

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER 2008

Present: Councillor Mrs T E S Jones (Chairman)

Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs G Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor W Howell
Councillor S Roberson
Councillor A Snape
Councillor W H Stevenson
Councillor R Tyson
Councillor Mrs J Williams

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

20 members of the general public
1 press

Councillor R Tyson opened the meeting with prayers.

08/718 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess and S Morris.

08/719 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Snape declared an interest in all Planning Applications and Item 8 (White Moss Quarry).

Councillor S Roberson declared an interest in Voucher 83 of the Accounts for Authorisation, Min. no. 08/722 below and Planning Application 08/1288/OUT.

08/720 Presentation by Mrs Selbourne

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mrs Selbourne, wife to the late Town Councillor Frank Selbourne, who was Chairman of the Town Council in 1980-81 and who presented a commemorative plate to the Town Council marking his year of office.

08/721 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 26th August 2008, Pages 1 – 8, and Appendices A and B, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

08/722 Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting – 26th August 2008

Alsager First Responders (08/703)

Councillor A Snape reported that a meeting had taken place between officers and representatives of First Responder Groups in Cheshire and feedback was awaited.

New Health Centre, Sandbach Road South and Dropped Kerbs in Alsager (08/703)

The Chairman reported that following the Town Council's request for Dropped-kerbs in Shady Grove and Fairview Avenue/Donkey Path, the Area Highways Manager had replied that these would be added to the list for 2008/09 but that it was doubtful whether funding would be available.

Sub-Station, Sainsbury's, Crewe Road (08/703)

It was reported that as yet no response had been received from Scottish Power but it was understood that the sub-station was now operational. It was agreed that official confirmation should be sought from Scottish Power that the sub-station was now operational and that the use of the temporary generator had ceased.

Public Participation - Shady Grove Incident (08/706)

As a result of the Town Council's intervention the Chairman reported that a meeting had been held between Mr Edge and an officer from the Congleton Neighbourhood Policing Unit regarding the spate of damage to cars of residents along Shady Grove and in particular the incident outlined at the meeting by Mr Edge.

Since that meeting took place Mr Edge had rung to thank the Town Council for their efforts in arranging the meeting.

The Chairman reported that she had met with Inspector Gammage and obtained agreement that from 1st October 2008 there would be a PCSO presence in the Town on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Mr Edge reported that since his meeting with the police there had been a further five uncorroborated incidents of vandalism to vehicles in the Shady Grove area.

Following a debate on Policing in Alsager in general, and in particular the role and duties of the PCSO's, it was agreed to invite Inspector Gammage to address the Town Council on the issues raised.

Quality Status (08/708)

- Following a meeting with Town Council staff a quotation had been received from DH Technologies, the Town Council's I.T. suppliers, for a Design Brief to expand the existing website at a cost of £325 ex. VAT with updates at £15 per month ex. VAT. Following discussions with the Town Clerk the Chairman agreed that the quotation be accepted so that work could commence on adaptations to the website.
- Mrs Jennings has attended her first training course, Roles and Responsibilities.
- The questionnaire on Training requirements for Councillors has been sent out.
- The Town Clerk had a meeting with SECE regarding funding for Alsager Partnership in 2009/2010.

Resolved: That, the action of the Chairman in consultation with the Town Clerk in accepting the quotation from DH Technologies for the Design Brief for the Town Council's website in the sum of £325 ex. VAT with updates at £15 per month ex. VAT be confirmed.

NOTE: Councillor S Roberson declared an interest in this matter, took no part in this discussion and did not vote on the decision.

08/723

Chairman's Announcements

27 th August	Christmas Market and Light Switch On Meeting
3 rd September	Meeting with Inspector Gammage
6 th September	Alsager Gardens Association Annual Show
7 th September	Wesley Place Methodist Church (New Circuit Chairman)
11 th September	Christmas Market – Road Closure meeting
13 th September	Alsager Charity Market
	Middlewich Town Mayor's Ball
16 th September	Service for Father Connelly's retirement
25 th September	Civic Pride Awards at Wilmslow Leisure Centre
30 th September	Cheshire County Council's Garden Party at Tatton Park

08/724

Public Participation

Peter Smith reported that the cost of the provision of a bus shelter was £6000 and it was agreed to contact Cheshire County Council regarding the provision of a bus shelter at the junction of Crewe Road and Church Road (Outside Pooch and Puss).

