

“SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION”

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor S Roberson (Chairman)

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

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

10 members of the general public
1 member of the press

Councillor Mrs D Burgess opened the meeting with prayers.

09/942 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs T E S Jones and R Tyson.

09/943 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

09/944 Minutes – Town Council

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21st July 2009, Pages 1 – 5 and Appendix A be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

09/945 Matters Arising

Proposed Car Parking Charges – Fairview Car Park (09/930)

With the permission of the Chairman Councillors Hough and Fletcher reported that further to a meeting of Cheshire East held that afternoon, car parking charges would come into effect from 11th January 2010 along with the introduction of Civil Enforcement of parking on public roads in Alsager by Cheshire East wardens.

The original proposal included a 'first half hour free' on Fairview Car Park to allow time for parents to pick up and drop off children at Highfields school. This proposal had been removed from the order and as the order has now been changed is it unclear as to whether further consultation must now take place. Councillor Brickhill Cheshire East is taking legal advice on whether this is a material change and would need further consultation.

To clarify the above the following extract from the Minutes of the Cheshire East Cabinet Meeting held on 8th September 2009 are set out below:-

“it was now suggested that the proposals be modified as follows: -

- Fairview Car Park, Alsager – to remove the provision for a free first thirty minutes parking.
- Parkway and London Road Car Parks, Holmes Chapel – to introduce an amended tariff as follows:
 - Monday to Saturday 8.00 am to 6.00 pm up to 2 hours maximum stay: 10p.
 - Sundays no charge

In addition it was proposed that the implementation date be revised to take effect from 11 January 2010 to accommodate the period of time required for the acquisition and installation of the car park ticket machines.

RESOLVED

For the reasons set out in the report and as stated above: -

1. That approval be given, subject to any legally necessary further consultation, for the following modifications to be made to the order as it relates to:

Fairview Car Park, Alsager – to remove the provision for a free first thirty minutes parking

Parkway and London Road Car Parks, Holmes Chapel – to introduce an amended tariff as follows:

- a. Monday to Saturday 8.00 am to 6.00 pm up to 2 hours maximum stay: 10p.
- b. Sundays no charge

and, in the event of there being no objections to the proposed modifications and subject to the Borough Solicitor taking action to remove any legal impediments regarding the affected landholdings, the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make the Cheshire East Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places)(Congleton Area) Order 2009 duly modified as set out above.

2. That the implementation date for the introduction of control and charging in the former Congleton Borough Council area be agreed as 11 January 2010.”

Domestic Waste Recycling and Collection in East Cheshire (09/934)

The Town Clerk confirmed that there would be normal fortnightly domestic reuse collection during the forthcoming Christmas and New Year period but the actual collection days may

be altered because of the Bank Holidays. Cheshire East confirmed that the public in Alsager will receive notification of when the refuse will be collected.

09/946 Chairman's Announcements

12th August Car Parking Charges Public Meeting held at Alsager Leisure Centre
5th September Presented prizes at Alsager Gardens Association Annual Show
6th September Councillors Mrs D Burgess and Mrs S Jones attended the 100 Years of Girl Guiding held in Congleton Park.

09/947 Public Participation

Mrs Mainwaring asked how the further public consultation on car parking charges would take place. Councillor Hough explained that it had not yet been confirmed by Cheshire East that further consultation would take place, so no indication could be given as to how it would be conducted.

Mrs Dyke referred to a Planning Public Enquiry relating to the proposed housing development at Linley (Cardway site) to be held at Middlewich on 1st October 2009 and Councillor C V Burgess indicated that he would be attending on behalf of the Town Council.

09/948 Planning Committee

Resolved: a) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4th August 2009 be received.
b) That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25th August 2009 be received.

09/949 Matters Arising – Planning Committee 25th August 2009

Planning Committee Quorum (09/053)

Resolved: That, the recommendation to reduce the quorum for the Planning Committee from 7 to 4 Members be confirmed.

Draft Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (09/054)

Resolved: That, a request be made to Cheshire East to undertake a public meeting in the Civic Hall to allow members of the public to have their say on the SPD.

09/950 Strategy Meeting – 25th August 2009

Resolved: That, the report of the informal Strategy Meeting held on 25th August 2009 containing comments and actions on various issues relating to the Draft Budget for 2010/11 be received and noted. (Appendix A)

Alsager – Policing Issues

In accordance with Standing Order 36 the Chairman indicated that members of the public would be able to ask questions after the presentation by Sgt. Shepherd.

Further to Min. 09/913 dated 21st July 2009 the Chairman welcomed and introduced Sgt. Steve Shepherd Cheshire Police who proceeded to make a presentation on local policing issues in Alsager including reference to speeding on Crewe Road and security issues in Milton Park.

Sgt Shepherd reported that overall crime rates in the town were very low. There had been a reduction in petty crime and antisocial behaviour incidents.

He referred specifically to the media coverage of a recent antisocial behaviour incident involving a number of young people in Milton Park and agreed that the newspaper report had been excessive in relation to the actual incident which had occurred.

