

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 9TH JANUARY, 2017

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
	Mrs. L. Nelson	P. Naylor	Miss S. Eastwood

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

NTC 16/109 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM WENDY SINFIELD COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT

Wendy explained the changes and developments that are currently taking place. Passenger numbers are increasing by 10% per year, and last year passed the milestone of 25 million passengers having passed through the Airport. Advised that Terminal 1, built in the 1950's is no longer fit for purpose,, Has been renovated over the years, but needs more major upgrade. Nowadays dealing with larger aircraft and need to make maximum use of runways. Intention is to double the size of Terminal 2 and operate this more efficiently in terms of passenger transport and aircraft parking. This will enable the number of aircraft to increase and grow, attracting more direct flights, not only to Europe but international. Wendy explained how air space works, and a major review regarding airspace levels is taking place. Consultations take place between Department for Transport, and Aviation Authorities, and the intention is to consult with local councils before any changes take place. Newer aircraft will ascend quicker out of Airport, and will be quieter for residents Data a sheets are available online,. Runway data and brochures were left containing relevant information, with details of aircraft movements. Wendy also covered details of their Community activities involving surrounding schools.

Cllr. Lawrenson asked when will the building start? Over the next month and continue until 2019, then follows a phased programme of improvements. Cllr. Cooke asked regarding aircraft landing at Manchester over local villages. Wendy explained how aircraft make their approach. Cllr. Cooper asked about the Community projects – we are outside the zone. Wendy explained the Trustees are firm on boundaries, but can, on occasions make exceptions, due to the nature of the project, and if evidence can be shown to benefit the community. Wendy was thanked for her informative presentation by the Mayor..

NTC 16/110 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 S. Kryger. A. Dimelow , P. Dolan, B. Jamieson and , T. Murphy

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC 16/111 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. Storey declared an interest in any matters relating to Barnton Parish Council
 Cllr. Cooke declared an interest in any matters relating to Wincham Parish Council

NTC 16/112 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public wished to address Members regarding recent emails sent to Public officers, and also to NTC Councillors. Email most recently received was read out by the speaker. The Mayor agreed to respond in writing to the speaker regarding points raised.

Mr. P. Stockton representing 1874 Northwich F.C. Addressed Members, and gave a brief history of the Football Club to date. Had applied previously to NTC for a Small Grant which was unsuccessful due to not meeting criteria, which was explained to the speaker. The Football Club has plans to grow into the Youth area in the future. Mr. Stockton referred to the Council minutes of 7th November, regarding NTC sponsoring the Boxing Day match at Witton Albion F.C., which was unanimously approved by Councillors This 'caused a stir' among 1874 supporters, who voiced their opinions on their social media forum. Mr. Stockton reiterated these were not the views of the 250 members who own 1874. Advised that Witton Albion F.C. – the opposing team are privately owned by shareholders. The Mayor advised that Cllr. Murphy did not propose this course of action. Social media can be misleading, We would want 1874 to come back to Northwich, and Mr. Stockton was advised to get in touch with us in the futre initially. Cllr. Cooper took up the matter of Small Grants. Advised to check criteria and apply again accordingly. Cllr. Naylor commented he is very sympathetic with 1874, and will do all he can to achieve their cause, adding that all Council decisions are made in good faith. The Mayor reiterated these points, NTC may potentially sponsor 1874 match as we did with Witton. The Mayor thanked Mr. Stockton for attending the meeting.

NTC 16/113 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

5.1 That the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th December, 2016 ,be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper,, seconded by Cllr Stott.. Approved and signed by the Mayor.

NTC16/114 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on Tuesday 20th December, 2016. These were noted by Cllr. Nelson
 6.2 To note the Planning and Environment Meeting held on Tuesday 20th December, 2016. These were noted by Cllr. Stott

.....
Date

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

NTC16/115 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

December 2016

- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 1. | 3rd | Cheshire Penguins Presentation & Christmas Party |
| 2. | 6th | Witton Church Walk School. Lunch. |
| 3. | 8th | Redrow Homes, Christmas Event. |
| 4. | 9th | Tree of Lights. NTC Offices. |
| 5. | 10th | Beauty and the Beast Panto. The Grange Theatre. |
| 6. | 13th | NCS Graduation Evening, Ellesmere Port |
| 7. | 14th | Mid Cheshire College Pantomime |
| 8. | 15th | Talking Newspapers Christmas message (Dep. Mayor to attend) |
| 9. | 26th | Witton Albion F.C. v Northwich Victoria match. (Dep. Mayor to attend) |

NTC16/116 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

TC reported on the following: -

Bond Street

Still waiting on a response from KPMG for land valuation. TC has contacted them via email and 'phone, but as yet no response received.

