th September 2010.

c) That, the level of expenditure on Grants for 2011/12 be fixed at the current level i.e. £18,634.

10/50

Internal Audit Procedure

The Committee considered amendments to the internal Audit procedure recommended by the Councils Independent Auditor.

Resolved: That, in addition to the routine checking procedure, arrangements be made for a programmed selective approach to internal audit matters providing for an in-depth study of selected individual issues supported by written reports, starting with a review of the rent/service charges for the Lawton Road Office.

10/51 Annual Audit Return for Year Ending 31st March 2010

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Certificate of the Audit Commission indicating a clean report in respect of the Annual Audit Report for the year ending 31st March 2010 be received and noted and displayed on the Town Councils website.
 - b) That, the Town Council be recommended to formally confirm and verify the appointment of Mr T J Maddock as its Independent Auditor.

10/52 Design of Banners

- Resolved: That, consideration of the design for the two publicity banners be deferred to the next meeting.

10/53 Accounts for Authorisation

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

10/54 Budget Monitoring Statement to 30th June 2010

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Budget Monitoring Statement of estimated income and expenditure to 30th June 2010 be received and noted.
 - b) That, the Town Council be recommended that any additional expenditure, virement and use of earmarked reserves be subject to scrutiny by the Finance and General Purposes Committee before being incurred.

10/55 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.

10/56 Review of Insurance Arrangements

In accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Internal Auditor and the report of the Town Clerk, the Committee reviewed the existing insurance arrangements for both Town Council functions and the Alsager Institute.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the sum assured for Fidelity Guarantee be increased to £225,000.
 - b) That, the Employers Liability current limitation of £10,000,000 be accepted.
 - c) That, the Damage and All risks cover be increased to £17,000 in accordance with the Asset Register Valuations.

d) That, the current limits on the Public Liability, Libel and Slander and Personal Accident cover be approved.

e) That, the Loss of Rent cover be increased to £26,000.

f) That, authority be given to enter into a 5 year agreement with Zurich Municipal to secure a 10% discount.

g) That, the Town Clerk be authorised to get an independent valuation of the Institute Building for insurance purposes.

The meeting commenced at 7.25pm and concluded at 8.20pm.

Councillor W H Stevenson
Chairman