

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 2017

Present : Cllr K. Rimmer. – Town Mayor

Councillors :	D Bowden	A. Cooper	P. Dolan
	Miss S. Eastwood	M. Falzon	Mrs. G. Gough
Mrs. J. Storey	Mrs. J. Illidge	B. Jamieson	S. Kryger
	S. Naylor	Mrs. L. Nelson	Mrs. J. Storey
	A. Stott		

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

NTC 16/125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. D. Cooke, G.B. Cooke, Mrs. A. Gerrard, T. Lawrenson, P. Naylor, A. Dimelow , and T. Murphy.
Cllr. Rimmer informed member that Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard had attempted to come to the meeting but was sent home from our offices due to illness..

NTC 16/126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

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 and ChALC
Cllr. Storey declared an interest in any matters relating to Barnton Parish Council
Cllr. Jamieson declared an interest in any matters relating to ChALC & C.C.D.T.

NTC 16/127 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 16/128 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

4.1 That the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January, 2017, be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Jamieson. Approved and signed by the Mayor.

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Date

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Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC16/129 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note the Amenities Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12th January, 2017.
- 5.2 To note Small Grants Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 12th January, 2017..
- 5.3 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th January, 2017.
- 5.4 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th January, 2017.
- 5.5 To note Policy and Operations Review Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2017.

Cllr. Rimmer asked F&GP members in respect of emails sent to them in order to approve urgent payments, if they could respond to the request as soon as possible.

NTC16/130 TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

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

January, 2017

- 1. 10th Cheshire Best Kept Station, The Grange Theatre
- 2. 13th Country Court Care, Lostock Lodge Care Home.
- 3. 16th Scouts/Cub visit to Council Chambers
- 4. 19th Stewart Milne Homes, Launch of Show Homes, Hill Top Grange
- 5. 27th Women In Sheds launch. Age UK, Hartford.
- 6. 27^t Northwich Refuge Aid Bag Pack Lostock Gram (Dep. Mayor attending)

NTC16/131 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

TC reported on the following: -

Cemetery Wall

Part of the Cemetery wall has collapsed on the boundary edge of the Churchyard and Witton Cemetery. Report has been sent to our Insurance Company and have now obtained 3 quotes for the repair work. These will go forward to the next Finance Committee meeting for a decision. Cllr. Jamieson suggests a full inspection to be made of the wall.

Bond Street

We are in talks with KPMG LLP for the costs to purchase the land. They will Advise as soon as possible, but have advised us this whole process will not be quick

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United Utilities Meeting

Following on from site meeting there has been a vast improvement to the area. UU are in the process of finalising quotations to repair the windows in the building and will advise when this work is starting. Attended a site meeting with Inovyn in respect of the existing ICI Pump House. Discussions were around the potential use for this building, and an Amenities meeting will be arranged to discuss further.

Church Walk Paddling Pool

Plans now finalised for the new toilets and changing areas at the Paddling Pool. Official tenders for the work will be sent as soon as Planning permission is granted. Solar panels to be considered at a later date.

Vickersway Park

Plans have been received for the extension on the existing shop within Vickersway Park and these will be presented to the Amenities Committee for approval before being submitted. Amenities Committee meeting will be held on 17th February, at 4.30p.m. at NTC offices.

Outside Restroom

Outside staff room has now had a facelift. Walls repainted, replacement kitchen, new doors, soffits and fascia boards also been fitted. A vast improvement of facilities for the outside staff and has been received very favourably. Thanks to Pete Stanway for his hard work on completing this project.

Greenall Road

Lease now finalised for the triangle of land situated to the side of Greenall Road and the railway lines. NTC will now continue to maintain this area to a high standard to keep Anti - Social Behaviour reduced and monitored. Cllr. Jamieson considered if options could be looked at, maybe a running track round the perimeter.

Phonebox – defib

BT has advised that the ‘phone box outside the Penny Black public is still a viable box and usage is quite high. Therefore cannot be used for the siting of a defibrillator. An approach has been made to the Library with a view to installing one in a specialist box outside the building. They have welcomed this idea, and we are awaiting final confirmation due to the renovation of the building, and members will be updated on the outcome. TC also advised members that due to the Library is a Grade 2 listed building, this is also being referred to the Conservation Officer.

Liverpool Street Path

TC and Cllr. Armstrong recently attended the site. There has been ongoing issues with the path for some time. Fencing now in a very dangerous state and has been reported to Cheshire West and Chester Enforcement teams to take action, as the path is not a public right of way, or adopted, and they will take the necessary action moving forward. Members will be updated on the outcome.

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Northwich Railway Station

Still awaiting responses from Network Rail, Northern Rail and Carillion on their actions from our previous site visit to make necessary improvements to the station. TC is meeting with Sally Buttifant from the Community Rail Partnership to discuss what improvements can be made cosmetically and aesthetically to enhance the town gateway. Members will be updated with any progress. Cllr. Dolan mentioned there are still fundamental issues brought up previously including disability access, and appropriate signage still outstanding.

