

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on 9 January 2003 in the Council Chamber, Westfields.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mrs D E Alcock, Chairman
M J Wood, Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Mrs R D Frost
Mrs P M Minshull
Mrs E J Rubidge
J M Goode
J Iddon
E A Lea
J J Moore
L Morris
N T Price
D Robinson
R W Sutton

The Opening Prayer was read by Rev R Buckley.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: Mrs D Flint
B Brindley
D Lloyd Griffiths
A J Walker

The Chairman asked that cards giving the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Cllr Mrs Dorothy Flint, ex-Cllr Bernard Edwards and Lady Ann Winterton MP.

RESOLVED: that the cards be sent.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman's engagements since the last meeting included: -

She switched on the Sandbach Christmas Lights and was accompanied by the Lions Youth Brass.

Sandbach Heath Older People's Christmas Party.

She and her consort recorded a Christmas message on behalf of the Town Council for the Talking Newspaper.

She judges the Christmas shop windows with the Chamber of Trade and presented the Cup to the overall winner, 'Whole Kit and Caboodle'.

The Lions Youth Brass Christmas Concert.

Sandbach School Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church.

Sandbach Voices concert at the Town Hall with the Lions Youth Brass.

The Chairman of the Christmas Lights Committee, Cllr R W Sutton, had copies

of their accounts available for the financial year 2001/2.

The Town Council Notice Board at the Library was under the control of the Clerk with whom arrangements should be made for posting notices.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2002.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2002.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAYS 21 NOVEMBER 2002 AND 12 DECEMBER 2002.

The meeting on the 12 December was inquorate and valid items will be held over to the Planning meeting to be held on 16 January.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. CONTROL OF MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARD REGULATIONS 1999 (COMAH)

Mr Powell, Lead Officer, Civil Protection, Cheshire County Council gave a presentation. The local premises subject to these regulations were Albion Chemicals formerly known as Hays Chemicals. There was no real change under the 1999 regulations since the site had been subject to the previous CIMAH regulations. Detailed information about the hazards is available in the library, however some information has been removed following 11 September incident. Cheshire County Council is responsible for the offsite part of the plan using the emergency services. Cheshire has a number of these sites but there have been very few incidents. At Albion the hazard is chlorine. If any escapes the site boundary the public must be warned using a siren and the emergency plan initiated. The offsite control headquarters is at Northwich although there are other control centres at places like Westfields. There is a public information zone that extends about 2 km radius from the plant. It includes part of Elworth. Residents in the area are given regular instructions on what action to take if the siren is sounded.

It was pointed out that Tony Potts led the CBC emergency team. Mr Powell answered several questions from members and closed by offering to answer any further questions they may have if they were to send them to him either direct or via the Clerk.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL DELEGATES / SUB-COMMITTEES

There were none.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Pentland Chartered Surveyors – Airwave Radio System

A description of the new police radio system and reassurances about health and safety. One member found the report reassuring.

RESOLVED: that the report is received.

8.2 Rigby and Company Solicitors

Transfer of licence for the Midland Inn, New Street, Elworth to Christine Rachael Harding.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

8.3 CBC – May Day Market

A letter from Mr Hardiker notifying the Council of the resolutions made by the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

8.4 CCC Engineering Service – Old Mill Road

Members were disappointed with the letter and felt that it missed the main point. The Council did not propose that traffic should not turn right into High Street. With the imminent one-way system it will be necessary to allow the manoeuvre. The danger is from speeding traffic in the second lane that goes straight on and confronts a vehicle coming the other way wishing to turn into Palmer Road.

RESOLVED: that a letter is sent emphasising the above point.

There was some discussion about the Transportation Study and its implementation. The project is now in its fifth year. During that time there had been a number consultation exercises. The opportunity to revisit the study had been lost.

8.5 CCC Joint Highways – High Street

Temporary closure proposed for approximately 3 months commencing 13 January 2003.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

8.6 CBC Traffic Regulation Orders – High Street

Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders.

RESOLVED: that the Order is received.

8.7 CBC Traffic Regulation Orders – Congleton Road

Congleton Road is to be closed for a week commencing 6 January.

RESOLVED: that the Order is received.

8.8 CBC Elworth Zebra Crossing

Response from Mr McCuaig of the Joint Highway Service is attached.

RESOLVED: that a letter is sent to the Joint Highway Service expressing the Town Council's strong support for this project.

8.9 CBC Legal Services – Town Hall Licence

Application for provisional grant of Justices' Licence for Sandbach Town Hall to be declared final at Crewe Magistrate's Court 14 January 2003.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

8.10 Cheshire Police Authority – Draft Local Policing Objectives for 2003/4.

Comments on a draft of their objectives were invited by completing a questionnaire.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

8.11 Cheshire Police Authority – Programme of Meetings 2003/4

RESOLVED: that the programme of dates is received.

8.12 Mid Cheshire NHS Trust Annual Report and Accounts 20001/2002

A copy is available from the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the report is received.

8.13 Minutes of Area Forum 2 Meeting held on 27 November 2002

A copy is available from the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the minutes are received.

8.14 CBC Planning – Cricket Club Appeal

The appeal was allowed and planning permission granted. A copy of the appeal judgement is with the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the report is received.

8.15 Standards Board – North West Roadshow

Details are attached of a meeting to be held at the Town Hall, Lancaster on 16 January 2003.

RESOLVED: that the information is received.

9. CBC ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

At the last Town Council Meeting it was resolved street cleaning is made an agenda item for this meeting when comments on a new street cleaning initiative will be collected. It was recognised by some members that more street cleaning had been done with the trial cleaners but that they had not seen a marked improvement in general cleanliness.

There was general disappointment at the state of the recycling containers, the Town's litter bins and the general untidiness of Sandbach.

The letters from Borough Councillors Domleo and Nield were welcomed and improved results were awaited.

10. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Sandbach Town Council be held on Thursday 13 February 2003 in the Council Chamber at Westfields.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

D E Alcock
Chairman

Ref: TCM0103