

# SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on 1 April 2004 in the Council Chamber, Westfields.

**PRESENT:**

Councillor:	Mrs M E Smith, Vice-Chairman in the Chair
Councillors:	Mrs D E Alcock
	Mrs P M Minshull
	Mrs P E M Price
	Mrs G M Thomas
	P J Darnes
	J Iddon
	E A Lea
	D Lloyd-Griffiths
	J J Moore
	B E Moran
	L Morris
	N T Price
	D Robinson
	W W Scragg
	M R Sherman
	R W Sutton

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The Opening Prayer was read by the Reverend Adrian Lloyd.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman began by reading a note of thanks to the Council from Mrs Cindy Keeling, widow of the late Chairman. The funeral collection had raised £547 for the scanner appeal.

The Chairman had attended the Foden-Richardson concert, the Middlewich and Congleton Town Civic Dinners, the Meanee Ball and the opening of the Sandbach Literary Institution awareness weekend.

**3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2003 AND 5 FEBRUARY 2004**

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

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2004**

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

**5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL URGENCY TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2004**

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

**6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAYS 8, 22 JANUARY, 12 FEBRUARY AND 4 MARCH 2004.**

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

**7. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2004 AND 26 FEBRUARY 2004**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of 22 January be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting on 26 February had four members plus the Vice-Chairman present. It was thought that Standing Order 42(a) did not apply and that therefore the committee was inquorate for items 8.1 and 8.6 when members declared an interest. The resolutions for the above items should be removed from the minutes.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of 26 February as amended above be approved and signed by the Chairman.

With members agreement the Chairman brought forward item 8.

**8. MR SIMON YATES, NHS**

He presented a detailed progress report on the Mid-Cheshire Trust's activities. Investment had been or was about to be made in resuscitation facilities, inspection equipment, a new diabetic treatment centre, catering facilities and a £12.5 million treatment centre.

Mr Yates answered questions on administration costs, staffing levels, waiting lists, position in the cardiac recovery league and car parking problems.

Mr Yates felt that the new Ashfields Primary Care Centre presented opportunities for moving some aspects of hospital treatment to the community.

The Chairman thanked Mr Yates for his contribution. Mr Yates then left the meeting.

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The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow questions from members of the public.

4. Mr Peter Wilson said that from recent experience, Mr Yates' claim that hospital patients now receive hot food was optimistic.

The suggestion was then made and agreed by the Council that prior to returning the Council's order of business an extraordinary meeting of the Finance Committee should be convened to reconsider items 8.1 and 8.6 of the agenda of 26 February. The items were discussed and decisions made as shown in the following extract from the minutes of the meeting.

**8.1 Sandbach RUFC**

*Cllr D Lloyd-Griffiths declared an interest as a member of the Rugby Club.*

*Cllr Mrs M E Smith declared an interest.*

*A grant of £350 was awarded at the Special Town Council Meeting of 5 February 2004.*

**RESOLVED:** *that the payment is confirmed.*

## **8.6 Sandbach Festival**

*Cllr N T Price declared an interest as one of the organisers of the event.*

*They seek urgent funding of £1,750 to allow the project to continue.*

*Members considered the commemoration of murderous events in the form of a festival was not appropriate.*

**RESOLVED:** *that the requested donation of £1,750 is refused.*

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The Chairman re-convened the meeting at 8.40 pm.

The decisions of the extraordinary meeting of the Finance Committee were accepted by the Council.

### **9. CO-OPTION OF MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY IN NORTH WARD**

There were two nominations for the vacancy, viz., Mr Andrew Wood and Mr Peter Wilson. Mr Wilson was elected by 8 votes to 7.

### **10. NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2004/2005**

There were two nominations for the vacancy, viz., Cllr Mrs P M Minshull and Cllr J J Moore. Cllr Moore was elected by 9 votes to 8.

### **11. GOVERNING BODIES OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

There were two nominations for the vacancy at Elworth C of E School, viz., Mrs Christina Merner and Cllr W W Scragg.

Cllr E A Lea declared an interest as Chairman of the Governors and a relative of one of the candidates and did not vote.

Cllr Scragg was elected by 8 votes to 7.

There were two nominations for the vacancy at Sandbach County Primary School, viz., Mrs Joan Owen and Cllr Mrs P E M Price.

Cllr B E Moran declared an interest as a Governor of the School and did not vote.

Cllr Mrs Price was elected by 9 votes to 8 on the Chairman's casting vote.

### **12. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL DELEGATES / SUB-COMMITTEES**

#### **12.1 Latham Memorial Sub-Committee**

Minutes of the meeting on 10 February 2004 were approved. Cllr Mrs Price said that a report and estimate from the possible contractor was expected to be received next week.

