

**NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

**Present** : Cllr K. Rimmer. – Town Mayor

**Councillors** : D Bowden                      A. Cooper                      M. Falzon  
                  T. Lawrenson                  G.B. Cooke                  Mrs. J. Storey  
                  S. Naylor                        A. Stott                        Mrs. J. Illidge  
                  P. Dolan                         B. Jamieson                 T. Murphy  
                  Mrs. L. Nelson                P. Naylor

**Also present:**                  Chris Shaw                      Town Clerk  
   Mrs. L. Clansey                Assistant Town Clerk/Registrar  
   Mrs. T. Cash                    Council Secretary /Mayor's P.A.

**NTC 16/92    TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM DR. ADRIAN HEALD**

Dr Heald introduced himself as a Doctor currently working at both Leighton and Victoria Infirmary At this point thanked members for their support and campaigning to keep the Infirmary open. Dr Heald then explained to members the current innovation in Health and Social Care, and delivered a visual presentation outlining the system. There is collaboration between Health and Social Care across Cheshire to provide a secure read-only summary view of accessible information to health professionals. Patients can opt-out of the system, but this is not advisable. Dr Heald showed example of screen shots of the system, and explained the level of information available, in relation to specific patients and is fully backed up by audit trails. Information would typically contain details of medications, any tests, scans, blood test results, any surgery undergone and diagnosis. It is hoped to roll out to other emergency services. A reputable company has devised the programme, and Dr. Heald highlighted the many benefits of the system, which will greatly improve efficiency for all Health and Social Care stakeholders, making the most of available technology. Questions were asked to Dr. Heald covering such issues as timely information, Child Protection issues, vetting process for users, and fully enabled to Paramedics. How will additional information from other Emergency services filter into the system, would raise concerns be diverted back to the G.P. Also, in respect of Schools and Special Needs pupils All these questions were answered by Dr. Heald, and all issues have been covered. Dr. Heald acknowledged the tremendous pressure the N.H.S. is under at the present time, and in relation to this system, the benefits and advantages far outweigh the cost. The biggest challenge is persuading people to use it, but it will add significant quality to what is done. The Mayor thanked Dr. Heald for his time and informative talk.

**NTC 16/93    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. D. Cooke, Mrs. A. Gerrard, Mrs. G. Gough and S. Kryger. Cllr. A. Dimlow did not attend.

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**Date**

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**Cllr Kevin Rimmer**  
**Town Mayor**

**NTC 16/94    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

- Pecuniary Interest
- Outside Bodies Interest
- Family, Friend or Close Associate interest

Cllr. Lawrenson declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council, and CWAC.

Cllr. S. Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to CWAC

Cllr. Falzon declared an interest in any matters relating to Barnton Parish Council

Cllr J. Storey declared an interest in any matters relating to Barnton Parish Council

Cllr. P. Dolan declared an interest in any matters relating to CWAC

Cllr. B. Jamieson declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire Community Development Trust

**NTC 16/95    OPEN FORUM**

There were no speakers.

**NTC 16/96    SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 That the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. Approved and signed by the Mayor.

**NTC16/97    REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. These were noted by Cllr. Jamieson.

6.2 To note the Planning and Environment Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. These were noted by Cllr. Stott., Cllr. Jamieson advised that CWAC have produced supplementary Planning document on Parking standards, and wishes this matter to be included on the next Planning agenda for discussion. Also regarding Special Expenses, Cllrs. Falzon and Jamieson attended a recent meeting. Cllr. Jamieson requests that the TC contact David Sconce CWAC Finance Officer to attend a Finance Committee meeting, before the consultation ends in January, 2017.

**NTC16/98    TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor informed members that he had attended the following events during November:-

1. 5<sup>th</sup> Rotary Club Light the Bonfire, Verdin Park.
2. 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph,
3. 13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Parade and Service. St. Helen’s
4. 13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service, Rudheath Cemetery
5. 21<sup>st</sup> County Care Group, opening at Lostock.
6. 24<sup>th</sup> Girlguiding Celebration Evening Vale Royal Abbey.
7. 25<sup>th</sup> Cheshire and Warrington Carers, information event.
8. 26<sup>th</sup> Christmas Extravaganza Northwich Town Centre
9. 26<sup>th</sup> Vale Royal Lions 41st Charter Dinner.
10. 28<sup>th</sup> Belgian Memorial. Witton Cemetery NTC offices

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TC reported on the following: -

**Bond Street**

Still waiting on a response from KPMG for land valuation. Once received, a decision can be made as to the potential purchase of the site. Also a consultation with residents on what they would like to see within the play area.

