

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 3rd APRIL, 2017

Present : Cllr K. Rimmer. – Town Mayor

Councillors : D Bowden P. Dolan Mrs. A Gerrard
 Miss S. Eastwood Mrs. G. Gough Mrs. J. Storey
Mrs. J. Storey Mrs. J. Illidge B. Jamieson T. Lawrenson
 Mrs. L. Nelson

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

NTC 16/166 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM AMIEE KUJAWA FROM P3 – PEOPLE, POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES

The speaker was welcomed by the Mayor and provided handouts explaining the Homeless project commissioned by CWAC in Northwich.. Offers help and support to Homeless persons, there being limited services currently 2 flats are now provided for the Homeless, with many suffering from various medical issues. The project wants to provide housing and employment in the future, and offer support as long as needed. So far 6 people have been housed. Cllr. Illidge asked how accommodation is funded. Properties are rentals and an effort is made to obtain housing benefits, and will offer assistance with Council Tax and rent. Tenants are responsible for paying utility bills. Most properties in Northwich consist of 1 and 2 bed homes. Aimee went on to explain how homeless are verified and how they prioritise. There are Multi-Agency stakeholders. Expected turnaround is 4/5 weeks in safe and secure accommodation, and is not for just one night. NTC have entered into a Homeless consultation and hope to integrate into this. It was confirmed this is a national organisation, and is actively looking for ‘Street Buddies’ volunteers, who will be trained, vetted and supported, and funded by CWAC. It was proposed by Cllr. Rimmer and seconded by Cllr. Eastwood that all relevant people with NTC do a joined up approach. All in favour. Aimee was thanked by the Mayor for her informative presentation.

NTC 16/167 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM SGT. K. DAVIES ON THE USE OF LAPTOPS

Sgt Davies was welcomed by the Mayor. Explained the use of electronic tablets which are provided to all Police Officers. within Cheshire. Benefits are numerous, cuts down paperwork for Officers, witness statements may be signed on screen. Data held is very secure and unlikely to be accessed if misplaced or stolen. There is further new technology becoming available including continuous filming by way of body cameras and smaller hand held devices. Evidence then captured. Cllr. Dolan asked in respect of the Homeless. Sgt. Davies agreed this is a difficult problem, and no accurate figures as to the population. Survey taken last year claimed 8-10, but it is thought higher than this. Electronic tablets have been in operation for under 12 months at present, and are effectively used for short periods. It is possible to plug them into larger monitors at the Station for more comfortable use. Sgt. Davies was thanked by the Mayor.

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Date

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Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC 16/168 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. D. Cooke. G.B. Cooke, A. Cooper, S. Naylor, P. Naylor, A. Dimelow , S. Kryger, T. Murphy, M. Falzon and A. Stott.

NTC 16/169 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 CWAC and Rudheath Parish Council

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

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

Cllr. Mrs. Gerrard declared An interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council

NTC 16/170 OPEN FORUM

Cllr. Armstrong addressed Members regarding the merger of Mid Cheshire College with Warrington College. CWAC is keen for a merger between the 2 colleges, and is needed by Mid Cheshire to progress quickly to secure its future. College Governors are also keen for the merger which should be achieved by August. It will fill the needs and keep Further Education for Northwich. NTC will support the merger with the consultation which is available. Cllr. Bowden commented it is really essential for town growth, employers and businesses. Cllr. Armstrong would like a joint response from NTC and also from individuals. Surveys were provided to Members. Cllr. Bowden further asked if courses on offer will be at one or both Colleges. Higher level courses will have specialisation. There will be some travelling, but will be of benefit to Students. There will be one Principal over both Colleges, who has already been appointed at Warrington, and one governing body, of which some will be existing Governors of Mid Cheshire, and have no doubt will have the backing of NTC to support. Cllr. Jamieson proposed to support merger, and was seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour. Cllr. Armstrong was thanked by the Mayor.

NTC 16/171 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

6.1 That the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6th March, 2017, be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. It was noted that the railway was not closed for cleaning as stated last month. TC will follow up this issue. A member asked regarding the matter of past Mayor's medals and would prefer if the current Mayor/Deputy Mayor would present these personally at the past Mayor's home rather than send out through the post if they are unable to attend the AGM.. Proposed by Cllr. Illidge, seconded by Cllr. Jamieson Approved and signed by the Mayor.