Mrs Flood again brought the attention of the Town Council to the dangers of traffic speeding on Longview Avenue. Councillor Howell reported that the traffic survey had indicated that the existing traffic calming measures were sufficient and the Traffic Officers had concluded that the results did not warrant further traffic calming on Longview Avenue.

08/725

White Moss Quarry – Application of Aggregate Recycling Operations

Further to Min. 08/639 date 20th May 2008 the Chairman reported that the application for Aggregate Recycling Operations, which been recommended for refusal by the County

Planning Officer had been granted approval. It was understood that the decision had now been referred to Full Council on 16th October 2008.

The Town Council were informed that the Liaison Group meetings would now be discontinued.

With the permission of the Chairman, Mrs Cath Mainwaring, Residents Action Group, addressed the meeting, thanking the Town Council for their support and outlined the further action the Residents Group would be taking and circulated a copy of the flyer sent out to all residents urging them to attend the County Council meeting.

County Councillor R Fletcher also addressed the Town Council on this issue and outlined the background to the decision taken by the Regulatory Development Committee in approving the plan on the Chairman's Casting Vote.

Following a debate on this issue it was:

Resolved: That, the Town Council reiterates its strong support for the objections raised by the Residents Action Group and urges the Full Council of Cheshire County Council to accept the recommendations of its Planning Officers and to refuse this application.

08/726

Alsager Town Centre SPD

Further to Min. 08/703 dated 26th August 2008 Members considered the Private and Confidential Draft Supplementary Planning Document which had been sent out to Stakeholders for consultation.

The Town Council were updated on the Cheshire East Local Development Scheme and the implications that it might have for the Congleton Borough Local Development Framework with particular reference to the Alsager Town Centre SPD.

Assuming the Local Development Scheme was agreed in October work on the Alsager Town Centre SPD would commence immediately thereafter and be completed early in the new financial year.

Members also considered the Report of the Meeting between Councillor D Brown Congleton Borough Council and representatives on the Town Council and Alsager Partnership held on 8th September 2008 to gauge the response to a request received by Congleton Borough Council from Kimberley Developments/Coop to purchase part of Fairview car park for a Food Store Development. It was noted that it was agreed by all parties present that work on the Town Centre SPD should continue until it was completed and at the same time negotiations between Borough Council and Kimberley/Coop be pursued which was inline with the Town Council's position on this issue.

The Chairman referred Members to correspondence from the Principal Planning Officer relating to the Local Development Framework and the Cheshire East Local Development Scheme. Cheshire East was required to submit a Local Development Scheme to the Secretary of State by the end of December 2008 and this document set out the work the

Authority intended to do over the next three years. If a document was not in the Local Scheme it would not be progressed. At the moment the Alsager Town Centre SPD was included but the Congleton Borough Council's Site Allocation Document was not and therefore if that remained the case would not be progressed further.

Members then completed the questionnaire attached to the Draft Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Report on progress with the Cheshire East Local Development Scheme be noted.
 - b) That, the response to the Town Centre Draft Supplementary Planning Document questionnaire be agreed. (Appendix A)
 - c) That, the report of the meeting dated 8th September 2008 be received and noted.

08/727 Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min. 08/709 dated 26th August 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.

08/728 Allotments in Alsager

Councillor W Howell addressed the Town Council regarding the prospect of the Town Council taking over responsibility from Cheshire East Council for allotment provision in the town and thereby providing funding for more land for allotments.

There was a possibility that a further ten plots could be developed by extending the Cedar Avenue site on to the small section of the playing field and it was also suggested that the woodland adjacent to the Coronation Avenue site could be cleared to reclaim allotments, which were once situated on this site.

