

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2016

Present : Cllr K. Rimmer. – Town Mayor

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

Also present: Chris Shaw Town Clerk
 Mrs. T. Cash Council Secretary /Mayor's P.A.

NTC 16/71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. D. Cooke, B. Cooke, Mrs. A. Gerrard, Mrs. G. Gough. Cllrs. A. Dimlow and P. Naylor did not attend.

NTC 16/72 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. Falzon declared an interest in any matters relating to Barnton Parish Council.
Cllr. S. Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to CWAC
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

NTC 16/73 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public addressed Members and raised concerns about the Members Declarations of Interest, not being available on the NTC website. This was noted at the meeting and the member of the public was thanked for his attendance and informed that the Mayor would respond in writing to his concerns.

NTC 16/74 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

That the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd October, 2016 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. Approved and signed by the Mayor. Cllr. Jamieson commented the outstanding Percy Street issue to resolve. TC will action for update. Cllr. Cooper corrected and would like to note that he did not ask for feedback, but asked regarding feedback already received. CWAC Showcase meeting was attended by Cllr. Cooper who gave a brief summary including the use of Solar panels at the Northgate Arena in Chester. Also participated in breakout sessions regarding community energy savings. Also mentioned at this point was the recent to NTC of David Keane the P.C.C. where the Draft Policing Plan was discussed along with the future policing in Cheshire. All agreed it was a worthwhile and informative meeting.

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC16/75 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

5.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on Tuesday 18th October, 2016. These were noted by Cllr. Jamieson. Cllr. Jamieson asked at this point for a meeting with David Sconce.

5.2 To note the Planning and Environment Meeting held on Tuesday 18th October, 2016 These were noted by Cllr. Jamieson, who drew attention to the inclusion of Jalsea Marina Development, and asked members to read these carefully. Cllr. Dolan spoke about United Utilities and the poor state of their station. He asked for a contact at United Utilities.

NTC16/76 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

- 1. 1st Civic Reception to welcome Olympic Gold Medallist in Northwich
- 2. 1st Mid Cheshire Musical Theatre. 'South Pacific' Grange Theatre
- 3. 2nd Northwich Rowing Club, Annual Prize Giving
- 4. 9th Soroptimist International 67th Charter Lunch, Willington Hall
- 5. 11th Mayor's Charity Night, The Indian, Castle
- 6. 14th Rotary Club NVR Club Charter Night. Vale Royal Abbey
- 7. 16th Great Northwich Bake Off. St Helen's Church.
- 8. 22nd Knutsford Musical Theatre Co. 'The Wizard of Oz
- 9. 27th Presentation Evening, The County High School, Leftwich
- 10. 28th Mid Cheshire Hospitals Charity, MRI Scanner Opening Event

NTC16/77 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

TC reported on the following: -

Events/Artisan Market

The Artisan Market will once again take place on Saturday, 8th November 2016 and members will be sent the usual request.

Remembrance Service

We shall be holding a short Remembrance Service on Friday 11th November at the Cenotaph. This will mark the official date, and will last approx. 20 minutes commencing at 10.50 a.m.

Our Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service will be held on Sunday 13th November. The Parade will assemble at Victoria Car Park at 9.30 a.m. with the Parade starting at 9.45 a.m. leading up to St. Helen's Church for the Service at 10.00 a.m. The Act of Remembrance will follow at the Cenotaph for the wreath laying. Following this, refreshments will be served at Memorial Court. All are welcome.

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

Christmas Extravaganza

This event is now in its final planning stages. Flyers were distributed among Members detailing all information. There will be an NTC stall which will be used as an information point for visitors. Members asked to confirm if they are attending. TC will send request to Members with the various activities that we will need volunteers for. Cllr. Jamieson wished to give a vote of thanks to all NTC staff for the hard work they put into this, and other events.

Tree of Lights

Annual Tree of Lights Ceremony will take place on Friday 9th December at 6.00 p.m. Stars are now available from our office, the Information Centre, Snippets Hair Salon and the Police Station. Stars need to be returned to us for laminating and placing on the holly tree, no later than Wednesday 7th December.

Northwich Victoria and Witton Albion Christmas Football Match

Cllr. Murphy addressed Members and said it would be a good idea for NTC to sponsor this match on Boxing Day, 26th December. It is a great community event. There are two courses currently being run for young children. Witton being more the involved with the community, including Walking Football and 'Men in Sheds'. The wish is to get community involved, bearing in mind the Cycling tour coming up next year. Cllr. Naylor supported this incentive and that NTC should be seen to support. Motion was proposed by Cllr. Jamieson and seconded by Cllr. S. Naylor. All in favour.

