

“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE ON TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2011

Present: Councillor Mrs D Burgess (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Councillor S Bishop
Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor R Fletcher
Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
Councillor W H Stevenson

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)

16 members of the general public
1 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

11/80 Fire Procedure

The Chairman read out the Fire Action Procedure.

11/81 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Councillor R Tyson, and Councillors R Ashley, Mrs J Burgess, D I Hough, W Howell and Ms H Robinson.

11/82 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

11/83 Town Council Minutes

Resolved: a) That, subject to the word “rejected” being substituted for the word “dismissed” in line 2 of the 2nd paragraph of Min. 11/68, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24th May 2011, Pages 1 – 5 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

b) That, the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on 7th June 2011 Page 1 – 3 and Appendix A be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/84 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

11/85

Chairman's Announcements

6th June Alsager in Bloom Meeting
7th June Chamber of Trade Meeting
9th June Planting with Alsager Cubs at Alsager Health Centre (organised by the In Bloom Group)
Fairtrade Steering Group Meeting
11th June Planting with Alsager Primary schools in Milton Park (organised by the In Bloom Group)
12th June Church Lawton Civic Sunday
Alsager Town Council's Civic Sunday at St Mary's
13th June Wreath Laying at the War Memorial
18th June Alsager Carnival

11/86

Public Participation

Mrs Dyke, on behalf of a number of residents attending the meeting, stated her support for the Town Council's bid for the transfer of the Civic Centre from Cheshire East Council. She stated that the Civic Centre was the "hub" of the community and as such it should be retained in its central location in the town.

Councillor W H Stevenson, Chairman of the Town Council's Negotiating Team, stated that the Town Council had given Cheshire East Council an "indicative" decision to take over the Civic Centre, together with a number of other services operated by Cheshire East Council in the town, and that Cheshire East Council had promised a final decision by the beginning of August 2011.

In response to a criticism about the lack of publicity regarding the future of the Civic Centre, particularly a Public Meeting, the Town Clerk outlined the various publicity initiatives the Town Council had taken in relation to the transfer process.

Mr Wakelin stated that although he did not agree with the Town Council taking over the Civic Centre he would support a Public Meeting over the issue.

11/87

Planning Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 31st May 2011 be received and noted.

11/88

Finance and General Purpose Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 31st May 2011 be confirmed and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

11/89

War Memorial - Alsager

Les Bickerton, Secretary Royal British Legion Alsager Branch, attended the meeting and addressed the Council regarding issues relating to the repairs and maintenance of the War Memorial, and the bayonet being permanently left in situ. He circulated a report on the history and background of the War Memorial. (Appendix A)

Cheshire East Council state that they do not own the site, and the current cleaning and general tidying of the site is undertaken as a gesture of goodwill. With regard to repairs and maintenance, Cheshire East Council had referred the Royal British Legion to Alsager Town Council.

The Town Clerk reported that although the Town Council had powers to maintain, repair and protect any War Memorial rented or not. (War Memorial Act 1923) The repair and maintenance work had traditionally been undertaken by the principal authority.

The land ownership issue needed clarification.

- Resolved:
- 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.

11/90 Future Cemetery Provision – Alsager

- Resolved: That, the Town Clerk's report indicating that a meeting was to be arranged with the Board of Trustees of Alsager School in early September 2011 to discuss land for future burials, was received and noted.

11/91 Community Resilience Plan

The Council considered a letter from Cheshire East Councillor Rachel Bailey, Portfolio Holder for Safety and Stronger Communities, regarding the development of a Community Resilience Plan for Alsager.

The aim of the Plan was to raise risk awareness to harness local resources and expertise to complement the response to Cheshire East Council and the emergency services on the event of a major emergency or serious accident in the town.

- Resolved: That, Cheshire East Council be informed that the Town Council support the development of a Community Resilience Plan for Alsager but seek help and administrative support from Cheshire East Council with the preparation of the document.

11/92 Alsager Partnership

The Town Council reported that the Partnership meeting scheduled for Monday 13th June 2011 had been cancelled.

Peter Smith reported on the meeting of the Partnership Sustainability Group held on 7th June 2011 and stated that further meetings were planned.

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/93 WRVS Luncheon Club

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones reported that there had been a good response from the residents of Alsager to the recent appeal for local help to keep open the WRVS Luncheon club on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Civic Centre.

As a result it looked increasingly optimistic that the Luncheon Club facility would be retained and continue to operate from the Civic Centre.

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/94 Alsager Fairtrade Steering Group

Resolved: That, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2011 be received and noted.

11/95 Alsager Station

Councillor R Fletcher reported that complaints had been received about the lack of updating on trains running on the visual display boards for both London Midland and East Midland Services and Help Points on both platforms also were not working correctly.

Councillor Fletcher also reported that local public address announcements' on the platform in the early hours of the morning were causing complaints from residents living on Talke Road close to the station and that he would continue to monitor the situation.

Correspondence on the proposal by East Midland Trains to introduce car parking charges at stations was also considered.

Resolved: That, the report be received and copies of the information provided by Councillor Fletcher be sent to all Town Councillors.

11/96 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor Fletcher reported on the following issues:-

- Alsager Library would open on Wednesdays from 13th July 2011 between 9am and 1pm
- The criteria on which to base subsidies to Public Transport was to be considered be Cheshire East Council Cabinet in August 2011

- Restricted car parking for the Co-op close to their proposed store – Item for next Council meeting

Councillor Mrs Jones spoke on the Cheshire East Council's proposal to withdraw subsidised travel for young people and reported that other options were being explored.

Resolved: That, the reports be received.

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm and concluded at 9.05 pm.

Councillor R Tyson
Chairman