Councillor Howell reported that with regard to demand there was already a waiting list of twenty individuals for allotments.

- Resolved:
- a) That, Congleton Borough Council be asked to redesignate the extension to the Cedar Avenue site and the Coronation Avenue site as allotments.
 - b) That, with regard to the poor state of the fencing on the existing sites Congleton Borough Council be asked to undertake the necessary repairs before the allotment service is transferred to Cheshire East.

08/729 Quality Status

Further to Min. 08/708 dated 26th August 2008 the Town Clerk updated Members on the process for applying for Quality Status and asked for a Working Group to be set up to work towards achieving Quality Status.

Resolved: That, a Working Group be appointed comprising the under-mentioned Members.

Councillors Mrs T E S Jones (Chairman)
Mrs D Burgess
W Howell
W Stevenson
Mrs J L Williams.

08/730 Community Grants Panel

The Town Clerk's Assistant gave a report on progress with the new Community Grants Scheme and reminded Members of the Community Grants Panel that a meeting was to held on Wednesday 1st October 2008 at the Town Council Offices 3A Lawton Road commencing at 7pm to consider the application received.

Resolved: That, the report be received and noted.

08/731 Cheshire East, Cheshire County Council and Congleton Borough Council Issues

County Councillor R Fletcher informed the Town Council about changes to Library Provision in Cheshire and also revisions in leisure costs for the sixteen year olds proposed by Cheshire East.

In relation to Cheshire County Council, County Councillor Fletcher indicated that County Officers were working on a new design for the crossing at Lodge Road and that new double yellowing lining had been undertaken outside local schools prior to the introduction of new legislation relating to on-street parking.

Councillor Hough reported that he was a Member of Cheshire East Parking Group, Waste Disposal Group and Local Development Framework Consultation.

The Chairman indicated that she was a Member of the Governance and Constitution Working Group for Cheshire East.

08/732 Budget Monitoring Statement – 30th September 2008

Resolved: That, the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30th September 2008 be received and noted.

08/733 Accounts for Authorisation

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

NOTE: Councillor S Roberson declared an interest in Voucher 83, took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the decision.

08/734 Internal Auditor's Report

Resolved: That, the report of the Internal Auditor on the Town Council books, statements and vouchers to the 5th September 2008 be received and noted.

08/735 Alsager Fair Trade Committee – Additional Town Signs

The Town Council considered a request from the Alsager Fair Trade Committee (One World Week) for funding to provide two additional Town signs in the sum of £408 in order to complete the signage for all the access roads in to the town.

Resolved: That, the matter be referred for consideration at the December Budget Meeting.

08/736 Wesley Place Methodist Church – Christmas Tree Festival 2008

The Town Council considered an invitation from Wesley Place Methodist Church to participate in their Christmas Tree Festival for 2008.

The event, which would take place on Friday 28th November, to coincide with the Christmas Market and switching on of the Town Lights event in the Town Centre would take the form of sponsoring and decorating a tree at a minimum cost of £20.

Resolved: That, the invitation be declined because of the Town Council's involvement and financial commitment to the Christmas Lights and the Christmas Market event.

08/737 Planning Applications

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

Week ending 29/08/08
Week ending 05/09/08
Week ending 12/09/08
Week ending 19/09/08
Week ending 26/09/08

Resolved: That, the Town Council's formal comments on all applications registered with Congleton Borough Council up to week ending 26th September 2008, be forwarded to the Head of Planning and Estates, Congleton Borough Council. (Appendix C)

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 S Roberson declared an interest in Planning Application 08/1288/OUT, took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the decision.

08/738 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.

08/739 Town Handyperson

Further to Min. 08/708 dated 26th August 2008 the Town Council considered Private and Confidential report requesting further information about the proposed scope and duties of the proposed appointment.

Resolved: That, the under-mentioned Members be appointed to serve on a Project Group to consider organisational and financial implications of the proposed appointment of a Town Handyperson for inclusion in the Budget for 2009/10.

Councillors Mrs T E S Jones (Chairman)
D Hough
S Roberson
A Snape

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
Chairman