

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN ALSAGER INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2019

Present: Councillor J Buckley
Councillor J Goodrich
Councillor J Hawkins
Councillor J Hearne
Councillor S Helliwell
Councillor D I Hough
Councillor P M Hubbard
Councillor A Nayling
Councillor J Smith
Councillor R Tyson
Councillor M Unett
Councillor P Williams

C A Bagnall (Assistant Town Clerk)

1 Member of the Press
1 Member of the public

The Chairman read out the fire action procedure in the event of discovering a fire in the building.

PEC19/48 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Dale and R Fletcher.

PEC19/49 Non-Attendance

None were received.

PEC19/50 Declarations of Interest

Councillor P Williams declared his interest as a member of Cheshire East Council and a member of their Strategic Planning Board.

Councillor J Buckley declared her interest as a member of Cheshire East Council and known to the applicant of PA 19/3463C and PA 19/2474C.

Councillor D I Hough declared his interest in PA 19/3334C as the application backs on to Pikemere Road but was not anywhere near Councillor Hough's house. Councillor Hough would continue to Chair the meeting and take part in the debate.

Councillor R Tyson declared his interest in PA 19/2781C as he is known to the applicant.

Councillor S Helliwell declared her interest in PA 19/2781C as she had previously met with the residents and the applicant at the Outline Application stage to listen to their objections but made no comment.

PEC19/51 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting dated 16th July 2019 were referred to and it was: -

Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environment and Community Services Committee dated 16th July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PEC19/52 Matters Arising

Further to Min. PEC 19/11 dated 4th June 2019, the Assistant Town Clerk reported that a response from the Police and Crime Commissioner had been received and circulated in relation to the cost and the length of time residents were waiting when dialling 101. It was noted from the email that the cost was 15p per call and not 15p per minute.

Councillor Helliwell said she had attended a meeting with other Town and Parish Councils who were reporting similar issues.

Councillor Hearne had information that calls to 101 from April 2020 would be free of charge, the cost of these calls would then be picked up by the Police Authority.

Resolved: i) That, the Police and Crime Commissioner be written to in response to his email, asking for data to show on average how long callers were waiting.

ii) That, any specific examples of unacceptable waiting times be reported by Councillors to the Police and Crime Commissioner to allow investigation and the outcome reported back to the Town Council as per the agreement by the Police and Crime Commissioner contained within his email.

PEC19/53 Public Participation

A resident spoke representing employees of the Radway Green Garden Centre and Offices in relation to item 10.ii on the agenda. The Committee decided to debate and resolve the item at this point in the meeting. An email from the resident had been received by the Committee regarding the speed limit along Butterson Lane, she gave details of several accidents that had taken place outside the Garden Centre and produced photographs for the Committee. The resident explained that once cars had passed through the traffic lights on the B5077 with its junction with the B5078 there was a long stretch of road which was being used to travel at high speeds. A lengthy debate ensued, and speeding was discussed at length on the section of the B5077 (Crewe Road) from its junction with Hassall Road to where the speed limit is reduced to 30mph at Oakhanger on the B5077 (Butterson Lane). There was debate surrounding the need for a reduction in speed along that stretch of road as it currently changes from 30mph, to 40mph, to 60mph, to 30mph. Several suggestions were put forward to help reduce speeding, including a reduction in the speed limit, the introduction of a Speed Indication Display, speed cameras/CCTV at the junction

with the B5078. Councillor Helliwell informed the Committee that she was a member of the Community Speed Watch group and was currently the only volunteer, she explained that letters had been issued to motorists that had been caught speeding in that area. Councillor Smith suggested “badger warning” signs should also be displayed as the area was a road traffic accident hot spot for animals especially at night. The Chairman explained that in his opinion Cheshire East Council have limited funds available when considering the implementation of any of the suggestions and the Committee felt that due to the number of accidents Cheshire Police would be best placed to contact.

