

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2008

Present: Councillor Mrs T E S Jones (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs G Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor S Roberson
Councillor A Snape
Councillor W H Stevenson
Councillor R Tyson

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)
Mrs C A Jennings (Assistant)
Mrs S Colclough (Secretary)

20 members of the general public
1 press

Councillor R Tyson opened the meeting with prayers.

08/700 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C V Burgess, Mrs J Burgess, W Howell, S Morris and Mrs J Williams.

08/701 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Snape declared an interest in all Planning Applications and the Floral Planters (Min No. 08/712).

Councillor S Roberson declared an interest in Voucher 80 of the Accounts for Authorisation.

08/702 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15th July 2008, Pages 1 – 9, and Appendices A and B, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

b) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Institute Committee held on 12th August 2008, Pages 1 – 4, and Appendix A, be received and noted.

Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting – 15th July 2008Alsager First Responders (08/677)

The Chairman reported that the County Council Health Scrutiny Committee had heard evidence from First Responder Groups about the proposed changes to the operation of the Community First Responder Schemes and asked if the Town Council wished to appear as a witness before the same committee in September when the views of Towns/Parish Councils would be heard.

Resolved: That, Councillor A Snape be appointed to represent the Town Council at the aforementioned meeting.

Alsager Partnership (08/677)

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2008 be received and noted.

Cross Street, Alsager (08/677)

The response from the Area Traffic Engineer, dated 28th July 2008, to the Town Council's request for the reversal of the one-way system on Cross Street indicating that the proposal was not appropriate on highway safety grounds was received and noted.

Part-time Secretarial Assistant (08/677)

The Chairman introduced and reported that Suzanne Colclough had been appointed to the post of Part-time Secretarial Assistant with effect from Tuesday, 26th August 2008.

Kimberley Development/Co-op (08/680)

The Chairman reported that Congleton Borough Council had arranged a joint meeting with the Town Council and Alsager Partnership on Monday, 8th September 2008, at SECE offices, to discuss the possible sale of part of Fairview Car Park for the development of the new Co-op store and the Town Clerk reported that he would inform all members of the time of the meeting.

Alsager Town Centre SPD (08/681)

The Chairman referred to the letter from the Principal Planning Officer outlining progress with the preparation of the Town Centre SPD, which was received and noted.

New Health Centre, Sandbach Road South (08/685)

Correspondence from the Area Highway Manager was circulated giving details of the funding for Dropped-kerb Programme in Congleton and County Councillor Fletcher attended the meeting and asked the Town Council to consider match funding to enable the Dropped-kerb Programme in Alsager to be undertaken quickly.

County Councillor Fletcher reported that the County Council had agreed to fund dropped crossings at the junction of Church Road/Lodge Road/Chancery Lane, Church Road/Hassall Road/Dunnocksfold Road, junction of Mossway/Mossfields, junction of Sandbach Road South/Station Road and junction of Station Road/Woolaston Drive.

Members then considered other areas where dropped crossings would be appropriate and it was

Resolved: That, the Area Highways Manager be informed that there was also a need for dropped crossings in the following locations: Shady Grove and Fairview Avenue/Donkey Path.

Crewe Road, Alsager (08/686)

The Chairman reported that the Town Council's request for Crewe Road to be given priority in the list of highway repairs by Cheshire East had been passed to the Lead Officer for Places for attention.

Sub-Station, Sainsbury's, Crewe Road (08/689)

The Town Clerk and Mrs Dyke had contacted Scottish Power but no reply had been received.

08/704 Matters Arising – Alsager Institute Committee – 15th July 2008

Purchase of new Mower (Min. 08/101 a)

The Town Council considered a recommendation from the Institute Committee for a grant of £1,960 to provide a new mower for the bowling green at the Alsager Institute.

A grant application form completed by the Alsager Institute Bowling Club, together with additional information to support their application, had been circulated.

The matter was being treated as an urgency because of imminent price rises from 1st September 2008.

Resolved: That, a grant of £1960 be approved for the provision of a new mower for Alsager Institute Bowling Club.