Solvay Road

NTC drafted a letter for the residents group to distribute over the Christmas period. The group will contact me when they have more information and we will then arrange a meeting if necessary to discuss further. Over the Christmas period some repairs were made to the road, but it is not known who actually carried these out..

United Utilities Meeting

Meeting held on 8th December at Barons Quay pumping station with U.U. to discuss what improvements could be made to the site appearance. Some action points from the meeting were taken away and passed to their maintenance team.

- General tidy up of the area around the site including cutting back of saplings, shrubs and grass cutting.
- Repairs made to the building windows.
- Consider some form of screening or hedging to hide the building from the new cinema and Barons Quay.
- TC will speak to TATA to see if their building could be improved from its current poor condition.

Have now received email stating that works on the general appearance of the site will begin soon and more frequent visits will take place. We have also discovered that Inovyn, a subsidiary of Ineos own one of the buildings , and have asked for a site meeting in January to discuss their intentions for the building which is currently not in use. Will report back to Members next Council meeting.

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

Northwich Railway Station Meeting

A meeting was held at Northwich Railway Station with network Rail, Northern, Carillion and the Community Rail Partnership following a previous meeting at Stockport Station. Various issues discussed and actions from the meeting as follows:-

- NTC to provide a quote for works to cleanse car park and entrance to the station on a weekly basis which Northern will pay for. One hour per week.
- Carillion to ensure cleansing work carried out satisfactorily, and to check any reports and issues.
- Carillion to carry out a deep cleanse of the station including, entrance, waiting room, platform and benches. Poster cases and canopies, this includes removal of rubbish inside netting repairs and removal of weeds from guttering. They will also send through details of operatives and when they will start carrying out 5 hours work per week instead of the current 1 hour.
- Network Rail to inspect damp issues and repair. Specialist cleaning of brickwork, hopefully Grant funded from Heritage Lottery.. Also to clear tracks of rubbish and any other works that require a possession order. To make safe hanging electrical cables. Also weed removal in buildings and guttering and on roof.
- Sally Buttifant to work with NTC to involve schools on projects for art work and activity day. Posters of Northwich attractions to encourage visitors. Also to work with TC to repair and replace current art work outside station.

Very informative meeting and NTC will continue working with partners to ensure improvements continue at Northwich Railway Station. Cllr. S. Naylor commented regarding issues with wheelchair users has gone on for some considerable years, would have been good to highlight on National Radio. Cllr. Cooper added, we need to keep pressing these points and retain on Agenda. Carillion were surprised at the conditions at the station since taking over franchise, it was a refreshing change they actually listened to us at the meeting, but there appears to be little finances available at present.

Funding Application for Table Tennis Tables

A decision was required by members regarding the quotes obtained. Cllr. Stott commented the price was rather high. Cllr. S. Naylor added these would be well used, as we have a fantastic facility. Suggested a vandal-proof zip wire seen elsewhere. TC then suggested 1 table and 1 zip wire, and added some investment is needed at Verdin Park.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stott and seconded by Cllr. Cooper to obtain 3 quotes on tables and zip wire, and to refer this for discussion to Amenities Committee.

Resolved

Events

Artisan Market

The Artisan Market will not take place in January, with the next Market taking place on 11th February and the usual request. will be sent to members.

.....
Date

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

Tree of Lights

Annual Tree of Lights Ceremony took place on 9th December. Event well attended again. Many thanks to all who attended and took part. Cllr. Cooper added his thanks to NTC staff for a well organised event.