**RESOLVED:** that the report is received.

#### **12.2 Quality Council Sub-Committee**

Cllr Darnes reported that although the sub-committee had not met since the last Council Meeting a copy of the model standing orders had been received from the CATPC to provide guidelines.

The Clerk explained that some of the requirements for Quality Council status would require some revision of the existing Council Standing Orders and that the Quality sub-committee intended to report proposals for changes for the Council's consideration.

Members took exception to the sub-committee considering Standing Orders without the clear authorisation of the Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the Quality sub-committee is not to review and consider changes to the Standing Orders without authorisation of the Council.

### **12.3 Police Constable Sub- Committee**

The minutes of meetings held on 26 February and 9 March were received. There was a prolonged debate after which it was agreed to have a named vote.

For the resolution were Cllrs Sherman, Thomas, Price N, Price P, Minshull, Iddon, Lea, Morris, Moran and Smith (10).

Against the resolution were Cllrs Sutton, Moore, Robinson, Darnes, Lloyd-Griffiths, Alcock and Scragg (7).

**RESOLVED:** that the Council does not proceed with the employment of Police Officer.

## **13. MATTERS ARISING FROM FINANCE MEETINGS ON 22 JANUARY 2004**

### **13.1 External Audit**

The Council has been given a clean report and the necessary notice has been posted.

**RESOLVED:** that the report is received.

### **13.2 Members Allowances**

Members' attention is drawn to item 11 of the Finance Committee minutes.

**RESOLVED:** that the item is noted.

## **14. MATTERS ARISING FROM FINANCE MEETINGS ON 26 FEBRUARY 2004**

### **14.1 Sandbach Transport Festival**

To confirm the recommended annual expected payment of £1,000.

**RESOLVED:** that the payment is confirmed.

### **14.2 Sandbach Festival**

To consider the application for a donation of £1,750 to allow the project to continue.

**RESOLVED:** that the decision of the Finance Committee held earlier in the evening be confirmed and the application refused.

## **15. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE AGENDA FOR 5 FEBRUARY 2004**

### **15.1 Cheshire Rural recovery – Financial Assistance**

They invite the Town Council to apply for resources for a project that will bring economic benefit to the Town.

**RESOLVED:** that the letter is received.

### **15.2 Joint Highways – George's Walk**

Mr McCuaig's response is attached.

**RESOLVED:** that the letter is received and that the Clerk writes to the Brewery expressing the Council's concerns.

### **15.3 Congleton & District CAB – Rural Outreach Project**

The Rural Service Development Manager, Ms Liz Shaw, would like to visit the Council.

**RESOLVED:** that she is invited to address the Council.

### **15.4 CCC – Cheshire Railings**

The only satisfactory solution for this problem is to undertake a replacement programme. This necessitates the removal of the existing sections and erection of new galvanised Cheshire Railings. It is suggested railings on the approach to Sandbach near the M6 Junction 17 should be the first section for replacement in the Spring of 2004 following completion of the major interchange improvements.

**RESOLVED:** that the letter is received and the replacement policy is supported.

### **15.5 CBC – Local Government Review**

Because of the important issues surrounding the review, with its wide ranging implications on local government generally, the Chief Executive would like to offer an officer from CBC to attend a meeting of the Town Council to discuss the District Council's joint submission, together with any issues which members would like to raise.

**RESOLVED:** that the offer is accepted but that someone from the County Council is also invited so that a balanced view is received.

### **15.6 Joint Highways - Sandbach Phase 2 - "The Commons"**

Points raised by the Council on Coach pick-up and drop-off points have been acted upon.

**RESOLVED:** that the letter is received.

### **15.7 Transport 2000 Cheshire – Proposed Bus Cuts**

They ask councillors to consider the problem. The decision has been called in and is no longer current. Cllr Sutton will be attending a meeting on the subject next Tuesday.

**RESOLVED:** that the request is received.

### **15.8 CBC – Charts on Community Warden Activity**

Tony Potts would like to know if members find charts useful.

**RESOLVED:** that Mr Potts is told that the Council does find the charts useful and would like to receive them on a regular basis.

### **15.9 CBC – Response to STC comments on CCTV**

Mr Potts said in effect that they had solved the problem of the noise by turning off the motor. Members found this response inadequate.

**RESOLVED:** that Mr Potts is asked to obtain an engineering report on the problem of the noisy camera.

### **15.10 CCC – Step into Cheshire**

Cheshire is embarking on an unique project which will culminate on the weekend of 18/19<sup>th</sup> September 2004 when it is hoped that up to half a million people will participate in a range of outdoor events and activities.