**Solvay Road**

Meeting recently taken place at Winnington Rec. Club to consult with Solvay Road residents. Around 12 residents attended and were advised that interest in adoption of the road was poor, and not now feasible to progress. Alternatives were discussed and a residents group was formed with the intention that they visit all residents to try to obtain ownership details. NTC agree to support the group with administration, and will meet with them in the New Year to discuss progress as to how the road may be repaired. Cllr. Dolan added that he is prepared to work with residents responsibilities and funding. There are unique issues on Solvay Road, and want to find solutions.

**United Utilities Meeting**

As requested a meeting has been arranged with UU to look at the pumping station on Barons Quay. Meeting will take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 p.m. on site outside the pumping station. The meeting is for 4 members only and are required to wear appropriate clothing. Members were asked to attend, and Cllrs. Cooper, S. Naylor, Murphy and Dolan with Cllr. Bowden as reserve agreed to attend. Cllr. Jamieson advised the property is in poor condition and the purpose of meeting is to have a proper inspection.

**Funding Application for Table Tennis Tables**

TC has now submitted a funding application to install 2 table tennis tables within Vickersway Park. These tables will replace the old skittle alley which is in need of repair and not very well used. These tables will be accessible to all, with disabled access and all weather surfacing. If successful it is hoped to have the tables installed before the park shop re opens in April 2017. It is hoped to have a response to the funding in 4/6 weeks.

**Northwich Memorial to Belgian Refugees**

On 28<sup>th</sup> November, a service was held within Witton Cemetery to unveil a special headstone, marking the grave of two Belgian 10 year old boys who were refugees during 1915, who died in mid Cheshire. Many thanks to Alan Lowe for all his hard work in researching the history, and to TATA Chemicals for funding the cost of the headstone. Cllr. Dolan added that the service was very moving and acknowledged the work and dedication of Mr. Lowe.

**Events**

**Izumi Tour 2017**

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017, the Town will be holding the Izumi Cycling Tour, funded by CWAC, NTC and the BID. This will take place in the afternoon and evening and the cycle race will be for both men and women. Full details will be released through the official channels.

**Artisan Market**

The Artisan Market will once again take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 and members will be sent the usual request.

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**Cllr Kevin Rimmer  
Town Mayor**

**Remembrance Service**

Annual Remembrance Parade and Service were held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Excellent turn out as usual with large numbers attending the Cenotaph for the Act of Remembrance. Many thanks to Rev. Alison Harris. Cllr. Rimmer added his thanks to the good people of Northwich. There is a lot of hard work and effort to put on this annual Service.

**Christmas Extravaganza**

This year a huge success for the town. A fantastic event that saw the town at its best, with hundreds of visitors flocking to see the many attractions. Penguins, Tractor and trailer rides, Reindeers, Donkeys, Father Christmas and Christmas markets among others. Additional attraction this year was the Bratwurst sausages in the traditional wooden hut, with mulled wine and cider. This gave a German Market atmosphere which many enjoyed. Children’s light motif competition was a delight for the winning children to see their design come to life, and also to assist the Mayor at the light switch on. Many thanks to the Councillors who volunteered their time on the day and all who contributed.

**Tree of Lights**

The annual Tree of Lights ceremony will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 p.m. Stars may be collected at NTC Offices, the Information Centre, Snipets and the Police Station. Many have been returned already and will be placed on the Holly tree in readiness for the switch on. Sam Lyon and the Wyvern Singers will be performing at the service and afterwards will be entertaining in the Condate Room. Refreshments of mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies will be served. All welcome to attend.

**Meetings**

Meeting held with Community Rail Partnership. TC and Cllr. Jamieson attended, along with Network Rail and Carillion. Attention to the state of Northwich station. Further meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 a.m. at Northwich station to discuss stakeholder and NTC’s part to play in future. Cllr. Dolan considered that carriages are in urgent need of update, problems with overcrowding on trains and disabled access. The hazards of reaching platforms, and issues need to be resolved urgently. Cllr. Rimmer added that station looks unappealing, litter problems, cold temperatures and the station is unmanned at certain times with passengers unable to purchase tickets. Cllr. Jamison compared Stockport station which he visited recently and is in pristine condition. The next meeting is to consider further the re-opening of the Mid Cheshire line. Members further discussed other issues with local stations. Cllr. Cooper highlighted the problems of non-paying passengers and how passenger numbers are distorted and not accurate of travellers. Investment needs to be made on the line.