NTC 16/117 CWAC PARKING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Members were sent a short report of meeting with Vanessa Griffiths and Ken Prior before this full council meeting. Cllr. Cooper is happy to work with Cllr. Jamieson on this matter. Cllr. S. Naylor suggested the Guardian seek opinions from residents. Proposed by Cllr. Bowden, seconded y Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC 16/118 NORTHWICH PLAY AREAS (CWAC)

This had been discussed previously among members. There is one area in question, Saxons Lane This could result in savings for Band D Council Tax payers. Cllr. Cooper commented there are many good play areas now, and the key is letting NTC take control of these areas and actively improve, as we have such a good track record with other play areas. Cllr. Rimmer added there is massive ‘buy-in’ from the community to work on these. Cllr. Naylor agreed that it would be good to have a reduction in Council Tax. TC considers it would be better to reinvest these savings Action proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC 16/119 TO APPROVE FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Photocopier Tenders

Tenders received had been considered by Finance Committee. It was resolved to purchase a new photocopier from Bonfords with a maintenance contract as would prove more economical than rental. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

CCTV

Tenders received had been considered by Finance Committee Network Vision were the chosen contractors to replace/monitor NTC. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Burial Charges

TC informed members that due to the amount of improvements being undertaken within our cemeteries, a small increase on burial fees is justified. It was resolved by Finance Committee members to increase these in line with TC suggestion. Also suggested we cease to provide Sanctum 2 Vaults as these are now very difficult to obtain due to the manufacturer discontinuing these. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

.....
Date

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

Amenity Fees 2017/18

TC suggested that all Vickersway Park charges remain unchanged. Whalley Road football field to be charged at the TC's discretion and allotment rental to be increased to £45 per annum due to the work carried out on the sites. Cllr. Illidge enquired as to the work carried out and was answered by TC. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Paddling Pool refurbishment

Three quotes received to complete the drawings and produce plans for the proposed works at the paddling Pool. Quotes were opened and discussed at Finance Committee meeting.

Cllr. Cooper asked regarding solar panels, and TC confirmed this is being looked at. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Special Expenses

Further to CWAC informing TC that a consultation has been launched, regarding the possible changes to the Special Expenses scheme addressing the issue of double taxation relating to play spaces, Christmas lighting and PCSO's. TC also in discussion with CWAC for NTC to take over play areas currently run by CWAC in the Northwich area, which would also affect the double taxation. It was resolved that TC arrange a meeting with David Sconce at CWAC to discuss Special Expenses and play area take over. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Stott. It was also suggested among members that Cllr. Jamieson will respond to the consultation. All in favour.

Approved

Chapel fees 2017/18

TC recommended that charges stay the same as last year, with the additional charge of £20 per hour for the first two hours to cover heating costs in the chapel. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour.

Approved

Outside contract rates

The hourly rate for Outside contract work is currently £24.50 which includes hourly wages cost, administration, tool & plant, fuel and transport costs.

Suggests this to remain the same enabling NTC to be competitive. Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Bowden. All in favour.

Approved

Rudheath Cemetery Rates 2017/18

Outside contract rates for Rudheath Cemetery have been assessed and increased slightly in line with our other cemetery fee increases. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour.

Approved

Town Gateway Signs

Town Gateway signs are situated at the entrance to towns and villages, and come in various designs. NTC has five entrances to Northwich which could accommodate these signs. TC recommends that costs and designs are obtained and funds used from the 2015/16 New Homes Bonus to purchase these signs. TC has already approached BID in relation to funding, and they have agreed they will contribute to costs.

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

Cllr. Illidge mentioned as we are twinned with Dole that this should be included on any signs. Cllr. Bowden disagreed with this, as the Twinning initiative has not been active for some years, but if reactivated, could be added to the signs at a later date. Cllr. Bowden also asked about designs. TC will provide designs to Amenities Committee and to Full Council members. All in favour. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Nelson.

Approved

Manchester Road Speed Restriction Measures

Members of the Finance Committee were shown images of the mitigation speed restriction sign that CWAC have suggested be installed on Manchester Road. Part of the funding for this would come from the New Homes Bonus of £4200. Members agreed speed restriction sign would be beneficial on Manchester Road and for £4200 to be put towards the cost. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper seconded by Cllr. Nelson. Cllr. Cooper welcomed this outcome, he had previously worked with Cllr. Dolan on this project. Cllr. Bowden asked regarding different designs. All in favour.