**RESOLVED:** that the letter is received.

## **16. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **16.1 CCC – Notification of cuts in Bus Services**

See item 15.7.

### **16.2 Road Chef Motorway Services**

Despite what was said in their latest correspondence the situation is not satisfactory.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk writes with a copy to the CBC Environmental Health explaining that improvements are still required.

### **16.3 PowerGen – Community Power**

They are interested in the Council's view on their wind power proposals.

**RESOLVED:** that the report is received and that the company is told that the Council supports the principle of generation from renewable energy sources.

### **16.4 DTI/DEFRA – Partnership in Rolling out Broadband**

The Government has sent a package of advice on how the Council can obtain Broadband facilities for Sandbach.

**RESOLVED:** that the information is received.

### **16.5 Mr G Robinson – Proposals for Sandbach**

**RESOLVED:** that the letters are received and that Mr Robinson is informed that he is free to ask questions at the public participation sessions of both the Town and Borough Councils.

### **16.6 Cheshire Constabulary – Middlewich Traveller Incident**

**RESOLVED:** that the report is received.

### **16.7 Central Cheshire Primary Care Trust – The N.E.W. Service**

Cllr Lloyd-Griffiths declared an interest.

**RESOLVED:** that the information is received.

### **16.8 Standards Board – Local Investigation and Determination of Misconduct Allegations - Consultation**

Consultation Documents have been sent to Members.

**RESOLVED:** that the information is received.

### **16.9 Central Cheshire Primary Care Trust – Patient and Public Influence**

Cllr Lloyd-Griffiths declared an interest.

**RESOLVED:** that the information is received.

#### **16.10 CCC – Response to Boundary Committee**

Their letter and section of report re Town Councils is attached.

**RESOLVED:** that the information is received.

#### **16.11 Waste Recycling via CBC – Village & Community Hall Challenge**

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk writes for more information.

#### **16.12 CCC – Website Hosting Scheme**

Invitation to event on 22 April.

**RESOLVED:** that the invitation is received and that anyone wishing to attend the event informs the Clerk.

#### **16.13 CCC – New Public Rights of Way Maintenance & Enforcement Officer**

**RESOLVED:** that the letter is received.

#### **16.14 CCC – Cheshire Planning Forum 16 April 2004**

Cllr Moore offered to attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Moore's offer is accepted and that anyone else wishing to attend the event informs the Clerk.

### **17. MEMBERS' ITEMS – MATTERS AFFECTING THE TOWN OF SANDBACH**

#### **17.1 341 – Cllr Mrs P E M Price - Sandbach Cemetery**

To discuss possible opening times of Sandbach Cemetery

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk writes to Mr R Hardiker stating that in the short term the Town Council would like to see the gates reopened immediately during working hours but that the Council would like to discuss further with Borough Officials the hours of opening of the gates during the weekend.

#### **17.2 342 – Cllr D Lloyd-Griffiths – Street Lights**

Cllr Lloyd-Griffiths would like to investigate the cost of suitably styled low energy lighting for Church Street, Front Street and possibly Green Street and Welles Street but before he did so he sought the general support of the Council for a possible joint scheme with the County Council.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council is in favour of the principle of improved street lighting and consequently approves of the further pursuit of a potential scheme.

#### **17.3 343 – Cllr D Robinson – Sandbach Post Office**

The Sandbach Post Office has a limited number of counters and very little queuing space within the shop. Consequently, it frequently happens that queues extend outside the shop to the other end of George's Walk. Facilities inside the shop for the disabled are difficult.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk writes to the Post Office Counters to draw their attention to the inadequacy.

**17.4 344 – Cllr M R Sherman – Attendance at Meetings and Committees**

**RESOLVED:** that the attendance of members at meetings and committees should improve.

**17.5 345 – Cllr D Robinson – Car Parking**

Cllr Robinson stated that the arrangements for disabled parking on the High Street are unsatisfactory. The meeting was told that the County Engineers were aware that there were difficulties and that the problem would be assessed when the work was reviewed on the completion of Phase 2 of the Transportation Project.

**RESOLVED:** that the subject is made an agenda item for the next business meeting and that County Cllr Helmsley is invited to attend.

**17.6 346 – Cllr D Lloyd-Griffiths – Sandbach Cemetery Access**

That East Ward members arrange to meet the appropriate Borough Officials to seek a compromise, allowing the gate to be permanently re-opened within defined hours and the reasons for the closure to be addressed. See 17.1.

**18. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the next meeting of the Sandbach Town Council, the Annual Meeting, will be held at 7.15pm on 11 May 2004 in the Council Chamber, Westfields.

The meeting closed at 10.35 pm.

M E Smith  
Chairman

Ref: TCM010404