

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on Tuesday 6 May 2008 in the Sandbach Town Council Offices, Sandbach Literary Institution Building, Hightown.

PRESENT

Councillors: W W Scragg, retiring Chairman
Councillors: Mrs P M Minshull, retiring Vice-Chairman and Chairman
Mrs D E Alcock
Mrs G M Merry
Ms G J Richardson
D L Darnes
G W Bell
B E Moran
W R Goodall
P J Darnes
S B Holland
L Morris
D Robinson
M R Sherman
R W Sutton
A J Wood
S A M Corcoran (arrived at 7.26pm)

Also present were the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Youth Council, Alderman Hemsley, County Councillor Giltrap, representatives from local groups and organisations and approximately thirty members of family and friends.

The Opening Prayer was read by Cllr Mrs P M Minshull, this was followed by one minute silence in memory of Bruce Thompson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: K E Haines

2. THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the thirty fourth annual meeting of Sandbach Town Council.

He reflected on the last Annual Meeting where he trembled as he accepted the position of Chairman and assured his Vice-Chairman that the year had been interesting and enjoyable.

It was announced that the Chairman's fund-raising activities during his year in office had raised £2,380 for his nominated charities. The NCH (National Children's Home) will receive a donation of £1,000 and the remaining balance will be divided between Sandbach Arts Groups. Recognition was given to the Consort, Mrs Sheila Scragg for her efforts in raising the charity fund and particular thanks was given to Mrs Margaret Blackwell for her contribution to the recent Sunday luncheon.

The Chairman likened his year in office as a ship leaving port to embark on a journey; some of the passage will be smooth, some slightly rocky and occasionally a storm will be encountered. A Captain needs the support of a good crew and he thanked his Committee Chairmen for their work and support throughout the year. He felt that this year had been relatively smooth, but referred to the sad losses of Cllr David Atkin and the previous Town Clerk, Mr Bruce Thompson.

The year has been enjoyable and the Chairman is now looking forward to resuming his role in supporting the Town Council and representing the people of Elworth and Wheelock.

On behalf of the Transport Festival Organisation Committee, Mr Graham Alcock thanked the Town Council for its continued support and presented a commemorative plaque.

3. NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2008/2009

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Pauline Minshull be elected Chairman for the year 2008/9.

4. THE INVESTITURE OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Cllr William Scragg invested the new Chairman with the Chain of Office.

5. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The new Chairman duly read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk.

6. THE INVESTITURE OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN'S CONSORT

Mrs Sheila Scragg invested the new Chairman's consort, Mrs Ann Jones, with her jewel of office.

7. TRIBUTE BY THE NEW CHAIRMAN TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN AND HER CONSORT

Tribute was paid to retiring Chairman for undertaking the role whilst continuing to work full time, which often meant working well into the night to catch up.

Cllr Scragg and his consort are well known within the community and are actively involved in with many local groups and organisations. Mrs Scragg was thanked for her fund-raising activities and particular reference was made to the very successful Sunday lunch.

Thanks was given to Cllr Scragg for his support and assistance both to the Council and the wider community.

8. NEW CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all present, especially to her immediate family.

She thanked Mrs Ann Jones for accepting the role of Consort, and stated that it is an honour and a privilege to be appointed to the position of Chairman and she hopes to serve the people of Sandbach foremost.

She hopes that the work within the Council will be free from politics and for the benefit of the community. Should any member have a grievance then this should be addressed via the Chairman or the Clerk and should not affect the business of the Council.

The Town Clerk was thanked by the Chairman and her consort for her help and advice over the recent few weeks. The new Administrative Assistant was welcomed.

The Chairman is looking forward to a happy and productive year in office.

The Chairman appoints Reverend B Roberts as her Chaplain to be supported by Chaplains from Churches Together.

The Chairman's personal charities will be the St. Mary's Church Roof Appeal and Cancer Research UK (Sandbach Branch).

