

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 6TH APRIL 2010

Present: Councillor S Roberson (Chairman)

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

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

11 members of the general public
1 member of the press

Councillor R Tyson opened the meeting with prayers.

10/45 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G Burgess, Mrs J Burgess and Mrs T E S Jones.

10/46 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/47 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 23rd February 2010, Pages 1 –7 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10/48 Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

10/49 Chairman's Announcements

28 th February	Grand Variety Show
6 th March	Play Builder/Wood Park event at Radway Club
19 th March	Congleton Civic Ball
30 th March	Samaritans AGM

Public Participation

Paul Walker addressed the Town Council and asked that a St Georges Flag be flown on the Flag Pole outside the Civic Centre on St Georges Day, 23rd April 2010. The Town Clerk explained that the Flag Pole belonged to Cheshire East and the Town Council were unable to put up a flag without their permission.

It was agreed that a formal request be made to Cheshire East to fly the flag on 23rd April 2010, to mark Englands National Day.

Mr Kane asked about the provision of a Bus Shelter on Crewe Road, in the vicinity of the Lodge Pub, Peter Smith, the Town Councils Transport Co-ordinator explained that he had contacted Cheshire East regarding this Bus Shelter, and Cheshire East confirmed that there would be no further spending on this kind of provision in 2009/2010. A list of priorities for 2010/2011 had been drawn up by Cheshire East to which the bus shelter was included.

Mr Day asked if a representative from Plus Dane would still be available to residents once the Cheshire East Information Point moved into the Library. The Town Clerk explained it was understood that Plus Dane would have a contact point on the Radway Estate for residents in the future.

Planning Application No. 10/0741C Co-op/Kimberley, Fairview Car Park

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak on this issue.

Further to Min. 10/036 of the Planning Committee dated 23rd March 2010, a meeting could not be arranged with Cheshire East Planners to discuss the concerns raised at the Planning Meeting.

Members of the public raised concerns regarding the lack of disabled parking spaces behind the Civic Centre, access in and out of the Car Park from Lawton Road, and also the lack of consultation and publishing of the plan for the residents of Alsager.

The Town Clerk gave details of the Town Councils comments that were submitted in December 2009, a discussion ensued and it was:-

Resolved: That, the following comments be forwarded to Cheshire East as Alsager Town Councils formal response to the Plan:-

‘Further to a meeting of Alsager Town Council held on 6th April 2010, in general the Town Council support the plan but would like to make the following additional comments:-

- There should be fencing around the new play area and village green to prevent children encroaching onto the car park.
- The new play area and village green should be constructed before work commences on the new store, and subject to a tripartite agreement between Alsager Town Council, Cheshire East Council and the Co-operative, so that the new play area cannot be disposed of in the future without the agreement of all parties.
- The design for the new site should compliment the existing town scene.
- Any financial sum gained from this development should be used towards the refurbishment/redevelopment of the civic centre.
- No loss of car parking spaces. The Town Council request clarification that there will be no loss of car parking spaces.
- Disabled spaces must be provided behind the Civic Hall.

- The position of the market as detailed on the plan is not suitable if access to the Civic Centre and Library is to be blocked leaving no access for emergency vehicles, servicing arrangements, the disabled bays in front of the library etc. Also no disabled bays on the car park, in the vicinity of the Civic Centre should be blocked by the market.
- The Town Council would like Cheshire East to note the inadequate arrangements for consultation on this plan. This is an important development within Alsager Town Centre and yet only one plan was available for the whole of the Town, along with very poor advertising indicating where plan was available for inspection.'

10/52 Planning Committee

- Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd March 2010 be received.
- b) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23rd March 2010 be received.

10/53 Finance and General Purpose Committee

- Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 2nd March 2010 be approved.

10/54 Personnel Committee

- Resolved: That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 3rd March 2010 be approved.

10/55 Personnel Committee Constitution

- Resolved: a) That, further to the withdrawal of Councillors Mrs D Burgess and Mrs G Burgess from the Personnel Committee, Councillors D I Hough and A Snape replace both Councillors on the Committee until the reconstitution of the Committee at the AGM on 11th May 2010.
- b) That, Councillor Mrs T E S Jones be appointed as the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, until the reconstitution of the Committee at the AGM on 11th May 2010.

10/56 Alsager Institute Committee

- Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Institute Committee meeting held on 24th February 2010 be received.

10/57 Adoption of Mayoral Status in Alsager

Further to Min. 09/870 dated 21st April 2009, the Town Council reviewed the position regarding the possible adoption of Mayoral status for the town. Members discussed the various civic and financial implications and it was:-

- Resolved: That, no action be taken regarding the adoption of mayoral status.