08/705 Chairman's Announcements

23 rd July	Open Day Pip's Day Nursery
28 th July	Christmas Market Meeting
31 st July	Appointment Panel
12 th August	Institute Committee
14 th August	Appointment Panel
15 th August	Pop Concert Milton Park
19 th August	Alsager in Bloom Committee
19 th August	Strategy Meeting

22nd August Pop Concert Milton Park

The Chairman announced that all the funding was in place to undertake Phase 2 of the Milton Park improvement scheme and that construction of the play area was due to start in early September 2008. The minutes of the meeting of the Milton Park Project Review dated 15th July 2008 were received and noted.

08/706 Public Participation

Frank Edge representing residents of Shady Grove reported incidents of damage to cars on Shady Grove and particularly brought attention to an incident on Sunday 10th August when vandalism had been reported to the police, who allegedly had not attended despite having given the call an incident number. Mr Edge said this was an escalating problem on the Radway Estate. It was agreed that the Chairman write to Inspector Gammage bringing this specific incident to his attention and asking for increased police surveillance of Shady Grove and the Radway Estate.

Following on from the above Mr Lowe asked if more police officers could be permanently based in the town and the Chairman reported that she had already written to Inspector Gammage asking for a greater police presence in Alsager, in particular on Friday and Saturday evenings.

08/707 MMU Development Plan

Further to Mins. 07/451, dated 16th October 2007 and 08/710, dated 15th July 2008, the Chairman welcomed and introduced Richard House, Local Planning and Economic Policy Manager, Congleton Borough Council, who was attending the meeting to present the Development Brief for the MMU site, comments on which were to be received by 15th September 2008.

The following documents had been circulated:

- Manchester Metropolitan University - Alsager Campus Development Brief
- Town Council's Vision for the MMU site
- Letter dated 20th August 2008 containing the comments of Alsager Partnership

Mr House outlined the purpose and content of the development brief and indicated that the University were to hold an exhibition on campus on 8/9th September to publicise a forthcoming Outline Planning Application and Master Plan.

Responses to the Development Brief together with any changes were to be considered by the Borough Council on 15th October 2008.

There then followed a period of public question time during which the Chairman suspended Standing Orders in order to allow members of the public to put their points to Mr House.

Resolved: That the Town Council's response to the Alsager Campus Development Brief be agreed as follows:

- Alsager Town Council would like to be involved in any future dialogue between Congleton Borough Council and MMU in the development of the Outline Planning Application and Master Plan.
- The Town Council supports the inclusion in the proposed development plan of the small retail area for local shopping but would not want to see a large supermarket on this site, which would take trade from the town centre.
- The Town Council has concerns over the capability of the local infrastructure to cope with the increased demand on the drainage system because at the moment there is a history of flooding in this area. Also concerns are expressed about the ability of Hassall Road in particular and Alsager roads in general to cope with the anticipated additional traffic to be generated from the proposed development.
- The Town Council welcomes the intention of MMU to retain the sports fields and related buildings to the south of the site, however the Town Council would like to see provision for community use of these retained sports facilities, particularly given the emphasis on young persons involvement in sport by the 2012 Olympics organisers and the shortage of publicly available playing fields in the town.
- With regard to the integrated playground included in the map Ref “Preferred Option C”. It is the Town Councils understanding that this area, an existing playground, is in the ownership of Congleton Borough Council. Therefore if this is developed and enhanced as the play area provision for the new housing development then a similar alternative area or financial contribution should be provided for play area provision elsewhere in Alsager.
- The Town Council would like the design of street furniture to compliment the existing street furniture in the town.

08/708 Strategy Meeting – 19th August 2008

Members considered the report of the Strategy Meeting held on 19th August 2008

Resolved: That, the recommendations be approved as follows:

Quality Status

- a) The Town Clerk inform CHALC of the Town Council’s wish to attain Quality Status and obtain the relevant information.
- b) That Councillor Roberson, and the staff, prepare a design brief and cost analysis for expanding the existing Town Council website
- c) That, details of training courses for Councillors, be included on future Agenda.
- d) That a questionnaire be sent to all Town Councillors seeking information on areas of training required.

