

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2011

Present: Councillor R Tyson (Chairman)

Councillor R Ashley
Councillor S Bishop
Councillor C V Burgess
Councillor Mrs D Burgess
Councillor Mrs M Camm
Councillor R Fletcher
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor Mrs T E S Jones
Councillor Ms H Robinson
Councillor W H Stevenson

Mr. T. Fitton (Town Clerk)

0 members of the general public
1 member of the press

The Chairman opened the meeting with a prayer.

11/75 Fire Procedure

The Chairman read out the Fire Action Procedure.

11/76 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Burgess and W Howell.

11/77 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

11/78 Local Service Delivery

The Chairman referred to the Member Briefing session held on Tuesday 31st May 2011 and indicated that Cheshire East Council required an indicative decision from the Town Council on local service delivery by 17th June 2011.

The services Cheshire East Council were proposing for transfer in 2012/13 to Alsager Town Council were:-

Alsager Civic Centre
Alsager Offices
Alsager Market
Public Toilets, Crewe Road
Allotments (4 sites)
Benches/Planters/Street Furniture/Hanging Baskets

Britain in Bloom
Christmas Lights/Tree

Parks, Play Areas, Grassed Pitches, Coronation Gardens and Northolme Gardens were on offer but it was being proposed that these services be deferred to 2013/14.

Councillor W Stevenson, Chairman of Finance and General Purpose Committee, stated that the Town Council's indicative decision was in the format required by Cheshire East Council.

He stressed that at this stage the implications for next year's council tax increase could not be finalised, as factors as yet unknown, which affect the council tax paid by residents, included use of Town Council financial balances, extent of loan charges taken up and the final amount of the transitional fund made available by Cheshire East Council.

Cheshire East Council had indicated that a final decision on whether or not assets were handed over to the Town Council would be made at the beginning of August 2011.

Following the decision, the Town Council would then be in position to inform residents of the impact of the proposals.

After a period of discussion it was

Resolved: a) Unanimously that, at this stage in the negotiations, Cheshire East Council be notified that the indicative decisions of Alsager Town Council is to agree in principle to the transfer of the following services subject to formal legal agreement, the outcome of local public consultation and the satisfactory conclusion of outstanding issues such as TUPE arrangements, Indemnities and Transitional Funding and the attached caveats and conditions:-

- i) From 2012/13: Alsager Civic Hall
Alsager Offices
Alsager Market
Public Toilets, Crewe Road
Allotments
Benches/Planters/Street Furniture/Hanging Baskets
Britain in Bloom
Christmas Lights/Christmas Tree
- ii) From 2013/14: Milton Park
Play Areas: Hassall Road
Dickenson Way
Wayside Linley
Sandbach Road South
Fairview Car Park
Edwards Way
Wood Park
Grassed Pitches: Wood Park
Cedar Avenue
Other Land Assets: Coronation Gardens
Northolme Gardens

b) That, on behalf of the Town Council, the Negotiating Team be given authority to 'sign off' the completion of Alsager Town Councils schedule and notification of these decisions to Cheshire East Council as amended (Appendix A)

c) That, the Press Release dated 7th June 2011 be approved for circulation to the local media. (Appendix A)

d) That, the appreciation of the Council be recorded to the under mentioned Members of the Negotiating Team, staff and consultants in recognition of their work involved in these negotiations with Cheshire East Council.

Councillor W H Stevenson (Chairman Negotiating Team)

Councillors C V Burgess

W Howell

R Tyson

T Fitton (Town Clerk)

Mrs C Jennings (Assistant Town Clerk)

Ms S Colclough (Clerk's Secretary)

D Dingle (Consultant Architect)

T J Maddock (Town Council's Auditor)

Ms E Marshall (Consultant Accountant)

11/79

Negotiating Team - Terms of Reference

Resolved: That, the Terms of Reference of the Negotiating Team be expanded to include:

- To make recommendations to the Town Council on the delivery of transferred services to take place from 1st April 2012.
- To negotiate with Cheshire East Council regarding devolved services from 2013/14.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 8.05pm.

Councillor R Tyson
Chairman