10/58 Calendar of meetings 2010/2011

- Resolved: That, subject to the amendment to the Planning meeting held in May 2011, to read Tuesday 24th May 2011, the calendar of meetings be approved.

10/59 Local Service Delivery

The Town Council considered a letter from the Leader of Cheshire East Council regarding future local service delivery involving Town and Parish Councils.

At the Cheshire East Conference on 17th March 2010 Cheshire East Council indicated that they intended to stop delivering non essential services and invited Town and Parish Councils to provide these services locally. Therefore, one of the key issues facing the Town Council in the next 12 months would be the possibility of taking on devolved functions from Cheshire East Council, it was understood that Cheshire East Council are currently drafting a statement of the services that they would deliver, and those that they would offer to Town and Parish Council.

The letter asked the Town Council to indicate whether they wished to be an active partner of Cheshire East and would like to consider taking on additional services and functions or if the Town Council would prefer to receive any service from either Cheshire East or another Town and Parish Council.

The Town Council recognised that it was important to prepare early to respond to any proposal and therefore it was suggested that the Town Council refer the issue to the Finance and General Purpose Committee to consider what, if any services, the Town Council would take over locally and how we could work with our neighbouring councils on future service provision. The F& GP committee would also consider the financial viability and feasibility of undertaking local services, the management implications and the effects on future precepts.

Resolved: That, a reply be sent to Cheshire East confirming that Alsager Town Council wishes to be an active partner of Cheshire East and would like to be consulted regarding taking on additional services and functions.

10/60 Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min. 10/35 dated 23rd February 2010, that as a result of the inclusion of a new play area as part of the planning application for the new Co-op foodstore on land adjacent to Fairview Car Park, it was agreed unanimously:-

Resolved: That, the Village Green application be formally withdrawn and Cheshire East Council be informed accordingly.

10/61 ST7 Postcode

Resolved: That, the advice and support of Cheshire East Council be sought regarding renewed attempts by the Town Council to change the ST7 Postcode which currently applies to Alsager, to a Cheshire Postcode.

10/62 Equalities Policy Statement

Resolved: That, the Town Council adopt the Equalities Policy Statement approved by the Personnel Committee for inclusion in the Employees Handbook.

10/63 Security in Milton Park

a) Further to Min. 10/24 dated 23rd February 2010, the Town Council discussed matters of anti social behaviour in Milton Park. The Town Clerk explained that the new service level agreement between Alsager Town Council and the PSCO's will contain a stipulation that the

PCSO's or Inspector Gammage attends regular Towns Council meetings so that these issues can be addressed.

Resolved: That, in future arrangements be made so that Inspector Gammage/PCSO's attend meetings of the Tow Council to report on policing issues in Alsager.

b) Further to a letter received by Councillor Mrs M Camm regarding issues of antisocial behaviour within the park from a local resident, it was:-

Resolved: That, a letter be sent to the resident explaining that meetings would be taking place with the PCSO' to discuss this matter further.

10/64 Larger Councils Clerks Meeting

Resolved: That, the report of the first meeting held on 4th March 2010 be received and noted.

10/65 Play Builder – Wood Park

The Assistant Town Clerk explained that the first round of consultation had been completed and that the results had been forwarded to Cheshire East, who will now tender for the play equipment.

Councillor W Howell explained that an initial meeting had been held with local residents who had expressed an interest in the project and those residents will now form part of the steering group to look at bringing in extra funding and deciding where that funding is to be spent.

10/66 Tribute to Mr J. J G. Smith

Councillor R Tyson on behalf of the Rotary Club of Alsager asked the Town Council to consider a suitable tribute to commemorate the contribution made to Alsager by ex Town Councillor Mr J J G Smith.

At this point Councillor R Tyson withdrew from the meeting, did not take part in the discussion and did not vote on the decision.

After a debate it was:-

Resolved: That, the appreciation of the Town Council be placed on record in recognition of the contribution to Alsager made during his lifetime by Mr Jeremy Smith as a Town and District Councillor and for his work on the Alsager Education Foundation.

10/67 Business Cards

Resolved: That, the Draft Business Card as circulated at the meeting be approved and be made available to members upon request.

Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor D I Hough gave an update regarding the BMX track at Wood Park, and indicated that Cheshire East would be conducting an inspection to look at the safety aspects of the track. Councillor Hough also reported that funding had been secured for the next stage of the Milton Park project.

Cheshire East Councillor R Fletcher explained that he had received assurance from Cheshire East that the Town Council would be fully consulted before the Information Point was relocated into the Library.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 9.10 pm

Councillor W Howell
Vice Chairman