Approved

Large Grants Scheme

It was discussed at Finance that we would look at an alternative way to award the larger Grants that we currently give and bring them in line with the Small Grants with a similar application process. It was proposed that we advertise these Grants in the same way as the Small Grants. This would give organisations and charities the opportunity to apply each year, rather than awarding to the same organisation/charity each year. We would also invite each recipient to report back to us on how the money has been spent. A maximum amount of £1500 was proposed for each Grant, and if approved, we will advertise in a press release to launch this new scheme. The decision of the Council is requested. Cllr. Cooper commented that this was an idea of his previously, and should be awarded to worthy organisations around town. We need to ask organisations how the money has been spent and the difference it has made to people, and improving their objectives for the future. Cllr. Stott asked if the amount given will be capped. The Grants Committee would make decisions on who would receive the Grants. Cllr. Jamieson added that we would need to make it clear that the Grant is not a one off, and could be ongoing. The amounts involved would need to be worked into NTC budget. Cllr. Cooper addressed Cllr. Stott's concerns. The proposal would come into force next financial year. Cllr. Illidge, the current Chair of Small Grants was happy with this proposal. Cllr. Rimmer considered there needs to be a slight change on wording of application. TC asked if a small working group should meet if principles are agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Permission is requested to close the Council Offices and Registrar's Office on the following days over the Christmas and New Year period.

.....
Date

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

Friday 16 th December	Closed from 12 noon for staff Christmas lunch
Mon 19 th – Friday 23 rd December	Open
Monday 26 th December	Closed
Tuesday 27 th December	Closed
Wednesday 28 th December	Open
Thursday 29 th December	Open
Friday 30 th December	Open
Monday 2 nd January 2017	Closed

Staff from the Parks and Cemetery Department will be on duty to feed and water the birds throughout the festive season. Notices will be posted displaying the opening and closing times on the Council's Noticeboard, the Town Information Centre and the town Library.

Meetings

Tracey McNaboe

A meeting has been arranged to meet the new Chief Executive of Cheshire Community Development Trust on Thursday 10th November, 3.30 p.m. at NTC Offices. All are welcome to attend.

NTC 16/78 TO APPROVE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

New Server - Further to NTC's main computer Server completely failing over the past few weeks, quotations have been obtained for a replacement. The NAZ drive has served us well over the last 6 years but has now started to fail. Members agreed the Town Clerk should go ahead and purchase the new server at a cost of £2082 plus VAT. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Past Mayor's Medals – Details already distributed among Members. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Ladies scarves – Details already distributed among Members. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

NTC Branded Gazebo - Details already distributed among Members. It was noted at this point that we already have a shared gazebo with Northwich B.I.D. A branded gazebo would help promote the Council, and could be used at the monthly Artisan Market which would give a greater impact instead of our banner presently used. Finance Committee agreed to purchase a gazebo at a cost of £938 plus VAT and to be considered, additional branding, inside and out of the gazebo. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Parasols at Church Walk – Cllr. Cooper commented regarding feedback received from parents who are requesting parasols to provide some shading during summer months. Agreed by Finance to purchase three very large branded parasols costing £600 each plus the cost of branding. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

Additional vehicle – NTC currently has three vans which are leased from Cheshire Self Drive. It is difficult to manage with just one of our vans, used by all staff for a variety of tasks throughout the day. We are about to take on more contract work in the Town Centre and surrounding area, in addition to a new contract with Hartford Parish Council to undertake their Handyman services for the village, so an extra van is needed to complete these. Finance have agreed to proceed with an additional van at a cost of £63 per week. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/79 TO APPROVE THE INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2016/2017

Town Clerk outlined details of the annual internal Audit Plan carried out by JDH Business Services Limited, and to accept their recommendations.. Cllr. Jamieson commented that we needed to bear in mind the different regulations each year. He moved to propose acceptance, and Cllr. Falzon seconded. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/80 TO APPROVE FINAL YEAR END AUDIT AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016

To approve final year end Audit – report distributed among Members. Items highlighted were Public Works loan, Fixed Assets and Accounts approval. These points discussed among Members. Recommended to accept – moved by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/81 CLLR. BOWDEN TO REPORT ON GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER

Cllr. Bowden addressed Members. This consultation report concerns Schools. Cllr. Bowden summarised the main points in the proposal which had been distributed among Councillors, and made comments which he had prepared,;-

- Parents rightly expect to send their child to a school in their local area.
- The proposal would open up a greater diversity of division.
- The proposal to expand multi Academy Trusts, which could involve Charities, Businesses etc. to take organisational responsibility for schools.
- Allow selected Grammar Schools to expand
- Encouraging faith Schools to expand.
- Essentially this would take the control out of the hands of the local authorities. Other groups would not be accountable to local authorities. Residents would still pay for education through Council tax.
- Proposals would make Grammar Schools social engines for children of whatever their background.

Cllr. Bowden claims he could not be part of a system that says 80% at age 11 have failed. Selection is much more than Grammar Schools. Universities do not have the experience of running schools. This would take away control of other bodies elected by us. NTC will respond as a council to the proposals. Individuals can also respond to this consultation. Cllr. Cooper thanked Cllr. Bowden and others for putting together the report. Agreed that Cllr. Bowden should respond. Cllr. Dolan echoed these comments, and considered social mobility question in relation to schools. Distorts and divides communities. Other authorities are more favourable and elitist. We have good Comprehensive Schools in the area. Cllr. Jamieson added it is not practical having Universities running schools, proposals show parents do not have a choice. Consider if existing Schools become Grammar Schools, some pupils may have to travel long distances.

