

“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE ON TUESDAY 24th MAY 2011

Present: Councillor R Tyson (Chairman)

Councillor R Ashley
Councillor S Bishop
Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor R Fletcher
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
Councillor Ms H Robinson
Councillor W H Stevenson

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)

5 members of the general public
1 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

11/58 Fire Procedure

The Chairman read out the Fire Action Procedure.

11/59 Apologies for Absence

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

11/60 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

11/61 Town Council Minutes

Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 12th April 2011, Pages 1 – 5 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

b) That, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th May 2011 Page 1 – 6 and Appendices A, B and C be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/62 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

11/63 Chairman's Announcements

As Vice-Chair

April 15 th	Air Training Corp Dining In
April 16 th	Middlewich Ball
May 7 th	Opening of the sensory ceiling for Special Treasures (ACC)
May 12 th	Service at URC to celebrate 40 th anniversary of Women's Fellowship

As Chair

May 18 th	CEC Mayor Making at Tatton
May 21 st	Triton Hockey Club Junior Presentation Awards

Following a report from the Chairman, the Council agreed to send a message of support for the reopening of the Colne to Skipton missing rail link, as part of the National Rail Network linking cities and regions across the North.

11/64 Public Participation

Peter Smith informed the Council that Alsager School's artwork was on display in the Alsager Station Platform Lounges (Waiting areas)

In reply to a question from Mrs Dyke, Councillor D Hough stated that the Town Yard Depot was owned by Cheshire East Council and the gardeners would vacate the depot in October 2011.

11/65 Co-option of Member

The Chairman proposed that, in recognition of the exemplary work carried out by Mr W H Stevenson as the Finance Committee Chairman and Chairman of the Negotiating Team for Local Service Delivery, Mr W H Stevenson be co-opted onto the Town Council (West Ward).

This was duly seconded by Councillor D Hough.

The Town Clerk reported that Mr Stevenson had signed the Consent to Nomination as a Co-opted Member and it was

Resolved: Unanimously, that Mr W H Stevenson be co-opted onto the Town Council as a Member for Alsager West Ward.

Councillor W Stevenson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place at the council table.

11/66

Finance and General Purpose Committee – Constitution
(Deferred from Town Council meeting held on 17th May 2011)

Resolved: a) That, the following 9 Members of the Town Council be appointed to serve on the Finance and General Purpose Committee for the Civic Year 2011/2012.

Councillors R Ashley
C V Burgess
Mrs J Burgess
Mrs D Burgess
Mrs M Camm
D I Hough
Ms H Robinson
W H Stevenson
R Tyson

b) That, Councillor W H Stevenson be appointed Chairman of the Finance and General Purpose Committee for the Civic Year 2011/2012.

c) That, Councillor D I Hough be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purpose Committee for the Civic Year 2011/2012.

11/67

Negotiating Team – Constitution
(Deferred from Town Council meeting held on 17th May 2011)

Resolved: a) That, the following 4 Members of the Town Council be appointed to serve on the Negotiating Team for Local Service Delivery for the Civic Year 2011/2012.

Councillors S Bishop
C V Burgess
W H Stevenson
R Tyson

11/68

Local Policing

Sgt Karl Tatlock attended the meeting and reported on various policing issues in Alsager, including the incident of drunk and antisocial behaviour in the sunken garden area of Milton Park and the vandalism at the Scout Hall Cedar Avenue.

A suggestion for the designation of Milton Park as a Designated Exclusion Zone was dismissed. Sgt Tatlock reported that a more positive approach would be taken on the ground on Friday and Saturday nights in Milton Park.

At this point the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to take questions from members of the public.

Mrs Dyke and Mr Cotton both referred to the drinking in Milton Park, and whilst appreciating the work of the town's PCSO's, the lack of police manpower to police the town was accepted as a major issue.

It was agreed that the PCSO's be requested to regularly attend the Town Council meetings in future and for the comparative crime figures to be re-introduced.

11/69 Local Service Delivery

Resolved: That, the arrangements for the Internal Briefing session on Local Service Delivery (Transferred Services) on Tuesday 31st May 2011 in the Town Council offices commencing at 10 am be noted.

11/70 Alsager Depot – Members Item

Councillor D I Hough reported that following the decision of Cheshire East Council to dispose of the Town Yard, a proposal was being considered to provide a building to be located in the existing gardener's compound in Milton Park for depot purposes.

A site plan showing the location and the building to house 2 Transit vehicles, with roller shutter front entrance doors and side access doors, was circulated.

Resolved: a) That, the Town Council welcome the development and accordingly has no objection to the proposed citing of the building in the gardeners compound.

b) That, the appreciation of the Council be recorded for the work undertaken by Councillor Hough in retaining a depot facility in the town.

11/71 Alsager Partnership

Councillor Hough updated the council on the work of the Partnership since the last meeting as follows:

- Alsager Chamber of Trade working in conjunction with the Partnership had introduced banners in the town centre and walking maps
- Renovation work in Northolme Gardens has been completed
- Wood Park Play Area was expected to be completed in the next few weeks
- The town was being entered in this year's North West in Bloom competition

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/72 Alsager Fairtrade Steering Group

Resolved: a) That, the minutes of the meeting of the steering group held on 7th April 2011 be received and noted.

b) That, the appreciation of the Council be recorded for the work undertaken by Councillor Mrs T E S Jones in getting Cheshire East Council to put in place the process by which they can achieve Fairtrade status.

11/73 Audit Commission Annual Report – 31st March 2011

The Town Council considered the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 and the Statement of Assurance contained in Section 2 of the Return.

Resolved: That, the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance for the year ended 31st March 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

11/74 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor R Fletcher indicated that two new Scrutiny Committees had been set up – Health and Wellbeing and Adult Services.

Councillor D Hough reported that a pedestrian crossing for the Cross Street area and dropped kerbs on the Radway Estate were included in the 2011/12 Highways Programme.

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones spoke regarding the consultation document on School Transport, and in particular the proposed changes to subsidised travel for 6th Formers travelling outside their home town to attend colleges, and pupils travelling to faith schools outside their home towns.

Resolved: That, the reports be received.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 9 pm.

Councillor R Tyson
Chairman