He agreed that the police had only limited success with vehicles misusing the roads around Bank Corner, but were actively pursuing the persons concerned.

There then followed a question and answer session, where proposals for improving the liaison arrangements between the Town Council and the Police were discussed.

At the end of the session, the Chairman thanked Sgt Shepherd for his presentation.

Resolved: a) That, arrangements be made for Sgt Shepherd to attend periodically at Town Council meetings to update members on police issues in the Town.

b) That, a Liaison Group consisting of Councillors C V Burgess, Mrs D Burgess and Mrs G Burgess be appointed to liaise with Sgt Shepherd regarding more sensitive policing matters in the Town.

Congleton Local Area Partnership (LAP)

The Town Clerk reported that since the last meeting Cheshire East had invited Alsager Town Council to nominate a representative to join the Congleton LAP.

There was a deadline of 31st August 2009 for the receipt of nominations and following consultations with certain Town Councillors, Councillor C V Burgess was put forward as the Town Council's nomination.

Resolved: That, the nomination of Councillor C V Burgess at the Town Council's representative on the Congleton LAP be confirmed.

Alsager Chamber of Trade – Alsager Town Council representative

The Chairman reported that an invitation had been received from Alsager Chamber of Trade for Alsager Town Council to participate in the work of the Chamber of Trade.

Resolved: That, the Chamber of Trade be thanked for their invitation and that Councillor W Howell be appointed to represent the Town Council.

With the permission of the Chairman Cheshire East Councillor R Fletcher spoke to the list of Highways priorities prepared by the Town's local Cheshire East Councillors. The list contained the following:-

Signalled crossings.

The need for a signalled crossing on Sandbach Road South was accepted by the highways committee. It was accepted that this site more than met the criteria and this was BEFORE the new Health Centre opened. Since then concern has been expressed by parents of Children attending St.Gabriels and Excalibur Schools about provision of a crossing at this point.

The need for a signalled crossing has also been accepted and again meets the criteria on Crewe Rd. in the vicinity of the west end shops.

There have been a number of fatalities and serious injuries in this area. Also can a refuge be provided on Crewe Rd. just west of the Junction with Station Rd. and Church Rd?

Dropped kerbs.

Concern has been expressed about the lack of dropped kerbs on the Radway estate.

Especially:

Along Longview Avenue Junction with Elm Grove, and both entries to Centre Court and Grove Court.

Along Moorhouse Avenue the junctions with, East Court, Willow Court, Woodside Avenue, West Grove, Grove Court, Shady Grove, The Rode and where Meads Rd. meets Wilbrahams Way.

Can dropped kerbs be provided to help disabled people cross from Fairview Avenue to the "Donkey Path" alongside Alsager Cricket Club en route to Alsager Town Centre.

Also, Can dropped kerbs be provided on the west side of Sandbach Rd. North where the footpath crosses the service Road ?

Traffic calming.

Can the Hassall Rd/Church Rd./Dunnocksfold Jc. Be remodelled.

Also can two speed platforms be inserted to work in conjunction with the speed humps on Hassall Rd.

Can we have an update on provision of speed humps on Dunnocksfold Rd.

Can speed humps be provided on Church Rd?

Double yellow lines.

Can double yellow lines be provided around the junction of Wilbrahams Way and Fairview Avenue due to severe congestion during cricket matches.

Road maintenance.

The state of the B5077 through Alsager continues to be subject of many complaints especially between Fields Rd. and Bank Corner. Can this be rectified as a matter of urgency.

The state of the road surface on Linley Rd. approaching the Junction with Linley Lane has also been complained about, can this be rectified?

Can blind persons sensory pads be installed on the lights at the post office crossing on Crewe Rd. and the Bank Corner traffic lights?

The Chairman thanked Councillor Fletcher for his efforts in putting together this information.

09/955 Cheshire East Councillor's Reports

Councillor R Fletcher reported that Cheshire East were considering the introduction of Residents Parking Schemes.

09/956 Commons Registration Act 1965 – Village Green Application

Further to Min. 09/938 dated 21st July 2009 it was noted that there was no further information to report.

09/957 Alsager Town Yard

Arising from the Strategy Meeting held on 25th August 2009 this matter had been included on the agenda to enable Members to give preliminary consideration to the possible after use of the Town Yard in the event of future sale of the land by Cheshire East Council.

It was noted that the Town Council's policy was that this land when it came available should be developed for community/leisure facilities which would encourage the local community to use the park and there was linkage to this affect in the Draft Town Centre SPD. (See page 37.)

At the Strategy Meeting the Town Clerk was to include finance in the 2010/11 Draft Budget should the opportunity arise in the financial year.

The Town Clerk reported that the Project Officer was currently preparing a bid to the North West Development Agency for funding to undertake a feasibility study on the site.

Resolved: That, the Town Yard be deferred until the Planning Meeting to be held on 6th October 2009.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 8.45pm

Councillor S Roberson
Chairman