Resolved: That, the Cheshire Crime Commissioner be written to, including copies of the photographs, requesting that the B5077 from its junction with Hassall Road to the 30mph sign at Oakhanger, with particular focus on the 60mph stretch of road, be investigated for suitable solutions and speed calming measures, and that all of the suggestions of the Committee be put forward to Cheshire Police. Cheshire East Council and Haslington Parish Council be copied in, and Haslington Parish Council be contacted separately to ask for their views.

PEC19/54 Planning Applications

a) The Planning, Environment and Community Services Committee considered Planning Applications registered with Cheshire East Council as follows:

Week ending 19/07/19

Week ending 26/07/19

Week ending 02/08/19

Resolved: That, the Planning, Environment and Community Services Committee’s formal comments on all applications registered with Cheshire East Council up to week ending 02/08/19 be forwarded to the Planning Officer, Cheshire East Council. (Appendix A)

b) Councillor Helliwell informed the Committee that a retrospective planning application had been received by Cheshire East Council for 29 Lawton Road, and the closing date for comments was the date of the next Planning Committee meeting, being the 27th August 2019.

Resolved: That, a request for an extension for comments be made to Cheshire East Council Planning department to allow the Committee to consider the application at its meeting on 27th August 2019.

PEC19/55 Decisions List

The Chairman referred to the circulated decisions list as received from the Planning Authority, Cheshire East Council up to week ending 02/08/19

Resolved: That, the Decisions List be received and noted.

PEC19/56 Budget Monitoring Statement

The Chairman referred to the Budget Monitoring Statement for June 2019.

Resolved: That, the reports and budget monitoring statement for June 2019 FY2018/19 be received.

PEC 19/57 Site Allocations and Development Policies Document – Publication Draft Plan

The Committee discussed the importance of the Cheshire East Council Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Consultation, the Alsager Settlement Report and its relevance.

Resolved: i) That, the Committee note the consultation and the importance of residents from Alsager replying to the Consultation.

ii) That, a Working Group comprising of Councillors J Buckley, P Williams, M Unett, S Helliwell and D I Hough be set up to review the document and prepare a draft submission to be brought back to the next Planning Environment and Community Committee meeting on 27th August 2019.

PEC19/58 Crewe Hub Area Action Plan

The Committee considered the Consultation for the Cheshire East Council Crewe Hub Area Action Plan. Councillor P Williams gave an overview of the Crewe Hub Area and details of the consultation. The Assistant Town Clerk said that the Town Council has not commented on any of the previous consultations of the Crewe Hub Area.

Resolved: That, Alsager Town Council note the consultation and will not be responding.

PEC19/59 Highways Issues

Councillor Goodrich informed the Committee of the poor state of the surface of the parking bay outside Asda, adjacent to the Town Square. The bay had only been surfaced in the same way as the Town Square and was not fully tarmacked to the same standard as a usual car park/parking bay, therefore the bay had deteriorated. It was reported that the bay was heavily used which has exasperated the situation. Discussion took place regarding the use of the bay, and it was: -

Resolved: That, Cheshire East Highways and Asda be written to requesting that the bay only be used as a pick-up/drop off point for disabled users.

Councillor Buckley reported on the poor state of cleanliness of the Town Square, especially around the build-up of dirt on the standing stones.

Resolved: That, Asda be written to requesting that the Town Square be pressure washed to a high standard at least twice a year.

Councillor Goodrich reported on issues on Fairview Car Park late at night, and at weekends, when cars were causing a nuisance, noise and revving engines. He

suggested that the Police attend to engage and educate drivers, whilst also performing checks on vehicles such as noise levels, tinted glass and number plates. Councillor P Williams explained that there was a long-standing issue with nuisance cars on Fairview Car Park. Councillor Nayling informed the Committee that it wasn't only on the Car Park but has also been an issue on the Radway Estate for some time and causes serious safety concerns. She explained that cars, motorcycles and mopeds regularly race down Longview Avenue, around Moorhouse Avenue and back again at high speeds during the day and night.

Resolved: That, Cheshire Police be asked to attend Fairview Car Park and Radway Estate to engage with drivers to educate and help relieve some of the issues, whilst also performing vehicle checks.

PEC19/60 Licensing Issues

None reported.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and concluded at 8.40pm.

Councillor D I Hough
Chairman