

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE  
ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Councillor Mrs T E S Jones (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs D Burgess  
Councillor Mrs G Burgess  
Councillor Mrs M Camm  
Councillor W Howell  
Councillor S Morris  
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)

12 members of the general public  
1 member of the press

Councillor R Tyson opened the meeting with prayers.

09/813 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C V Burgess, Mrs J Burgess and D Hough.

09/814 Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Snape declared a personal interest in all Planning Applications as a local contractor.

Councillors Mrs D Burgess, R Tyson and Mrs J Williams declared a personal interest in Planning Application No. 09/0148/FUL as a friend of the applicant.

Councillor Mrs G Burgess declared an interest in Planning Application No. 09/0040/TEL on business grounds.

Councillor S Roberson declared a personal interest in Planning Application No. 08/2001/FUL.

Councillor S Roberson declared a personal interest in Voucher 153 in the list of Accounts for Authorisation as the Town Council I.T. provider.

09/815 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009, Pages 1 – 6, and Appendices A, B and C be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

09/816 Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 which were not included on the agenda.

09/817 Chairman's Announcements

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January  | Funeral of Reg Kitchener Chairman Alsager Branch (RBL) |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January  | B'Hoys of Alsager Annual Dinner                        |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> January | Handyperson Sub Committee                              |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> January | Town and Parish Council Consultation Cheshire East     |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> January | Cranberry Primary School Drop in Session               |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> January | Local Area Partnership Consultation – Cheshire East    |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> January | Civic Hall Working Group                               |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> January | Meeting with Head of Alsager School – Trust Status     |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> January | Sandbach Town Council Civic Ball                       |

The Chairman reported that the floodlights to the skate park in Milton Gardens were now operational.

09/818 Public Participation

In response to a question from a member of the public the Town Clerk agreed to find out progress with the bus shelter outside the Chinese Garden on Crewe Road.

09/819 Conversation of Rural Areas in Alsager

With the permission of the Chairman Mrs S Dyke addressed the meeting regarding open spaces in Alsager and in particular land south of the railway referred to as “Alsager Plain”.

Mrs Dyke gave an assessment of these open spaces and the benefit to the local community both now and in the future.

Mrs Dyke urged the Town Council to take steps to conserve Alsager's open spaces for future generations as picturesque havens for the public to enjoy.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Dyke for her presentation and after a debate on the issues raised it was:-

Resolved: That, the Town Council support the proposal to conserve Alsager's remaining areas of open spaces for the future benefit of the Alsager community and to press Cheshire East Council to consider the introduction of a Conservation Order on land south of the railway line know as “Alsager Plain” as soon as practicable after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

09/820 Alsager Town Centre SPD

Further to Min. 08/771 dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 Members considered the Sustainability Appraisal – Scoping Report which formed part of the process for the Alsager Town Centre SPD.

The purpose of the Scoping Report was to set out the methodology that would be used in appraising the sustainability and environmental effects of the Alsager Town Centre SPD.

The Town Clerk reported that Members had been invited to a meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 at Westfields at 6pm to update the Town Council on recent discussions with Kimberley Developments/The Co-op regarding their current development proposals and the potential terms of the transfer of the land at Fairview car park.

Resolved: That, the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report be received and noted without further comment.

09/821 Cheshire East Consultations

Resolved: That, further to Min. 09/802 dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 the reports on the under mentioned meetings with Cheshire East Council attended by the Chairman, Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk be received and noted.

- Local Area Partnerships (LAP's)
- Budget 2009/10
- Planning Process
- Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's)

09/822 Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min 08/772 dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 it was noted that there was no further information to report.

09/823 Civic Hall Working Group

Members considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Civic Hall Working Group held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.

- Resolved:
- a) That, the report be received and the actions noted.
  - b) That, the acceptance of the quotation from Property Tectonics in the sum of £4,650 for various condition surveys on the Civic Hall be approved.
  - c) That, the contribution of £2,500 from Congleton Borough Council towards the cost of the surveys be noted.
  - d) That, the Chairman's action in authorising Property Tectonics to undertake the surveys as soon as possible be confirmed.

e) That, the Town Council's costs relating to the surveys be allocated from the £30,000 provision for the Civic Hall in the Budget for 2009/10.

