

“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2009

Present: Councillor S Roberson (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs G Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
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)

12 members of the general public
1 member of the press

Councillor R Tyson opened the meeting with prayers.

09/958 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Vice Chairman Councillor W Howell, and Councillors C V Burgess and Mrs J Burgess.

09/959 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

09/960 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held 8th September 2009, Pages 1 – 6 and Appendix A be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

09/961 Matters Arising

No matter were raised.

09/962 Chairman's Announcements

13 th September	Middlewich Civic Sunday
19 th September	Institute Bowling Club Youth Team Presentations
20 th September	Cheshire East Civic Sunday
24 th September	Civic Pride Awards

09/963 Public Participation

Mrs Dyke gave information of a website www.communitywaste.org where there was information and a video of Milton Keynes Recycling Centre where Alsagers household recycling waste is currently transported to.

Peter Smith reported that as of Monday 26th October 2009 there will be an extra service on the Rural Rider from Nantwich to Rode Heath through Alsager before 9am. Peter also reported that there was a new timetable for First Bus Route 20 that would restore the 9.40 Alsager to Crewe along with information on a number of other routes.

09/964 LAP (Congleton Area)

Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Congleton Area LAP be received and noted.

b) That, the confirmation by Cheshire East Council of the appointment of Councillor C V Burgess to represent Alsager on the local LAP be noted.

09/965 The Big Switch On 2009

Resolved: That, the notes of the meeting of the organising committee held on 17th September 2009 be received and noted.

09/966 Planning Committee

Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15th September 2009 be received.

b) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6th October 2009 be received.

09/967 Finance and General Purpose Committee

Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 15th September 2009 be received.

09/968 Pikemere School Presentation

Councillor Mrs S Jones welcomed and introduced Mrs Emma Tillotson Deputy Head of Pikemere School and Ruth Stevens and Emma Shortland representing the School Council who were attending the meeting following a recent presentation at the school from Councillor Mrs Jones and the Town Handyman.

Ruth and Emma raised the following issues that they would like to see in the town:-

New Play Area with Monkey Bars
Town Museum
Nature Trail around the Town
Outdoor Swimming Pool
Cycle Paths on more roads

Resolved: That, a letter of appreciation be sent to Ruth and Emma at Pikemere School for their presentation also indicating that the Town Council will seriously consider the matters they raised.

09/969

Cheshire East Council (off street parking places) (Congleton Area) Order 2009
Proposed modification of the Draft Order in relation to Fairview Car Park, Alsager

Further to Min. 09/045 dated 8th September 2009, the latest proposal is to remove the provision for a free first 30 minutes and replace it with a 20 minute free parking in the morning and afternoon operated by Highfields School issuing parking vouchers to the parents as necessary.

Documents circulated were:-

Draft response to the Town Council prepared by the Town Clerk
Response from Highfields Community Primary School
Response from Alsager Chamber of Trade

The Chairman then suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak on this important issue.

Kath Mainwaring raised concerns regarding the costs of the consultation exercises when issues raised by members of the public were not listened too.

Mr Day raised concerns over the warden control procedures.

Mrs Dyke was concerned that no dispensation was to be offered to charity workers.

Resolved: That, the Draft Response as amended by approved and submitted following consultation with Chairman. (Appendix A)

09/970

Alsager Partnership – Joint meeting with Cheshire East

Resolved That, the notes of the meeting between representatives of the Congleton Area Regeneration Partnerships and Cheshire East held on Thursday 11th October 2009 be received and noted.

09/971

Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min. 09/956 dated 8th September 2009 it was noted that there was no further information to report.

09/972 Visit by Leader of Cheshire East Council

The Town Clerk reported that the Leader of Cheshire East Council, Councillor Wesley Fitzgerald had accepted an offer from Councillor Fletcher to visit Alsager. Town Councillors were invited to meet at the Town Council offices on Thursday 12th November to welcome Councillor Fitzgerald between 9am and 10am.

09/973 Community Pride Competition 2009

The Chairman reported that Alsager had been awarded runner up in the 10001-30000 category in this years Community Pride Competition and the certificate would be displayed in the One Stop Shop.

Resolved: That, a vote of thanks be recorded to the In Bloom Group for their efforts in gaining the Award for the Town in this years competition.

09/974 Alsager Public Toilets – Disabled key

Councillor Mrs S Jones explained that Radar Keys are used nationwide for access to disabled toilets. These keys were previously issued by Congleton Borough Council and were free of charge. Cheshire East Council were now charging residents £4.50 to purchase a key. Councillor Jones explained that it cost £1 to produce the key and Cheshire East were adding a £3.50 administration charge. Councillor Jones said that this was a totally inappropriate charge, especially for vulnerable members of the community. Councillor Jones had spoken to Cheshire East regarding this and is awaiting a response and would report back to the Town Council in due course.

09/075 Wesley Place Church – Christmas Tree Festival

Members received an invitation from Wesley Place Methodist Church to sponsor a Christmas Tree in this years Tree Festival to take place between 27th and 29th November 2009.

Resolved: a) That, the Town Council participate in this years Tree Festival with the funding being taken from balances.

b) That, the Tree be decorated by Councillor Mrs S Jones and Town Council staff.

09/076 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor Mrs S Jones reported that she had attended the Appeal held in Middlewich regarding the Planning Application at Cardway Cartons, Ltd, Linley Lane, and had raised objections to the proposed development on behalf of local residents.

Councillor Jones also reported that Cheshire East have launched a Community Grants Scheme for registered charities in Cheshire East.

Councillor R Fletcher reported a number of highways issues including:-

The number of recent accidents at Bank Corner

Loaders of waste bins are to pick up dropped waste
Flooding under Lindley lane Bridge
Repairs at Linley Road and Linley Lane
Mossfields road Sign

Councillor D Hough gave information of an Action Day to be held on the Radway Estate on 7th November 2009.

09/077 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 and staff matters.

09/078 Personnel Committee – Annual Staff review

NOTE: The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk left the meeting for this item.

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 8th October 2009 containing the Annual Staff review were considered.

Resolved: a) That, subject to the deletion of the word ‘Parish’ in line 3 of Min 09/07 the recommendations arising from the staff review be included in the Draft budget 2010/ for consideration in the December 2009 Budget Meeting.

b) That, the National Pay settlement for the Town Council Clerks be implemented from 1st April 2009 and also be applied to the Assistant Town Clerk and the Town Clerks Secretary.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 9.20pm

Councillor S Roberson
Chairman