Approved

Capital Project Fund

Further to previous discussions in Finance, ATC and TC have set up new EMR Capital project heading. This enables various unused EMR project money to be moved to one EMR Capital Project for forthcoming projects (to be agreed by the Council) £38177 Capital Project heading is made up as follows:-

Match funding Cent/Vick £12562, Austin Street £2533, James Street £15472, Pedal Power £3000, Northwich Carnival £3000, Cycle Study £200, Easter Egg Hunt £400, Comm. Rail £261, paddling Pool Open Day £500, Danefield Playarea £149, PCSO's event £100. Committee approved this movement of funds. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/120 TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT2017-2018

TC read out the justification statement, as distributed among members prior to this meeting. We precept to Cheshire West and Chester Council for £508,158.00. This represents no increase, and TC advised it has been 5/6 years since the last increase. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/121 DANE VALLEY CEMETERY EXTENSION

TC read report previously distributed among members. This outlined the fact that in 2013 NTC took decision to extend Dane Valley cemetery to create a green burial site next to existing site. CWAC had the land available to purchase subject to meeting the legal costs. Planning applications were submitted, but later withdrawn due to the Environment Agency and CWAC raised concern regarding hedging and depth of burials. These issues later resolved Decision then was only one burial per plot due to position of the water table. CWAC required stock proof fencing and new gate to be installed at our expense as a condition of the sale. Sale was again stopped due to mapping following a boundary change. A revised increased cost for the sale was provided by CWAC. Taking all this into account, TC recommends that the sale does not proceed at this time. There is sufficient land at Dane Valley for burials for the next 40 years, within the existing cemetery, so would not affect any of our Bereavement Services. TC recommends that monies put aside for this sale be used to construct new toilet facilities within Vickersway Park before this summer. Visitors to the Park have commented that the toilets are very old and not safe due to their position. New facilities would be situated alongside the existing shop and be fully DDA compliant with baby changing facilities. Upon agreement from members, TC will provide plans to next Full Council meeting in February.. proposed by Cllr. S. Naylor, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All agreed.

Approved

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC 16/122 CWAC AND PARTNER CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Bowden advised he had attend HS2 presentation. Our task is to manage and influence construction in the interests of Northwich. There do not appear to be any immediate benefits, but lots of problems. Whilst under construction would have a knock on effect in the town. Consultation closing date is 9th March, and we need to do as much as possible to protect our residents in surrounding areas, and work with those Parish Councils to support. Cllr. Cooper added that the response should cover improvements to the Crewe line. Lso Warrington Borough Council want to see the existing line and HS2 terminal put towards Warrington. Cllr. Lawrenson mentioned the current problems with Gadbrook park, a railway line is needed into Gadbrook first. Cllr. Stott questioned the budget and surveys. There are copies of booklets obtained at the presentation meeting available at NTC offices. Cllr. Cooper suggested Cllr. Bowden writes a draft response and send to neighbouring Parish Councils. Cllr. Bowden suggested a meeting of a small group to discuss response at NTC over the next week or so. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Stott.

TC commented regarding the Homeless Provision – will report to Full Council. Consultation date in March, workshop dates provided by CWAC, but none in Northwich, These are stakeholder workshops, and Cllr. S. Naylor has agreed to attend.

Cllr. Cooper commented regarding Education Funding and explained how this works, and how distribution happens based on criteria. Taking into account, rural schools, high depravation areas, etc., the Government are proposing replacing with National funding. Based on personal calculations on local schools, Cllr. Cooper advised that all schools will lose out on funding, and in particular the High School at Leftwich will lose out substantially. In the south of England, schools appear to be getting increases. Larger cities such as Manchester, Liverpool and Wigan will all decrease. Consultation taking place. Cllr. S. Naylor echoed these concerns. Cllr. Bowden thanked Cllr. Cooper for his explanation and concerns, and further gave examples of his personal experience in his teaching career.

NTC 16/123 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Cllr. Cooper provided an update. A new PCSO covering Greenbank, and asked to do a joint surgery with him.

NTC 16/124 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 6th February, 2017 at 6.30 p.m..
Meeting closed at 20.45.

.....
Date

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