

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE  
ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

Present: Councillor W Howell (Vice Chairman)

Councillor C V Burgess  
Councillor Mrs D Burgess  
Councillor Mrs M Camm  
Councillor D I Hough  
Councillor Mrs T E S Jones  
Councillor S Morris  
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)

7 members of the general public  
1 members of the press

Reverend Alan Smithson opened the meeting with prayers.

10/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G Burgess, Mrs J Burgess and S Roberson (Chairman.)

10/20 Absence of Councillor Mrs J Burgess

Under the provisions of Section 85(1) and (2) Local Government Act 1972, if a member fails throughout six consecutive months to attend any meeting of the Town Council or its committees/sub-committees, that member ceases to be a member of the Town Council.

However, under Section 85(1) the Town Council can approve the period of absence.

A letter had been received from Councillor Mrs J Burgess asking for the Town Council to approve a further period of non-attendance of six months on health grounds and it was:-

Resolved: That, in view of the exemplary work of Councillor Mrs J Burgess to the community of Alsager, an extension of her period of absence for a further six months be approved. The Town Council wished Mrs J Burgess a speedy recovery and hoped that she would be able to return to her Town Council duties within that time.

10/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/22 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Pages 1 – 4 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10/23 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

10/24 Public Participation

Mrs Dyke made reference to the Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the Triangle Field, Crewe Road, Alsager. The Town Clerk explained that this would be discussed in detail at the next Town Council Planning Committee meeting where any objections to the evidence submitted in the application could be made.

Peter Smith raised concerns regarding the preservation of existing service standards once the Cheshire East Information Point moved into the library, and stressed that the full range of literature should also be available within the library that is currently on offer at the Information Point. The Town Clerk confirmed that these points had been contained in the Town Councils submission to Cheshire East regarding the transfer.

Peter also reported that Stanways Bus Company would cease to operate their Kidsgrove to Liverpool service on Saturdays as of the end of March.

Trevor Cotton raised concerns regarding anti social behaviour in Milton Park on Friday and Saturday nights as over the last 2 weeks there had been incidents involving young people in the park. He said that the PCSO's were doing their best but could not patrol the park all evening. He said that there were also issues for the PCSO's as there are so many exits from the park.

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of locking the park at night or having a permanent security presence within the park on both evenings.

Councillor A Snape suggested that the Town Council wait until the Service Level Agreement had been received from Chief Inspector Gammage regarding the PCSO's before the Town Council look at alternative options and it was:-

Resolved: a) That, the security of Milton Park be raised with Chief Inspector Gammage.

b) That, Councillor Brian Silvester, Safer and Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder Cheshire East Council, be contacted regarding the deployment of the 16 PCSO's that are funded by Cheshire East to Alsager when needed.

10/25 Planning Committee

- Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be received.
- b) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be received.

10/26 Finance and General Purpose Committee

- Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be approved.

10/27 Play Builder Funding – Wood Park

The Vice Chairman gave an update on the Play Builder scheme in Wood Park. He explained that children parents and residents had to take ownership of the project as part of the Play Builder bid and public consultation needed to be undertaken. The Vice Chairman gave details of the project so far and explained that door knocking had taken place by Plus Dane on parts of the Radway Estate and Councillor D I Hough was organising leaflet drops and door knocking on other surrounding areas.

Councillor D I Hough asked for any Councillors to come forward to help with this stage of consultation.

The Vice Chairman also reported that there was to be an open day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 12 till 3 at the Radway Club, to give residents the opportunity to come and see details of the Play Builder scheme and what it meant for Wood Park, also for residents to give any feedback and express any concerns they may have. The Vice Chairman also asked for volunteers for this event.

The Vice Chairman confirmed that Councillors Mrs G Burgess and Mrs J Williams had also joined the Steering group.

Councillor D I Hough also stated that this is only the first step for Wood Park/Radway Estate and once the play area had been completed it was hoped that a Radway Project Group would be set up consisting of residents, Councillors and other interested parties.

- Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Initial Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 be received and noted.

10/28 Proposed Transfer of Customer Information Point

The Town Clerk reported that Cheshire East Council had proposed a transfer of the Information Point, 3 Lawton Road, into the Library, stating that the transfer would improve accessibility to council services in terms of location and opening hours and to provide a more cost effective customer service whilst also preserving the library service.

A report of the Town Clerk had been circulated following a meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010 with Cheshire East and local councils, and the Town Clerk reported that that the

transfer would not take place until June at the earliest and that Cheshire East had guaranteed to consult with the Town Council as the scheme progressed.

A report of Paul Bayley, Customer Services Manager, Cheshire East regarding Increasing the Customer access through the Libraries had also been circulated.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the report of the Town Clerk be received and noted.
  - b) That, Councillors C V Burgess, Mrs D Burgess, B Howell and W Stevenson be appointed to represent the Town Council in future consultations on this issue.