Alsager Civic Hall

- a) That, the Town Council register an interest to enter into negotiations with Cheshire East at the earliest opportunity after 1st April 2009 for the possible acquisition of the Civic Hall at a nominal transfer, in order to secure the Civic Hall for the future of the town.
- b) That the support and assistance of Congleton Borough Council be requested in furthering the possible acquisition of the Civic Hall by the Town Council.
- c) That provision be made in the Budget for 2009/10 for earmarked funding towards the operational costs of the Civic Hall service.
- d) That a press release be issued indicating the Town Council's position with regard to the future of the Civic Hall.
- e) That a Working Group be established to look at issues surrounding the possible transfer of the Civic Hall.

Budget 2009/10

- a) That funding for the Town Handyperson post be included in the Budget for 2009/10.
- b) That funding for facilities for young people in Alsager, based on the CBC report "Enquiry into Activities for Young People 2008" be considered for inclusion in the Budget for 2009/10.
- c) The extension of the opening hours of Alsager One Stop Shop from 9.00am – 1.00pm to 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday to be explored with Cheshire East.
- d) The role of SECE in Cheshire East be established to ascertain the Town Council's future funding requirements and secretarial/admin. Assistance to Alsager Partnership.
- e) Priorities for Alsager Partnership during 2009/10 include future of the Civic Hall, co-ordination of voluntary organisations and groups in the town to ascertain what skills are available which could be used for the benefit of the town and activities for young persons. The Partnership Chairman be asked to attend future Town Council meetings to update members on the work of the Partnership.

08/709

Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min. 08/713 dated 15th July 2008 the Town Clerk reported that no further information had been received since the last meeting.

Resolved: That, the matter be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

08/710

Dog Control Order Consultation

Further to Min. 08/563, dated 26th February 2008, members considered the new Dog Control Orders prepared by Congleton Borough Council under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Resolved: That, the Dog Control Order be received without comment.

08/711 Alsager Christmas Market Event

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meetings of the Events Organising Committee, held on 30th June and 28th July 2008 be received and noted.

08/712 Floral Planters, Wilbraham Arms and Twyfords, Alsager

Councillor R Tyson reported that a planter had been provided on Sandbach Road North adjacent to the Wilbraham Arms to replace the one stolen last year at a cost of £200.

Councillor Tyson also asked the Town Council to consider a request from Alsager Rotary Club to have their badge on the 2 planters on the town boundary sites.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the cost of the replacement planter at Sandbach Road North in the sum of £200, be approved.
 - b) That, provision be made for the Town Council shield be displayed on all 4 planters together with the word "Welcome".
 - b) That, approval be given for the Rotary Club of Alsager to sponsor 2 of these planters, to display their roundel and to be responsible for maintenance thereof.

08/713 Cheshire East, Cheshire County Council and Congleton Borough Council Issues

The Chairman reported that Cheshire East had applied for Mayoralty status.

County Councillor Fletcher reported that the County Council would not fund the traffic measures on Sandbach Road South but that the Lodge Road crossing would be funded under Safer Routes to School and would be completed by the 31st March 2008.

08/714 Accounts for Authorisation

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

08/715 Review of Financial Regulations

Resolved: That, the Financial Regulations with the amendments as suggested, be approved and adopted.

08/716 Planning Applications – Determined during August Recess

Resolved: That, details of the following Planning Applications determined by the Chairman, during the August Recess, in accordance with S.O. 32 (c) be received and noted (Appendix B):

Week ending 18/07/08

Week ending 25/07/08

Week ending 01/08/08

Week ending 08/08/08

08/717

Planning Applications

The Town Council considered Planning Applications registered with Congleton Borough Council as follows:

Week ending 15/08/08

Week ending 22/08/08

Resolved: That, the Town Council's formal comments on all applications registered with Congleton Borough Council up to week ending 22nd August, 2008, be forwarded to the Head of Planning and Estates, Congleton Borough Council. (Appendix B)

NOTE: Councillor A Snape declared an interest in all Planning Applications and he took no part in the discussion, and did not vote on the decision.

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
Chairman