

**NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Present** : Cllr Mrs. J. Myerscough-Illidge – Town Mayor

Councillors	:	D. Bowden	A Cooper	Miss S Eastwood
		Mrs. D. Cooke	B. Cooke	Mrs. A. Gerrard
		T Lawrenson	P. Naylor	S. Kryger
		T Murphy	S Naylor	Mrs. L Nelson
		K. Rimmer		

Also present: Liza Clansey                      Assistant Town Clerk/Registrar  
                  Theresa Cash                     Council Secretary/Mayor's P.A.

**NTC 17/32    PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYORS MEDALS**

Mr Richard Merrit received a past Mayor's medal on behalf of Mrs. Mary Merrit.  
Mr Glyn Bull received a past Mayor's medal on behalf of Mrs. Mel Slater.  
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Alison Gerrard then presented a past Mayor's medal to the current Town Mayor who accepted this on behalf of her Father Mr. Doug Myerscough who has recently passed away.

**NTC 17/33    PRESENTATION OF GRANTS AWARDS**

Following a meeting of the Grants Committee, the following organisations received their Grant award Cheques:-  
Rotary Club of Nrthwich  
Age UK Castle Community Centre  
Cheshire Community Development Trust  
MRBURY Park Swimming Pool  
Northwich Centurions Swimming Club  
Active Cheshire  
Northwich Community Festival  
Bostock Band  
Northwich Cricket Club  
Leftwich Community Primary School  
Northwich Rowing Club.

Cllr. S. Naylor thanked the recipients for all that they do for the communities that benefit from their projects. Well done.

**NTC 17/32    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs., A. Dimelow, P. Dolan, Mrs G, Gough, B. Jameson, A. Stott, Mrs. J. Storey and M. Falzon

**Date**.....

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**Cllr Mrs. J. Myerscough-Illidge**  
**Town Mayor**

**NTC 17/34    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

Cllr T Lawrenson declared an interest in matters relating to CWAC and Rudheath Parish Council  
 Cllr. Mrs. Gerrard declared an interest in matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council  
 Cllr. A. Cooper declared an interest in any matters relating to Victoria Road School.  
 Cllr. K. Rimmer declared an interest in any matters relating to Greenbank School.  
 Cllrt. S. Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to CWAC. AND Sir John Deane’s College.

**NTC 17/35    OPEN FORUM**

A member of the public wished to speak regarding a matter in relation to the choice of Headstones to be erected on a specific area in Witton Cemetery, and the Council rules surrounding these. The speaker explained this matter had already been taken up with the Assistant Town Clerk who had explained the stipulations. The Town Clerk has also written to Mr. Plumb reiterating the current rules. Cllr. Cooper thanked the speaker for coming and confirmed he will be notified in writing of the decision the Council makes on this issue.

**NTC 17/36    SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

6.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2017, be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer , seconded by Cllr Nelson.. Approved. Minutes signed by the Mayor.

**NTC17/37    REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- 7.1 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 These were noted by Cllr. Rimmer
- 7.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. These were noted by Cllr. Cooper, who commented on the Dane Valley development, a large submission is currently with CWAC.
- 7.3 To note Grants Committee meeting held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017. These were noted by Cllr. Nelson
- 7.4 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. These were noted by Cllr. Rimmer.
- 7.5 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. These were noted by Cllr. Cooper.

Date.....

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**Cllr Mrs. J. Myerscough-Illidge**  
**Town Mayor**

**NTC17/38 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor informed members of the events she has attended during July and August

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Northwich Carnival	Official Opening of the Carnival at Verdin Park.
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Visual Arts Cheshire	Opening of the Art Trail The Plaza Ex Cinema. Visual Arts Cheshire is a Community Interest Company (CIC) entirely run by volunteers. The event ran from the whole of July.
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	146 Northwich SQN ATC	Graduation of 60 entry FCTC Course
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Neuromuscular Centre - Winsford	Open Day Celebration at this Centre of Excellence for people with muscular dystrophy. Located at its Winsford site since 1990.
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> July	St Wilfrid's Church - Davenham	Service of contemplation and honouring our Emergency Services
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Northwich Town Council	Town Mayor Civic Parade & Service
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Knutsford Town Council	Knutsford Mayors Tapas Charity Evening
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> July	St Luke's Hospice	Mayor's chosen visit to one of her Charities
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Northwich Town Council	Community Fun Weekend at Vickersway Park
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Winsford Grange Care Home	Presentation of Past Mayors medal to Cllr B Cooke
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mid Cheshire Railway	Launch of the Mid Cheshire Iconic Railway Posters at Lion Salt Works
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Northwich Rotary Club	Northwich River Festival
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mike Amesbury M.P	Official opening of Constituency Office of Weaver Vale M.P. in Runcorn.
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Big Soul Productions	Never Forgotten Concert at Winnington to support the killed and injured victims of the Manchester bombing
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Lord Mayor of Chester	Charity evening at Chester Town Hall. **Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Alison Gerrard attended**
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	National Citizen Service	NCS Graduation. To celebrate and recognise the achievements of the young people and how much they have accomplished over a 4 week period.

Mayor passed comments in respect of the Mid Cheshire Railway and the River Festival which were a great success. One of the iconic railway posters was presented and signed by the Artist to the Mayor which will be framed and hung in the offices of NTC.  
Also mentioned the Mayor's first Charity raising evening at Kanya on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Invites to follow.