10/29

#### Alsager Town Plan

A report of the Town Clerk had been circulated following a meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010, stating that a Town Plan was an in depth survey of a community undertaken by that community itself for its own benefit, to find out how that community wants to see itself develop over the next 5 to 10 years and included an action plan to make sure that this actually happens.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the report be received and noted.
  - b) That, the Town Council adopt the Town Plan process.
  - b) That, an Interim Steering Group be appointed comprising of the following councillors to establish if the residents of Alsager want a Town Plan and progress the matter until a Town Plan Steering Group is established:-

Councillors C V Burgess  
D I Hough  
Mr T E S Jones  
S Roberson

10/30

#### PCSO Draft Agreement and Service Level Agreement

A report of the Town Clerk had been circulated regarding a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 with Town Councillors and Inspector Gammage to discuss the Draft Proposal and SLA for the PCSO service in Alsager for the next 3 years, and it was:-

- Resolved: That, the Town Council accept the new PCSO Agreement and SLA for the provision of the service in Alsager for the next 3 years, and authority be given to the Town Clerk to sign the documents.

10/31

#### Cemetery Provision in Alsager

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had been contacted regarding future cemetery provision in the Town.

The former Congleton Borough Council did not establish a policy for future cemetery provision in Alsager and there was now estimated to be 3 years burial space left at Christ Church.

Consequently the Town Clerk had written to Councillor R Menlove Environmental Services Portfolio Holder Cheshire East Council to ascertain whether Cheshire East intended to purchase land in the Town for burial purposes.

Resolved: That, the action of the Town Clerk be received and noted and await a response from Cheshire East Council.

10/32 Alsager Music Festival

A letter from Daniel Keen KW Promotions Managing Director had been received giving details of a Festival due to be launched in August 2010 in Alsager and asked for funding towards this venture. The festival will consist of 4 music concerts to be held in 2010 and 8 to be held in 2011.

Resolved: That, the matter be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

10/33 Fair Trade Town – Alsager

The Vice Chairman reported that Alsager had achieved Fair Trade Town status for the next 2 years and that Fair Trade Fortnight was currently running between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Councillor Mrs S Jones confirmed that the One World Week Event would now be run by the Ladies Circle and it was:-

Resolved: That, a letter of appreciation be sent to Mrs M Keeling in recognition of her involvement with the Fair Trade initiatives in the Town.

10/34 Business Cards

Councillor C V Burgess made a suggestion that Town Councillors could have Town Council business cards stating their name, address, telephone number, email and ward to give out at their disposal. They could be produced in house.

Resolved: That, Business Cards be provided to those Councillors who want them.

10/35 Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min. 10/11 dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 it was noted that there was no further information to report at this stage pending the receipt of a formal planning application from Kimberley/Co-op.

10/36 Draft Protocol – Role of the Chairman

Resolved: That, the draft protocol for the Role of the Chairman be approved and adopted.

10/37 Information sent to Councillors

Resolved: That, for the reasons stated in the report, with the exception of Agendas, Minute and attached reports all other correspondence be emailed where possible.

10/38 Civic Hall Working Group

Resolved: That, the report of the Civic Hall Working Group meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be received and noted.

10/39 Congleton LAP

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Congleton LAP held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be received and noted.

10/40 Alsager Partnership

Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Alsager Partnership held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 be received and noted.

b) That, the Vice Chairman's verbal report on the meeting of the Partnership held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010 be received and noted.

c) That, subject to formal confirmation from Cheshire East Council, the contribution of £10,000 for one year only towards the post of Project Manager, Alsager Partnership with a review in the next 6 months concerning the financing of the post for a further 2 years, be received and noted.

10/41 Milton Park Steering Group

Councillor D I Hough reported that a meeting had been held today of the Milton Park Steering Group and that the outcome of the Wren bid for the Sunken Garden should be announced in Mid March.

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Milton Park Steering Group held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be received and noted.

10/42 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Cheshire East Councillor R Fletcher gave an update regarding Car Parking charges, Cheshire East Gritting Policy, Swallow Drive play area, Public Transport and the Safety Day held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Councillor Mrs S Jones reported Cheshire East would be holding its budget meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February and she would be asking for an amendment regarding the charge for issuing Radar Keys for access by the disabled to Public Toilets.

Councillor D I Hough gave an update regarding the Reserves held by Cheshire East and the Budget, Car Parking and Pot Holes repairs programme.

10/43 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.

10/44 Town Council Offices – 3 Lawton Road

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk indicating that the lease on the offices in 3 Lawton Road expired on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The report contained details of the history of the use of the building for local authority purposes, and financial details of leasing and other arrangements.

Details of a meeting with Cheshire East Council officers on the future of the building following the transfer of the Cheshire East Council Information Point to the library were also considered.

Resolved: That, authority be given to the Chairman together with the Chairmen of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Personnel Committee in consultation with the Town Clerk to take any urgent action in this matter and report to the next appropriate Council Meeting detailing the decisions taken.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 9pm

Councillor W Howell  
Vice Chairman