

Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society
Registered charity No. 246145

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 17th Sept 2024
8.00pm at Bruntwood Management Suite

Present:

Committee members: Judie Collins (Chair), Paulina Lewis (Planning), Leslie Cupitt, Martin Garrett, Pauline Terry, Richard Hagon (Sec), Robert Redford,

Co-opted Members: Ian Stuart (Friends of Altrincham Interchange),
Katie Bland (Business Manager, Home Instead Care)

Guests: None.

1. Apologies, Declarations of Interest.

1.1 Apologies: None

1.2 Declarations of interest – None

1.3 The minutes of the previous meeting on 19th June 2024 were distributed prior to the meeting.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes not otherwise covered on the agenda: None

3. Report from the Chair

Judie welcomed Katie Bland from Home Instead, a new co-opted committee member.

By now most people will be aware of the passing of Angela Stone and our sincere sympathy and thoughts are with Trevor and the rest of the family at this sad time.

I would like to spend next weeks committee meeting talking about the future of the Civic Society. We will need a new person to continue Angela's work, but also a new planning lead as Paulina is moving to Brighton in October.

The AGM date has now been confirmed as Tuesday 19th November at Altrincham Town Hall, our guest speakers will be Maria Bota Trafford's new Director of Cultural Transformation and Lis Lewis Heritage and Urban Design Manager. It has been agreed with Don's family that David Eastwood will be the recipient of this years Don and Hilda Bayliss award for civic excellence.

I have met with our new MP who is obviously opposed to the closure of Minor Injuries as are our local councillors. I attended the recent Health Scrutiny meeting with the Lib Dem and Green Councillors, whose contribution and support was excellent. Mike Kane the Wythenshawe Labour MP, agrees with me that Altrincham is a very helpful partner to overcome the major delays at Wythenshawe.

Connor Rand Labour MP Altrincham and Sale West is very concerned about L&Q and while we can deal with New Street there seems little in place to oppose the treatment of tenants and future developments.

4. L&Q New Street Planning Application

A short discussion took place about the latest amended planning application. Objections by the society and individuals had all been submitted, mostly about possible parking issues for New Street residents. Robert Redford said he had heard that buyers of the new apartments had been offered a permanent parking space for the price of £15,000.

Pauline Terry said she thought it would probably be approved this time.

5. The future of the Civic Society

Everyone agreed that many societies were disappearing due to a lack of support. Richard Hagon said that previous support was on the decline and most busy families and young people in general are simply not interested. Also, as we don't put on events we don't have much to offer for the membership fee we request. Katie Bland said that perhaps more use of social media might help. Katie also said that the Manager of the HSBC Bank in Altrincham, Ms Jin Shuo was very community minded and she would invite her to attend the AGM. Richard said he thought we might scrap the fixed membership fees and ask for a minimum donation of £5, the rest of the committee agreed this would be a good move. It was agreed this would be put to the vote at the AGM for ratification.

6. Appointment of a new Vice Chair.

No offers or suggestions had been submitted to the Chair.

7. Arrangements for the AGM

Richard Hagon said all the arrangements for the AGM were now in place. The hire of the Council Chamber had risen to £184 under the new operators Oyez Arts.

8. AOB

On behalf of the Society, Chair will be attending the funeral of Angela Stone in Blackpool on 1st October 2024.

Chair said we were sorry to lose our Planning Lead and Vice Chair Paulina Lewis who is moving to Brighton to be near her family and thanked her for all her hard work over the years with the many complicated planning issues we had been dealing with.

Note from the Secretary: In the absence of our Treasurer, Trevor Stone, no finance report was given at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

**Date and time of next committee meeting – Tuesday 12th November 2024
Bruntwood Management Suite 8pm**