Civic Dates

Civic Parade and Church Service	2 pm. Sunday, 8 June 2008
Annual Bowls Match	6 pm. Friday, 8 August 2008
Civic Dinner and Ball	7.15 pm. Friday, 30 January 2008
Annual Town Meeting	7.15 pm. Thursday, 5 March 2009

9. NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2008/2009

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Elsie Alcock be elected to be Vice-Chairman of the Town Council for the year 2008/9.

10. INVESTITURE OF THE NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invested the new Vice-Chairman with her jewel of office.

11. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

The new Vice-Chairman duly read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk.

12. APPOINTMENT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

12.1 To appoint the Committee of 10 Members

RESOLVED: that the following 10 Members be appointed to serve as the Finance and Personnel Committee for the year 2008/9: -

Councillors	Mrs D E Alcock
	Mrs G M Merry
	S A M Corcoran
	P J Darnes
	S B Holland
	B E Moran
	L Morris
	M R Sherman
	W W Scragg
	R W Sutton

12.2 Appointment of the Chairman of the Finance Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr M R Sherman be appointed Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee for the year 2008/9.

12.3 Appointment of the Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr S A M Corcoran be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee for the year 2008/9.

13. APPOINTMENT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

13.1 To agree to increase the Committee to 10 members.

RESOLVED: that the Planning Committee be increased to 10 members.

13.2 To appoint the Committee of 10 Members

RESOLVED: that the following 10 Members be appointed to serve as the Planning Committee for the year 2008/9: -

Councillors	Ms G J Richardson
	S B Holland
	L Morris
	M R Sherman
	W W Scragg
	R W Sutton
	G W Bell
	K E Haines
	D Robinson
	A J Wood

13.3 Appointment of Chairman of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr R W Sutton be appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee for the year 2008/9.

13.4 Appointment of Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr S B Holland be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee for the year 2008/9.

14. APPOINTMENT OF THE QUALITY AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

14.1 To appoint the Committee of 10 Members

RESOLVED: that the following 10 Members be appointed to serve as the Planning Committee for the year 2008/9: -

Councillors:	Mrs G M Merry
	Mrs D E Alcock
	D L Darnes
	P J Darnes
	M R Sherman
	B E Moran
	G W Bell
	K E Haines
	D Robinson
	W R Goodall

14.2 Appointment of Chairman of the Quality and Projects Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr P J Darnes be appointed Chairman of the Quality and Projects Committee for the year 2008/9.

14.3 Appointment of Vice Chairman of the Quality and Projects Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr W R Goodall be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Quality and Projects Committee for the year 2008/9.

15. APPOINTMENT OF A 'VISION' WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: that this working group be dissolved.

16. APPOINTMENT OF A 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION' WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: that this working group be dissolved.

17. APPOINTMENT OF NEWSLETTER WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: that the Newsletter Working Group be re-named 'Newsletter Editorial' and made the direct responsibility of Sandbach Town Council.

18. APPOINTMENT OF FAIR TRADE STEERING GROUP

A submission to bid to become a Fair Trade Town is imminent, it is felt that the support of the Quality and Project Committee is no longer required.

RESOLVED: that the Fair Trade Steering Group report directly to Sandbach Town Council.

19. REPRESENTATIVES ON CONGLETON BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

19.1 Area Forum Committee – 1 member

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillor P J Darnes.

19.2 Town and Parish Councils' 'At Home'

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
The Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Clerk of the Council.

19.3 Malkins Bank Environmental Liaison Committee

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillor D Robinson

(NB: Representatives of Sandbach Town Council may be asked to attend other Committee meetings following Congleton Borough Council's Annual Meeting)

20. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(NB: The Council's nominees to serve on the outside bodies do not necessarily need to be Members of the Council.)

Representation in 2008/09 with the dates of the end of extended terms shown in brackets was: -

20.1 Sandbach Partnership Executive – 1 member

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillor K E Haines

20.2 Sandbach Partnership Project Teams – 1 member on each group

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Business Grants and Community Fund – Councillor M Sherman
Business Landscapes - Councillor R W Sutton
Sandbach Park Partnership Project – Councillors S A M Corcoran and M R Sherman.

