

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 2011

Present: Councillor R Tyson (Chairman)

Councillor R Ashley
Councillor S Bishop
Councillor CV Burgess
Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor W Howell
Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
Councillor Mrs H Robinson
Councillor W H Stevenson

Mr T Fitton (Town Clerk)

4 members of the general public
1 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman welcomed back Councillor W Howell and presented him with his Past Chairman's Badge of Office to commemorate his year as Chairman of the Council.

11/97 Fire Procedure

The Chairman read out the Fire Action Procedure.

11/98 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess and R Fletcher.

11/99 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Mrs D Burgess declared an interest in item 10 – Town Councillor Vacancy.

11/100 Town Council Minutes

Resolved: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 21st June 2011 be confirmed and a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/101 Matters Arising

F & G P Committee – 31st May 2011 – Town Council Finance (Min. 11/33)

The Council considered a letter dated 20th July 2011 from Hon. Alderman D A Bould, a copy of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, challenging the

accuracy and authenticity of Min. 11/33 in that issues he had raised in the debate had not been specifically recorded.

The Chairman read out the following extract from “Local Council Administration” by Charles Arnold-Baker regarding the format of minutes of meetings:-

“Minutes of proceedings of a council and its committees must be kept. They are intended to be formal records of official acts and decisions not reports still less verbatim reports of the speeches made by Councillors. Minutes should therefore be as short as is consistent with clarity and accuracy and the arguments used in the decision need be recorded only if the decision cannot be clearly expressed in any other way. Short simple Minutes are less likely to be defamatory than long reports.”

Resolved: Unanimously, that the letter be received and the contents noted and Hon. Alderman Bould be informed that the Council has no further observations to make.

11/102 Chairman’s Announcements

30 th June 2011	Palliative Care meeting
1 st July 2011	Embroiderer’s Guild Fashion Show
2 nd July 2011	Triathlon – Alsager School
4 th July 2011	In Bloom Group meeting
5 th July 2011	Chamber of Trade meeting
10 th July 2011	Congleton Civic Sunday
13 th July 2011	Re-opening of Alsager Library on Wednesdays
13 th July 2011	Britain in Bloom judging
17 th July 2011	Knutsford Civic Sunday
17 th July 2011	Sandbach Civic Sunday (Vice-Chairman)
18 th July 2011	Alsager Partnership

11/103 Public Participation

The Town Council gave support to the suggestion from Mrs S Dyke contained in a letter dated 25th July 2011 and circulated beforehand, that Cheshire East Council be requested to donate a small corner of the Town Yard to be used for vehicle storage as an alternative to providing this facility in Milton Park itself which could result in losing a valuable area of the existing park.

11/104 Planning Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 21st June 2011 and 12th July 2011 be received and noted.

11/105 Finance & General Purposes Committee

Resolved: That, subject to the inclusion of the word “been” before the word “explored” in line 4 of the resolution in Min. 11/44, and the substitution of the word “consideration” for the word “inclusion” in line 6 of the same Minute, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19th July 2011 be confirmed and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

11/106 Local Service Delivery (Min.11/45) F & G P Committee 19th July 2011

Councillor W Stevenson, Chairman of Finance and of the Town Council's Negotiating Team, reported that notification had been received from Cheshire East Council that its Cabinet had put back its decision on the 1st Stage Transfers from 1st August to 5th September 2011 and that this was now the earliest the Town Council could expect a decision.

He expressed concern that this delay could have serious implications on the timetable for the 2012/13 Budget and indicated that the Negotiating Team would be giving urgent consideration to this matter at its meeting on Thursday, 28th July 2011.

11/107 Personnel Committee

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 20th July 2011 be confirmed and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

11/108 Councillor Vacancy – Alsager East Ward

Following discussions at the meeting held on 24th May 2011, the Council considered the report of the Town Clerk indicating that two applicants had applied for the Co-opted Councillor vacancy in Alsager East Ward.

Resolved: a) That, a Special Council Meeting be arranged for Tuesday, 16th August 2011 commencing at 7.00pm to interview the applicants and make the appointment.

b) That, the decision taken at the meeting on 24th May 2011, but not recorded, to advertise the Alsager East vacancy to be filled by co-option, be reaffirmed.

NOTE: Councillor Mrs D Burgess declared an interest in this matter, took no part in the proceedings, and did not vote on the decision.

11/109 Civic Hall Working Group

The Council considered a recommendation from the Negotiating Team dated 17th June 2011 to establish a Civic Hall Working Group comprising members of the Town Council and to have power to co-opt suitably qualified persons to prepare for the operational delivery of the service from 1st April 2012.

Resolved: a) That, the appointment of a Civic Hall Working Group be approved and it be constituted as follows:

Councillors Mrs D Burgess
D I Hough
Mrs T E S Jones
R Tyson

b) That, the Working Group be granted power to co-opt additional Town Councillors and/or members of the public to assist in their work.

11/110 Civic Hall – Results of the Questionnaire

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk containing an analysis of the information from the Questionnaire published in Alsager in Focus concerning the future of Alsager Civic Centre.

It was noted that 507 replies had been received – 468 from Alsager residents.

79.4% had indicated that they would consider paying extra Council Tax to keep the Civic Centre open.

Many suggestions had been put forward for improvements to the Civic Centre together with ideas for alternative activities/events.

A considerable number of persons had shown an interest in getting involved in the future running of the building should the Town Council take it over.

Following a discussion on various issues rose by the survey it was:-

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Town Clerk's report containing an initial analysis of the Civic Centre Questionnaire, be received;
 - b) That, the Survey is referred to the Civic Hall Working Group for further in depth analysis.

11/111 Localism Agenda

Council considered correspondence dated 16th June 2011 from Odd Rode Parish Council suggesting arranging a meeting with neighbouring Town/Parish Councils to discuss the implications of the impending Localism Legislation and its possible affects on the workings of the existing Local Government in the area.

Resolved: That, Odd Rode Parish Council be informed that the Town Council support in principle the suggestion for a meeting on this issue, but feel that any meeting would be premature at this stage, and therefore suggest that it be held after the Localism Bill has been through Parliament in December 2011.

11/112 Restricted Car Parking for New Co-op Store

Resolved: That in the absence of Councillor Fletcher the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, 6th September 2011.

11/113 Northholme Gardens

Councillor Mrs M Camm asked the Town Council to consider renaming Northholme Gardens to "Jubilee Gardens" to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Following a debate on this issue, including the previous decision to support renaming Northholme Gardens to commemorate the B'Hoys Centenary it was:-

Resolved: That, no further action be taken in this matter.

11/114 Playbuilder – Wood Park

Councillor D I Hough gave a progress report on the Playbuilder Scheme at Wood Park and indicated that alterations were being made to the slide to conform with existing ground conditions.

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/115 Alsager Partnership

In the absence of Minutes from the meeting, Councillors D I Hough, Mrs T E S Jones and R Tyson, the Council's representatives on the Partnership reported on the following issues discussed at the meeting held on Monday, 18th July 2011:-

- Presentation by Rosemary Kidd, Planning Officer, Cheshire East Council, on the Place Shaping Consultation as part of the Cheshire East Council LDF.
- Sustainability Group – Update on transport
- Progress report on Twyfords Development
- WRVS Luncheon Club and Senior Voice Group

Resolved: That, the report be received.

11/116 Cheshire East Councillor's Report

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones reported that due to pressure from local councillors, the Cabinet of Cheshire East Council had deferred for 12 months, the proposed review of discretionary School Travel expenses.

The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm and concluded at 8.55pm.

Councillor R Tyson
Chairman