09/824 Town Maintenance Person Sub Committee

Further to Min. 09/812 dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 Members considered the report of the sub committee held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

It was noted that there had been a significant response to the advert for the post.

Resolved: That, Councillor Mrs G Burgess be added to the Sub Committee and it be authorised to interview and appoint the Town Maintenance Person.

09/825 Alsager in Bloom

Resolved: That, the notes of the meeting of the Alsager in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 be received and noted.

09/826 Cheshire East Licensing Consultation

The Town Council were being consulted on the following Draft Policy Statements:

Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003)  
Statement of Principles (Gambling Act 2005)

Resolved: That, the Policy Statements be received and noted without further comment.

09/827 Cheshire East, Cheshire County Council and Congleton Borough Council issues.

Councillor Howell reported that the Joint Highways Committee hoped to complete a review of speed limits in the Borough by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

The proposed new crossing on Sandbach Road North was to be sited on the Fairway side of the Grig with a pedestrian access to the Grig footpath from Alsager School.

09/828 Accounts for Authorisation

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

09/829 Planning Applications

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

Week ending 09/01/09  
Week ending 16/01/09  
Week ending 23/01/09  
Week ending 30/01/09

Resolved: That, the Town Council's formal comments on all applications registered with Congleton Borough Council up to week ending 30th January 2009, be forwarded to the Head of Planning and Estates, Congleton Borough Council. (Appendix B)

NOTE:

Councillors C V Burgess and D I Hough were not present whilst Planning Applications were discussed and so did not take part in the decision-making process.

Councillor A Snape declared a personal interest in all Planning Applications as a local contractor and took no part in the discussion and did not vote on each application.

Councillors Mrs D Burgess, R Tyson and Mrs J Williams declared a personal interest in Planning Application No. 09/0148/FUL as a friend of the applicant and took no part in the discussion and did not vote on this application.

Councillor Mrs G Burgess declared an interest in Planning Application No. 09/0040/TEL on business grounds and took no part in the discussion and did not vote on this application.

Councillor S Roberson declared a personal interest in Planning Application No. 08/2001/FUL and took no part in the discussion and did not vote on this application.

09/830 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.

09/831 Proposed New Committee Structure

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk the purpose of which was to give the Town Council the opportunity to review the existing administration and to decide whether or not to introduce a modernised committee structure for dealing with the business of the Council.

It was proposed to introduce three new committees:-

- Planning Committee
- Finance and General Purpose Committee
- Personnel Committee

Terms of Reference and Delegation Scheme for each committee were considered together with a draft meeting schedule for 2009/10.

Proposals for a change from Chairman to Town Mayor was also considered.

After the debating the proposals it was:

Resolved: a) That, the proposed new committee structure be approved for implementation from the commencement of the new Civic Year 2009/10.

b) That the Membership, Terms of Reference and Delegation Scheme for the Planning Committee, Finance and General Purpose Committee and Personnel Committee be approved and adopted.

c) That, the existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be amended as appropriate to reflect the changes in the committee structure.

d) That, the Draft Calendar of Meetings for 2009/10 be approved subject to alteration in the proposed dates of the Planning Committee following the receipt of dates of Cheshire East Council Planning Committee.

e) That, the under mentioned revised starting times for meetings of the Planning and Finance and General Purpose Committee when held on the same evening be approved.

- Planning Committee 7pm – 8pm
- Finance and General Purpose Committee - immediately after the Planning Committee or 8pm – 9pm

f) That, a local community consultation exercise be undertaken through the Town Council's newsletter in Alsager in Focus to gauge public reaction to the proposed change in title from Town Chairman to Town Mayor.

g) That, I.T. provision for Town Councillors be revisited before the Budget for 2010/11 is prepared.

Councillor Mrs T E S Jones  
Chairman