**NTC 16/100 CWAC PARKING STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Cllr. Jamieson advised this consultation finishes 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. TC is requested to arrange a meeting with CWAC Regulatory Services Manager to provide specific details. There appear to be no details on Northwich and the amount of long stay car parks, and how it can be judged how much parking is required. Also covers introduction of parking charges. These issues need to be discussed with CWAC. Members consider this is not the appropriate time to start charging in the present situation, in view of the regeneration of the town not yet complete. Faced with a choice of savings for CWAC, there is no such thing as free parking, and need to discuss cost recovery. Cllr. Cooper added consultation is not just about charging, but more long stay parking is very badly needed, as is improved signage, usage and occupancy of car parks.

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Gave examples of large authority dilemma as to what areas to cut costs. Cllr. Dolan spoke about Adult and Social Care budget, and also the fact that Children's services are under huge pressure at present, and a meeting is urgently needed.

**NTC 16/101 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Members were asked to vote for Co-opted Councillor. Vote took place and Miss Shelley Eastwood was elected. The Mayor welcomed Shelley onto the Council.

**Approved**

**NTC 16/102 CLLR. ALAN DIMELOW AND CLLR. BRIAN COOKE LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cllr. Jamieson moved to approve a leave of absence of 6 months until 28th ay, 2017 for both Councillors. This was seconded by Cllr. Stott.

**Approved**

**NTC 16/103 BT PHONE BOX CONSULTATION**

Cllr. Jamieson suggested to consider possibility of adopting a second kiosk at the opposite end of town from the Penny Black. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned electricity supply. BT will carry on with the supply of electricity. Suggested installing defibrillators. Cllr. Cooper seconded the suggestion.

**Resolved**

**NTC 16/104 SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE**

Members thanked Cllr. Bowden for the work he has done on this issue.

**Approved**

**NTC 16/105 NORTHWICH RIVER FESTIVAL**

Additional member required to attend River Festival Group meetings. Cllr. S. Naylor already attends. The newly elected Councillor Eastwood agreed to attend meetings.

**Resolved**

**NTC 16/106 CWAC AND PARTNER CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Consultation on the Civic and Ceremonial function of the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Chester
- b. Let's talk some more budget consultation.
- c. ChALC Planning Seminar
- d. ChALC Area meeting notes. Questions and answers on Fracking in the pack. Also VRDS information regarding parking. Cllr. Rimmer referred to the 20 m.p.h. speed limit and information received from Cheshire Constabulary.
- e. Police and Crime Commissioner meeting

Cllr. Jamieson made comments accordingly also mentioned the 6<sup>TH</sup> Form College Review. Cllr. Cooper added there are 2 proposals for children in Northwich. Sir John Deane's 6<sup>th</sup> Form College to potentially become an Academy. It is not clear if a good or bad thing. Could be financially beneficial. Amalgamation of other colleges. Suggested to arrange a meeting with the Principal of Mid Cheshire College for her thoughts. It is not always successful to merge. Cllr. Bowden asked if a deputation should be called to visit the college. Prospects that courses could be cut.

Cllr. Jamieson commented regarding energy matters - fracking. Urged members to read the key highway points and take up to agree. Cllr. Cooper added in respect of highways infrastructure around Northwich, there are 'pinchpoint' areas and may be good timing particularly the National Productivity Investment Fund, to relieve congestion, deliver upgrades to local roads, public transport networks.

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**NTC 16/107 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET**

Update from Councillors attending – not as many visitors as usual to our stall. Queries received regarding Winnington and access to schools there. Also Marine Approach, residents comments regarding no indication present to pedestrians on the new road lay out. Cllr. Rimmer advised that The Hub on Greenbank Lane has now become a further distribution point for the Foodbank. TC advised where the new pitch for NTC will be located at the Artisan.

**NTC 16/108 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 20176 at 6.30 p.m.  
Meeting closed at 20.10.

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**Date**

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**Cllr Kevin Rimmer**  
**Town Mayor**