

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE  
ON TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2011

Present: Councillor W H Stevenson (Chairman)

Councillor R Ashley  
Councillor C V Burgess  
Councillor Mrs M Camm  
Councillor Ms H Robinson  
Councillor R Tyson

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

1 member of the press  
3 members of the public

11/28 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs D Burgess, Mrs J Burgess and Councillor D I Hough.

11/29 Declaration of Interests

Councillor R Tyson declared an interest in Item 7 – Grant Application for concert at St Mary’s Church.

11/30 Minutes of the Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/31 Public Participation Period

There were no matters raised by members of the public other than those to be raised regarding Town Council finance.

11/32 Local Service Delivery

The Chairman reported that the Councillors had received an informal briefing session from the Negotiating Team on the Transfer Process to date and recommendations from that meeting would be discussed at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Town Council Finance

Further to Min. 11/47 of the Town Council dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011, the report from Alderman Bould had been referred to the Finance and General Purpose Committee for further detailed consideration.

The Committee then considered the Joint Report of the Chairman and Town Clerk in response to each of the points raised in paragraph 14 of Alderman Bould's Report.

At this point the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to take questions from Alderman Bould and Mr Wakelin.

There then followed a question and answer session on points and issues raised in both reports and the current Local Service Delivery process. It was noted that some of the suggestions made by Alderman Bould in relation to future format of accounts and budget monitoring statements would be implemented.

Alderman Bould and Mr Wakelin both questioned Members regarding the financial viability of the proposed transfer of the Civic Centre from Cheshire East Council to the Town Council, and the content and format of the consultation document issued by the Town Council,

Love Life Loyalty Card – Alsager Chamber of Trade

Further to Min. 11/04 of the Finance and General Purpose Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011, the Committee considered a report on the request for sponsorship from Alsager Chamber of Trade for the implementation of Love Local Life Loyalty Scheme.

The Town Council had initially indicated its support for this scheme, which was designed to support local independent retailers, and encourage local residents to utilise shops and businesses in Alsager in return for rewards and benefits by a loyalty card.

Cheshire East Council was assisting with the development of the scheme so that it can be rolled out to other towns across the borough.

Members indicated that they would only want to fund this scheme if there was enthusiasm from businesses to bring the scheme to Alsager and it was:

- Resolved:
- a) That, the Chamber of Trade be asked to provide a list of local businesses that have signed up to participate in the loyalty card scheme.
  - b) That, the matter be further considered at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and the Secretary of the Chamber of Trade be invited to attend and address the committee.

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene Alsager

The Committee considered an application for sponsorship from Mr B Haley, on behalf of St Mary's Church, towards the cost of an inaugural concert by Rick Wakeman to mark the redevelopment of the Church into a Church/Community Hall and concert venue.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable Mr Haley to address the committee on this application.

Resolved: That, a grant of £500 be agreed towards the funding of the inaugural concert.

**Note:** Councillor R Tyson declared an interest in this application, took no part in the proceedings, and did not vote on the decision.

11/36 Copier Contract

The committee considered the Town Clerk's report on the negotiations with Weaver Digital Office Solutions for the new lease for the office copier.

It was noted that there would be a saving of £117.50 per month under the new 5 year lease.

Resolved: That, the action of the Town Clerk in securing the renewal of the copier contract on a 5 year lease with Weaver Digital Office Solutions as detailed in the report submitted be confirmed.

**Note:** The Town Clerk declared that a family member was an employee of this firm and notified Members that he had not been involved in the negotiations for the new copier and lease.

11/37 Budget Monitoring Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Resolved: That, the Budget Monitoring Statement of estimated income and expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011 be received and noted.

11/38 Accounts for Authorisation

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

11/39 Final Accounts 2010/11

Resolved: That, the audited accounts for the Town Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.15pm.

Councillor W H Stevenson  
Chairman