NTC16/172 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

7.1 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st March, 2017. Cllr. Jamieson proposed that TC reviews the policy of the Mayor's travel. This was seconded by Cllr. Bowden.

7.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21st March, 2017.

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NTC16/173 TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor informed members that he had attended the following events during March

1. 1st Greenbank School
2. 8th Comberbach Primary School
3. 12th Charity lunch at Hartford Hall
4. 17th The Grange Theatre – production.
5. 17th Relate, Cheshire and Merseyside 60’s Charity Concert (Dep. Mayor attending)
6. 25th Cheshire Cycle Hire Opening at Blakemere Craft Centre.
7. 27th Rotary Club Northwich 94th Charter Dinner, Vale Royal Abbey.
8. 30th Cheshire Autism Practical Support Art Exhibition

It should also be noted that Town Mayor Cllr. Kevin Rimmer was presented at his Charity Lunch with an Award from one of his chosen Charities – Cheshire Without Abuse as follows:-

In the extraordinary support category

Going the extra mile in the support of vulnerable families at Phoenix House Northwich’

The Town Mayor commented that this award raises the profile of Northwich. Invites have been extended to the Mayor to join two local organisations. Cllr. Jamieson thanked the Mayor for the work he has done and congratulated him on the award he received.

NTC16/174 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

TC reported on the following: -

Vickersway Park and Church Walk Paddling Pool Shops

3 new members of staff have been taken on to work alongside the 2 members of staff from last year to work in the shops for this season. We have left the advert for staff open, as we feel we may need extra staff over the summer. The staff will receive full training once the shops are open.

Phonebox – Defib

We Are looking for alternative locations in town. We will approach the premises involved and report back with update for next Full Council. TC asked if any Councillors know of suitable shops. Cllr. Dolan asked why refused Penny Black – this kiosk is still in use. The reason Boots refused is unknown. Cllr. Nelson commented regarding Pocket Park for a location.

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**Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor**

CWAC – Town Centre

The Town Centre cleansing has now fully transferred to NTC. This is being achieved with secondment of 2 operatives from CWAC who come under our direct management. This is a joint initiative between NTC, CWAC and the BID and emphasises once again the great working relationship that all 3 organisations have with each other. The 2 CWAC members of staff have settled well into their roles and working well within the team.

Contracts

We have been successful in winning further contracts for our services to local Parishes, such as Norley and Frodsham, and are awaiting a further 2 to confirm. Services that will be undertaken at these locations will include Park Inspections, grass cutting and hanging baskets.

CCTV

Work has commenced on the upgrading of the CCTV within the cemetery, and should be completed within 2 weeks.

Staff Courses and Training

Staff recently attended a Pool Plant Operation course to enable them to safely maintain the Paddling Pool in the summer. Mike Kirton has passed Operational Inspection of Play areas and also attended a Cherry Picking course.

Peter Stanway also attended the Cherry Picker course with Mike and are now both competent in using this equipment on a variety of contract work.

Steph Astbury has completed the Transfer of Ownership Cemetery course. TC and Theresa have attended the National Association of Civic Officers course in Derbyshire.

All staff are fully up to date with First Aid which will be renewed when required.

Events

Artisan Market

Will be held on Saturday 8th April. We shall be promoting the Tour Series event and will have a Watt Spin Bike on site which will be used as a competition to beat the fastest time. Matt Nowell, a competitor in the event, and who lives locally is thrilled to promote this event, and will set the time. The winner will receive 2 V.I.P. tickets for the Tour Series.

Mayor's Charity Lunch

Was held on Sunday 12th March at Hartford Hall. This was very well attended and enjoyed by all and raising approx. £490 for his chosen charities. The Mayor commented that excellent feedback was received and wished to thank the team but especially to Steph for organising the raffle and auction prizes.

Newsletter

This is currently being drafted by the office. It hoped to be published in May.