.....
Date

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

Cllr. S Naylor supports Cllr. Bowden. Locally there is nothing wrong with schools in Northwich, with 94% of our schools good or outstanding in the national tables. There are no Grant schemes in Cheshire. Grammar Schools tend to focus on academics primarily. Government should properly invest in all schools. Cllr. Stott also fully supported Cllr. Bowden's comments. Cllr. Illidge reiterated all comments made. A very backward step should not be allowed. Cllr. Bowden suggested that other Members, not subjective to a joint response to assist. Cllrs. Illidge and Lawrenson volunteered. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Stott to submit the response to the Government consultation. Thanks were given those members becoming involved, by the Mayor.

NTC 16/82 TO NOTE NTC RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT

Response letter distributed among Members. This is regarding the proposals by the Government to extend council tax referendum principles to local Town and Parish Councils. Letter to Graham Evans and response. NTC have taken on more and more responsibility from our Borough Council, CWAC. Comments set out were voted and approved by Members. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott.

Approved

NTC 16/83 TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO THE LOCAL NHS CONSULTATION

Details regarding this consultation distributed among Members. NHS face considerable financial challenges. Local groups to look at savings, and need to spend some time looking at the implications. Cllr. Dolan has agreed to bring to Council the report proposals. Action proposed by Cllr. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. Jamieson.

NTC 16/84 TO NOTE NTC RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

Cllr. Cooper updated Members. A response has been put together by Cllrs. Bowden, Cooper and S. Naylor. Members were asked to note these, which had been distributed beforehand. Mid Cheshire Railways highlights working together across boundaries. This was well received on the night. And a press release was sent to the local Guardian. Winsford and Middlewich will be holding their own meeting. Cllr. Rimmer commented he is very keen for us all to work together, part of the proposal is to include Weaverham. Cllr. Bowden attended the presentation with Cllr. S. Naylor. He acknowledged the amount of research done and a superb piece of work Cllr. Cooper deserves to be recognised for this. Cllr. Dolan mentioned regeneration, transport and housing, and that logically should be connected with Winsford and Middlewich.

NTC 16/85 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Due to the recent resignation of one of our Town Councillors, this is now advertised to the wider community. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Bowden. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/86 MOSS FARM ACCESS

Cllr. Naylor addressed Members. Moss Farm is a 'Jewel in the Crown' venue for Northwich. It is to be protected and looked after. The school will grow in the next few years due to new housing development in the area. Moss Farm hold 2 big event each year. It is also a safe route to Winnington Primary School and needs another access. Cllr. Naylor is in contact with CWAC regarding this issue. Cllr. Dolan fully endorsed this view, and added that monies should be available in 106 funding, if it can be used to fund the safe route to school. Cllr. Jamieson suggested a meeting with CWAC to discuss – also around the BRIO Leisure Centre. Parking will be hazardous and will worsen when School expands in pupil numbers. Proposed by Cllr. S. Naylor, seconded by Cllr. Dolan. All in favour. TC will contact CWAC to arrange meeting.

.....
Date

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

NTC 16/87 TO APPROVE CLERKS RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTRA STORAGE CONTAINERS WITHIN THE CEMETERY

Due to increased services and purchasing of equipment, we now have need for additional storage within our site at Witton Cemetery. The proposal is to install 2 x 20 foot containers on land to the side of the office building, each having lights and sockets. Storage use will include office documents to be archived and other items in relation to Christmas lights etc. The area is not currently in use. It will be landscaped and new hedges to screen the containers once in place. There is no Planning permission required. Cllr. Jamieson moved on this issue, Cllr. Nelson checked costs. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Bowden. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/88 NORTHWICH HIGHWAYS SUB-GROUP

NTC have been approached by CWAC to work with them on future highways projects within Northwich. One such project is proposed cycle routes from Winnington to Northwich which could include suggestions from our Cycle strategy. Recommendation is to set up a Sub-Group which could attend all Highways meetings and report back to Full Council. The group would ideally consist of the Town Clerk, two Members, and 2 CWAC Members along with the Highways officers. Cllr. Jamieson said there are several outstanding issues and highlighted these. Cllr. Dolan moved on this issue. Cllrs. Cooper, S. Naylor and Jamieson to form the Group. Proposed by Cllr. Bowden, seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

Resolved

NTC 16/89 CWAC AND PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Jamieson commented that Cheshire Constabulary keep us well informed, and asks that TC write to Inspector Snasdell to thank for the regular updates. Also in Members Briefings, the preparation work to the Transport Strategy with other Parish Councils. CWAC to arrange meetings and CWAC should be complemented on acting upon this.

NTC 16/90 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Update from Cllr. Jamieson who reported there are still residents' concerns regarding car parks. Long Stay car parks are to be refurbished. There is a big issue in general in relation to workers in Northwich, therefore Long Stay is essential.

NTC 16/91 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 5th December, 2016 at 6.30 p.m. After this meeting you are invited to stay for a Christmas drink and small buffet.

Meeting closed at 20.30.

.....
Date

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