

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Thirty-third Annual Meeting of Sandbach Town Council held on 8 May 2007 in the Sandbach Town Council Offices, Sandbach Literary Institution Building, Hightown.

PRESENT

Councillors: B E Moran, retiring Chairman
Councillors: W W Scragg, retiring Vice-Chairman and Chairman
Mrs D E Alcock
Mrs P M Minshull
G W Bell
S A M Corcoran
P J Darnes
K E Haines
S B Holland
L Morris
D Robinson
M R Sherman
R W Sutton
A J Wood

The Opening Prayer was read by the Reverend Rex Buckley.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: Mrs G M Merry
D K Atkin
W R Goodall

2. THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

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

A schedule was made available to members which detailed engagements that had been attended by the Chairman and his wife since the last Town Council meeting on 22 March. These included two civic engagements, seven general engagements and two meetings, of particular note were the Sandbach Transport Festival and his last fund raising event, World of Antiques and raised over £600. It was noted that during his year in Office, the Chairman and his wife have attended over 140 events, the Vice-Chairman and his wife were thanked for acting as deputies when the need arose.

The Chairman gave thanks to all who supported the five main fund raising events which combined raised over £5,000, the proceeds will be split between Sandbach Guides and Scouts and the Leighton Hospital Prostate Cancer Support Group. An event is being organised to be held later in the year when monies will be distributed.

The Town Council's key activities during the past year have been moving the business of the Town Council into the Literary Institution, the appointment of an Assistant Town Clerk, investigating the possibility of managing the Town Hall, the appointment of three PCSOs in partnership with the High Schools and the publication of the Sandbach Town Council newsletter. Unfortunately, due to the

absence of the Clerk, it has not been possible to make any further progress towards becoming a Quality Council but the Council remains committed in pursuing that status.

His theme for the year was **Community Pride** which was recognised through his involvement with the Community Pride 2006 competition and the Sandbach Partnership activities, and **Young People** which was delivered through his involvement with the two secondary schools' Schools' Councils and the CCC HUB unit on the Commons. In the coming year he hoped that a Youth Council under the Sandbach Town Council's umbrella would be created.

The year ahead promises to be challenging as the Council is consulted on changes through Local Government Reorganisation and the Local Development Framework. The Council also has several new members plus the opportunity to re-structure the Clerkship arrangements.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public who have regularly attended meetings, Cllr Scragg for his support, the Chaplains, the Clerks and his wife, Mary. Gifts were presented to the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and Mary Moran.

3. NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2007/2008

RESOLVED: that Cllr Bill Scragg be elected Chairman for the year 2007/8.

4. THE INVESTITURE OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Cllr Barry Moran invested the new Chairman with the Chain of Office.

5. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

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

6. THE INVESTITURE OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN'S CONSORT

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

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

The retiring Chairman and his wife were thanked for their dedication and enthusiasm during their year in office and recognition was given to the significant amount of money raised for local charities. Cllr Moran was also commended for his attention to detail and professional manner in which he conducted the business of the Council.

8. NEW CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new Chairman wished to follow the practice set by previous Chairmen and use Chaplains from Churches Together.

The Chairman stated that his personal charity will be the National Children's Home, with some monies also being granted to local arts groups. The dates of forthcoming civic events were detailed.

Recognition was given to recently retired councillors who have given their time and energy for many years. New members were welcomed and encouraged to take an active part in the business of Sandbach Town Council but to leave politics at the door.

The support of all members is required if Sandbach Town Council is to make progress in all of the areas outlined by the retiring Chairman. It is hoped that members actively consult and communicate with members of the public to ensure that it is their wishes that are acted upon.

Civic Dates

Civic Parade and Church Service	2 pm. Sunday, 1 July 2007
Annual Bowls Match	6 pm. Friday, 3 August 2007
Civic Dinner and Ball	7.15 pm. Friday, 25 January 2008
Annual Town Meeting	7.15 pm. Thursday, 6 March 2008

9. NOMINATIONS FOR AND ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2007/2008

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Pauline Minshull be elected to be Vice-Chairman of the Town Council for the year 2007/8.

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. CHAIRMAN’S ROLE ON COMMITTEES

Interpretation of SO 41(a)

“The Chairman shall be a member of every Committee.”

RESOLVED: that this include Sub-Committees and Working Groups and that the Chairman of the Council shall have the right to vote at such Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups.

13. EAST WARD VACANCY

There had been four applications. Councillors Mrs Alcock and Darnes declared a prejudicial interest because their respective spouses had applied and withdrew whilst this item was considered. The applicants also left the room.

Following a system of elimination Mrs Deborah Darnes was co-opted to fill the vacancy. She signed her declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

14. APPOINTMENT OF THE FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

14.1 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 2006/7: -

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

R W Sutton

14.2 Appointment of the Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr M R Sherman be appointed Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee for the year 2007/8.

14.3 Appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr S A M Corcoran be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee for the year 2007/8.

15. APPOINTMENT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

15.1 To appoint the Committee of 10 Members

RESOLVED: that the following 7 Members be appointed to serve as the Planning Committee for the year 2007/8: -

Councillors	Mrs P M Minshull
	G W Bell
	K E Haines
	S B Holland
	D Robinson
	R W Sutton
	A J Wood

and that three vacancies be held over until the next business meeting.