Interactive Sign – Manchester Road

Sign has now been ordered and will be installed shortly. A welcome addition to the area to encourage safer speeds for drivers. Thanks to Cllrs. Dolan and S. Naylor for supporting this with Members Budget contributions. Cllr. Jamieson considers that more traffic calming measures are needed, such as white lane markings, red 30 mph panels, bus stop panels and improved LED lighting. TC to discuss these issues with CWAC Highways.

Cenotaph Update

NTC has just learned today of the successful Grant funding applied for from National Heritage Fund. This to be used for refurbishment of the Cenotaph outside Witton Cemetery. The successful bid has amounted to £46,700. This was a great team effort from NTC staff.

Events

Artisan Market

The Artisan Market will once again take place on 11th February and the usual request. will be sent to members.

Mayors Charity Lunch

The Town Mayor will be holding a Charity Lunch on Sunday 12th March, 2017 at Hartford Hall. Invitations have been sent. Please RSVP to the office by 24th February if you would like to attend.

NTC 16/132 CHALC – CWLEP SEMINAR

Cllr. Bowden explained this is a Partnership enterprise along with Warrington and Cheshire East. Cllrs. Bowden and Jamieson attended this seminar and found it very good. Issues covered included the Northern Powerhouse, success with Business Improvement District (BID), relationships with Cheshire West and Chester Council with a view to bringing the Local Enterprise Partnership to the next level. This would deal with transport, employers, education and the viability of such a Partnership. The presentation given is available upon request. Cllr. Jamieson considered these a very good picture of the statistics available. Other issues raised were bus/rail links, particularly in rural areas .2017 will see LEP dealing with the Transportation Strategy, which could be incorporated with other Transport Strategies. Also the issue that of devolution – Warrington joining Cheshire East Council, and a decision on this is yet to be made.

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NTC 16/133 NTC RESPONSE TO HS2

Cllr. Jamieson attended a meeting with HS2 and CWAC. Asked regarding pre-2013 sustainability reports. Described the initial potential routes through Cheshire. Old salt mines, lime beds etc., not shown. The key features being looked at by HS2 include, agricultural land, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and conservation areas. Regarding maps available, these appear not to show underground mines or geological conditions. The new route proposed would see the possible demolition of new homes, lime beds and the movement of the A556. Considers the route in East Northwich is unsuitable. Cllr. Bowden questioned if the whole project is viable. A draft copy of a response was distributed among Members, and lists the main points of impact on Northwich area. The potential engineering and massive costs putting a large scale railway through unstable land. This will impact heavily on commuters in and out of Northwich, Gadbrook Park and the daily repairs being carried out continuously on arterial roads. This would mean years of disruption with major construction. Members are asked to send any comments on the draft response to NTC office, with the final version being presented at the next Full Council meeting. Cllr. Dolan thanked both Councillors for working on this issue. It was proposed by Cllr. Illidge and seconded by Cllr. Gough that the Town Clerk arranges a meeting with HS2 and CWAC to discuss the route selected east of Northwich. Cllr. Bowden suggested that the response is sent to all neighbouring Parish and Town Councils and any other outside bodies. Comments to the draft response should be sent by 20th February. A further meeting of the HS2 working party to be arranged to finalise response.

Resolved

NTC 16/134 NORTHWICH TOWN CENTRE CLEAN UP

On Friday 10th February, volunteers are required to meet and get into groups at Matalan. This is a joint initiative for this Give and Gain project. All equipment is provided. It is hoped the Clean Up will finish around 2.00 p.m.

NTC 16/135 NORTHWICH TRANSPORT STRATEGY

TC and Cllrs. Cooper and Stott attended Members Briefing last week. CWAC shared data collected during Autumn/Winter, still information gathering. Cllr. Jamieson suggested a working group to take up previous discussions and issues to be included in the Strategy, and prepare a response for the planned meeting of CWAC, NTC and neighbouring Parishes. Cllr. Rimmer asked for volunteers to join this sub-committee. Cllrs. Cooper, Jamieson, Stott, Rimmer and Eastwood agreed.

Resolved

NTC 16/136 RENESECENCE NORTHWICH LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (DONG ENERGY)

To note that a meeting is taking place at NTC offices on 7th February at 6.00 p.m.

NTC 16/137 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

Cllr. Cooper explained this full Review. Cllr. Jamieson attended a recent briefing. Timeline of September to March 2018 will determine position of Wards – all Northwich Wards are currently within CWAC boundaries. The Local Government Boundary Commission will decide any changes. Cllr. Jamieson explained our Wards can be complicated, and disproportionately represented. Consultation will be to Town and Parish Councils. Cllr. Cooper will work with a Member group to prepare the Councils response to the LGBC for England. Response will be considered at next Full Council Meeting.

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NTC 16/138 CWAC AND PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments from Members. Cllr. Rimmer spoke in respect of Declarations of Interest and reminded Members it is their responsibility to update as and when their circumstances change. Also made reference to the Disability Newsletter regarding parking issues, and the new technology that is proposed.

NTC 16/139 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Artisan Market did not take place last month.

PART B

In accordance with the Local Government Act – Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the following Agenda item is to be considered in the absence of press and public.

It was moved by Cllr. Stott and seconded by Cllr. Cooper that the meeting proceed into Part B.

All in favour.

[Please refer to Appendix No. 111](#)

NTC 16/141 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 6th March, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.
The meeting closed at 20.10.