20.3 Neighbourhood Policing Unit Liaison Group – 4 members

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillors Mrs D E Alcock, G M Merry, M R Sherman and R W Sutton.

20.4 Sandbach Christmas Lights Committee – 2 members

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillors Mrs D E Alcock

20.5 Sandbach Festival of Transport Committee – 2 members

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillor Ms G J Richardson

20.6 Sandbach in Bloom Committee – 2 members

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillor Mrs D E Alcock

20.7 Sandbach Community Pride – 1 member

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillor Mrs G M Merry.

20.8 Sandbach Almshouse Trust – 4 members

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed, with Cllr Robinson being re-appointed following 31 May: -
Councillor D Robinson (31/5/2008)
Councillor A J Wood

20.9 Sandbach School Governing Body – 1 member

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Councillor A J Wood

20.10 Linden Bank Liaison Committee

It was agreed at the Meeting of the Town Council on 21st October 1993 that the nominees for each year be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Town Council. Substitutes are to be arranged if necessary.

20.11 Sandbach Literary Institution Trustees – 2 members

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillor S B Holland.

20.12 Sandbach Streets Ahead and Youth Project – 1 member

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillor G W Bell

20.13 M6 Forum (Staffordshire and Cheshire) and Cheshire Forum of M6 Councils – 1 member (previously two separate representatives)

It was reported that this forum is no longer functional due to the diminished threat.

RESOLVED: no further action.

20.14 Central Cheshire Primary Care Trust – 1 member

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillor S B Holland.

20.15 Cheshire County Council – Annual Town & Parish Council Conference

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Chairman and Vice-Chairman with substitutes allowed.

20.16 Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Congleton Area Meeting

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillors Mrs P M Minshull, P J Darnes and the Clerk with substitutes allowed.

20.17 Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Annual Meeting

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillors Mrs P M Minshull and P J Darnes.

20.18 Cheshire Planning Forum

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillor P J Darnes.

20.19 Public Rights of Way Officer

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillor P J Darnes.

20.20 Old Hall Action Group – 1 member

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillors Mrs P M Minshull and R W Sutton.

20.21 Wheelock Village Hall Fund Trustee

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillors R W Sutton and W W Scragg.

20.22 Middlewich Railway Steering Group

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillor W W Scragg.

21. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED: that JDH Business Services Ltd is appointed as internal auditor.

22. TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR FOR 2008/2009

RESOLVED: that the attached calendar of meetings be approved.

23. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council is a business meeting scheduled for Thursday 22 May 2008 at 7.15pm in the Sandbach Literary Institution, Hightown.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

W W Scragg
Chairman

Ref: TCM080506

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETINGS FOR 2008/09

Town Council

22 May 2008, 17 July 2008, 18 September 2008, 6 November 2008,
18 December 2008, 12 February 2009, 2 April 2009, 7 May 2009 (Thurs -
AGM) 28 May 2009.

Finance and Personnel Committee

24 July 2008, 23 October 2008, 13 November 2008 (budget),
5 February 2009, 23 April 2009.

Quality and Projects Committee

19 June 2008, 31 July 2008, 9 October 2008, 4 December 2008,
26 February 2009, 30 April 2009.

Planning

15 May 2008, 12 June 2008, 10 July 2008, 7 August 2008,
4 September 2008, 2 October 2008, 30 October 2008,
27 November 2008, 11 December 2008, 22 January 2009,
19 February 2009, 19 March 2009, 16 April 2009, 14 May 2009,
11 June 2009.

KEY DATES

Civic Parade	8 June 2008 at 2pm
Annual Bowls	8 August 2008 at 6pm
Civic Dinner and Ball	30 January 2009 at 7.15pm
Annual Town Meeting	5 March 2009 at 7.15pm.