15.2 Appointment of Chairman of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr R W Sutton be appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee for the year 2007/8.

15.3 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 2007/8.

16. QUALITY COUNCIL AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

16.1 To appoint the Committee of 10 Members

RESOLVED: that the following 9 Members be appointed to serve as the Quality and Projects Committee for the year 2007/8: -

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

16.2 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 2007/8.

16.3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Quality and Projects Committee

RESOLVED: that Cllr B E Moran be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Quality and Projects Committee for the year 2007/8.

17. APPOINTMENT OF A 'VISION' WORKING GROUP

17.1 To set up the Working Group

17.2 To appoint the Working Group of 7 Members

RESOLVED: that the following 6 Members be appointed to serve as the 'Vision' Working Group for the year 2007/8: -

Chairman of the Finance & Personnel Committee
Chairman of the Planning Committee
Chairman of the Quality & Projects Committee
Cllr W R Goodall
Cllr K E Haines
Cllr B E Moran

RESOLVED: that the size of the Working Group is reduced to six.

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

18.1 To set up the working group

RESOLVED: that a 'Local Government Reorganisation' Working Group be set up to be responsible to the Town Council.

18.2 To appoint the working group of 7 Members

RESOLVED: that the following 6 Members be appointed to serve as the 'Local Government Reorganisation' Working Group for the year 2007/8: -

Chairman of the Finance & Personnel Committee
Chairman of the Planning Committee
Chairman of the Quality & Projects Committee
Cllr W R Goodall
Cllr K E Haines
Cllr B E Moran

RESOLVED: that the size of the Working Group is reduced to six.

19. REPRESENTATIVES ON CONGLETON BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

19.1 Area Forum

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

19.2 Town and Parish Councils' 'At Home'

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

19.3 Malkins Bank Environmental Liaison Committee

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

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.)

20.1 Sandbach Partnership Executive

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -
Cllr B E Moran

20.2 Sandbach Partnership Project Teams

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed: -
Business Grants and Community Fund – Cllr M R Sherman.
Business Landscapes – Cllr R W Sutton

20.3 Neighbourhood Policing Unit Liaison Group

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed: -
Cllr Mrs D E Alcock
Cllr B E Moran
Cllr M R Sherman
Cllr R W Sutton

20.4 Sandbach Christmas Lights Committee

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed: -
Cllr Mrs D E Alcock
Cllr Mrs G M Merry

20.5 Sandbach Festival of Transport Committee

RESOLVED: that no appointment is made until requested by the Committee.

20.6 Sandbach in Bloom Committee

RESOLVED: that no appointment is made until requested by the Committee.

20.7 Community Pride Action Team

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

20.8 Sandbach Almshouse Trust

Councillor D Robinson (31/5/2008)
Councillor Mrs D E Alcock (31/5/2008)
Councillor M Sherman (31/5/2010)
Mr J J Moore (31/5/2010)

Councillors Alcock and Sherman wished to stand down.

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

The vacancy will be raised at the business meeting.

20.9 Sandbach School Governing Body

Mr B R Thompson

RESOLVED: that the above previous appointment be confirmed.

20.10 Linden Bank Hostel 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 with substitutes to be arranged if necessary.

RESOLVED: that the above are re-appointed.

20.11 Sandbach Literary Institution Trustees

The Trustees have offered two positions to the Council.

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Cllr D K Atkin

The vacancy will be raised at the business meeting.

20.12 Sandbach Streets Ahead and Youth Project

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Cllr G W Bell

20.13 M6 Forum (Staffordshire and Cheshire) and Cheshire Forum of M6 Councils

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Cllr P J Darnes

20.14 Central Cheshire Primary Care Trust

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Cllr S B Holland

20.15 Cheshire County Council – Annual Town & Parish Council Conference

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed: -

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Town Council with substitutes to be arranged if necessary.

20.16 Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Congleton Area Meeting

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed: -

Cllr Mrs D Darnes, Cllr P J Darnes and the Clerk.

20.17 Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Annual Meeting

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed: -

Cllr P J Darnes and Cllr W W Scragg.

20.18 Public Rights of Way Officer

RESOLVED: that the following is appointed: -

Councillor P J Darnes

20.19 Old Hall Action Group

RESOLVED: that the following are appointed: -

Councillor Mrs P M Minshull

Councillor R W Sutton

20.20 Wheelock Village Hall Fund

RESOLVED: that more information is requested from the Charity Commissioner before the matter is considered.

21. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

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

22. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

A schedule of members' attendance at last year's meetings was presented.

RESOLVED: that the schedule be received.

23. TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR FOR 2007/2008

RESOLVED: that the proposed calendar be rejected.

It was agreed that the Clerk, the Chairman and Chairmen of Committees would meet to agree the calendar.

24. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Sandbach Town Council be held on Thursday 17 May 2007 at 7.15 pm at the Sandbach Town Council Offices in the Sandbach Literary Institution building.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Members and guests were invited by the Chairman to remain for a reception at the Sandbach Literary Institution immediately following the meeting.

W W Scragg
Chairman

Ref: TCAM07