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**Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor**

Park Run

TC advised the Park Run concept, and would like to see the Park Run come to Northwich. Cost will be £6,000 to set up. TC participated in the 5k Delamere Park Run recently. Cllr. Bowden enquired as to the route. Carey Park is being considered as would be ideal for all standard of runners. Cllr. Dolan agreed and fully supports any initiative that is family friendly. The Park Run would take place every Saturday and is free to enter. Cllr. Rimmer asked for volunteers to assist where possible from Councillors. Cllr. Bowden commented the focus on staff training giving the opportunity of a high level of skills, and congratulated TC on keeping everything going, staff at the office are always busy. It was proposed by Cllr. Eastwood and seconded by Cllr. Jamieson.

Approved

NTC 16/175 CREDIT UNION NORTHWICH CLOSURE

Councillors to decide that funds originally for the Credit Union go back into budget, as the Northwich branch is now closed. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

Approved

NTC 16/176 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Asset Register** - Cllr. Jamieson moved to accept recommendations, seconded by Cllr. Lawrenson All in favour.

Approved

- **Financial Risk assessment** - Cllr. Jamieson moved to accept recommendations, seconded by Cllr. Lawrenson All in favour.

Approved

- **Financial Regulations** – Cllr. Jamieson moved to accept recommendations but commented on section 4, all items over £5,000, should read 'everything approved at Finance, accepted at Full Council' needs to be reworded. Seconded by Cllr. Nelson with changes made. All in favour.

Approved

- **Internal Audit Report** – Cllr. Jamieson moved to approve, and seconded by Cllr. Lawrenson. All in favour.

Approved

- **Paddling Pool refurbishment** - £54,200 will be met from Capital fund. Cllr. Rimmer commented on the major investment already, and this will finish it off. Cllr. Jamieson moved to accept, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 16/177 NORTHWICH TOUR SERIES 12TH MAY 2017

Members already received details of the Tour Series prior to this meeting, which gave details of times, places and specific race events. VIP area available with limited number of tickets. Northwich will also host the Summer Extravaganza within the Town Centre. Victoria Car Park will have a fairground along with food and drinks. Signal Radio will be presenting 'live' for much of the day, and live music from 2.00 p.m. -9.00 p.m. This will be a massive event not only for the town and residents, but for businesses and visitors. Regular updates will be sent to members leading up to the event

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NTC 16/178 NORTHWICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In the absence of Cllr. Cooper, Cllr. Bowden gave an update. The Plan and supporting documents are currently being scrutinized at CWAC, to ensure it meets legal requirements. Consultation to follow, which will lead to a Referendum for residents to give us their development plan. They will then have a real say and make decisions. If the Referendum gets a 'yes', any further Planning will have to refer to the N.N.P. Well over 100 people have been actively involved along the way. Cllr. Rimmer commented that he has spoken to a lot of people whose enthusiasm is unparalleled.

NTC 16/179 CWAC AND PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Jamieson summarised as follows:-

Business Rates – causing significant problems for businesses. It was suggested that TC writes to Brian Clarke, Cabinet Member.

Electoral Reform – Members noted this report, and it was suggested by Cllr. Jamieson that NTC respond to the Local Government Boundary Review for England public consultation on the Warding arrangements before cut off date 5th June.

New Bus Service - will commence on Friday and Saturday evenings from Winsford to Northwich.

Speed enforcement – It was suggested that TC arrange a meeting with Insp. Dave Snasdell regarding the creation of a Speed Awareness campaign in Northwich. There is a need to work with the Police, and introduce better signage. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

Public Health – Cllr. Dolan noted the correspondence and added it is important to promote physical exercise. There is reduced funding to Public Health, with the challenge of doing more with less funding. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned one of his Mayoral visits to ChAPS who work with those suffering from Autism. They offer workshops and training sessions. He has asked the organisers to come and speak at a future full Council meeting.

Parish Precept – Noted that the Government has decided not to extend council tax referendum principles to any size of parish or town council for the 2017/18 financial year.

NTC 16/180 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Councillors attending were asked about Northwich Neighbourhood Plan. Barons Quay and in particular the Cinema, received very complimentary comments.

NTC 16/181 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 2nd May, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.
The meeting closed at 20.10

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**Cllr Kevin Rimmer
Town Mayor**