Date.....

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Cllr Mrs. J. Myerscough-Illidge  
Town Mayor

**New Table Tennis Table**

The installation of the new Table tennis table within Vickersway park is now complete and is proving very popular to visitors to the Park.

**New Parasols**

Parasols now installed at the Paddling Pool at Church Walk to give some much needed shade to all that use this facility.

**New benches and Picnic tables**

3 new benches have been installed in Vickersway Park along with 2 new picnic benches at the Paddling Pool. These are all recycled plastic so will give many years of life without the need of any maintenance other than a deep clean once a year.

**Give and Gain**

A further Give and Gain took place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August across 3 areas in Castle and Greenbank. Thanks to all who attended and gave support on the day. Also thanks to Cllrs. Parkes and Kaur for their financial contribution from their Members Budget.

**Northwich and Greenbank Railway Tidy up**

Working in partnership with Network Rail, Carillion and Northern Rail, we undertook a deep clean of both stations on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Works included a litter pick of the tracks, removal of vegetation from the platforms, painting and general tidy up of the stations. We had some really good comments from Rail users after the clean. Thanks to everyone that took part and this proves that good partnership working is the key to improving areas of the town.

**Liverpool Street Garages**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, work will commence on the removal of the garages and associated fly-tipping at Liverpool Street. This project is being funded by NTC, CWAC and Rudheath and Witton Together (RWT) and Members Budgets. We re also working with local residents and RWT to try and form a 'Friends of Group' to take some responsibility for this area. Initial communication have been good with residents coming forward with their own ideas.

**Speed sign, Manchester Road**

This is now installed and was funded by NTC with 50% contributions from Cllrs. S. Naylor and P. Dolan. Highways have been asked to trim back the trees on this approach as these are slightly obscuring the view of the sign.

**Summer Bedding and Hanging Baskets**

The summer bedding in Northwch this year ha been the best yet with owehr 120 hanging baskets and railing baskets giving a wonderful display around the town. These additional baskets have been funded by the BID with a contribution from NTC. This is additional to our existing Park and Cemetery bedding displays that also look fantastic. A huge thanks to all NTC staff who work on these areas

**Date.....**

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**Cllr Mrs. J. Myerscough-Illidge  
Town Mayor**

## Events

### Civic Sunday

The new Town Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. Janet Myerscough-Illidge held her Civic Sunday Parade and Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. This was very well attended by Dignitaries, Scouts and Cadets, in addition to Councillors, family and friends. Following the Service afternoon tea and cakes were served outside our Condate Rooms in summer sunshine. The Mayor will agree it was a great day enjoyed by all.

### River Festival

Took place on the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>&13<sup>th</sup> August. Attractions included Dragon Boat racing, rowing Regatta, Funfair and much more. Very positive feedback received and thanks must go to the Rotary Club and volunteers for putting on yet another event within the town.

### Community Fun Weekend

Was a huge success yet again with many families flocking to the Park. We were also blessed with good weather on the whole. Saturday saw many charity and organisations having stalls, and from the feedback received they raised more than £100 each for their respective charities and are looking forward to next year. All in all another great event enjoyed by the whole community.

### Artisan Market/Council Surgery

The next Artisan market will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. In the past a request for Members has been sent out for them to select their own slot. This has resulted in the stall being unattended at times due to 2 Councillors having chosen the same slot. This has resulted in comments from residents visiting the stall and finding no Councillors. It is preferred now if the following slots for Council Surgery can be agreed at Full Council.

10.00 - 11.00 Cllr. T. Murphy  
11 .00 – 12.00 Cllr. S. Naylor  
12.00 - 13.00 Cllr. Eastwood  
13.00 - 14.00 Cllr. Illidge

### McMillan Coffee Morning

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, we shall be holding a coffee morning at Vickersway Park. All are welcome and if anyone is a keen baker and would like to donate a cake we would be most grateful. A worthy cause to help raise funds.

Date.....

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Town Mayor

## **Christmas Extravaganza**

Plans are well underway for the 2017 Christmas Extravaganza which will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November within the town centre. The light switch on and fireworks and will again take place on the library steps. Updates to members nearer the time with details of all activities. Cllr. S. Naylor commented that we need to promote the Barons Quay area, Suggested that before finalising to have discussions with CWAC to include the location. Also if NIRA could become involved. NTC have already looked at putting lighting there. Barons Quay gets handed over to CWAC in October . Cllr. S. Naylor further commented that it is vital that we work with other Organisers to put on some event. Cllr. Rimmer commented that anything done will not stop negative comments received in relation to Barons Quay as a whole, but agreed with Cllr. Naylor's suggestion.

Cllr. Rimmer referred to the recent Give and Gain initiative at the Railway Stations. Toilet facilities urgently needed. Liverpool Street Garages, there is a plan in place.

Cllr. Cooper referred to Give and Gain with the three transformed in Castle. Thanked Cllr. Parkes. Speed sign on Manchester Road. Thanked Cllrs. S. Naylor and P. Dolan for their part funding. Asked regarding the Verdin Park consultation. There was no update given at this time. Suggested an Amenities Committee meeting takes place – will refer this to Town Clerk.

## **NTC 17/40 NORTHWICH RAILWAY STATION CAR PARKING CHARGES**

Regarding the proposed charges for parking at Northwich station from the end of September, Cllr. Rimmer considers the surrounding streets will be congested with parking. This could be a repeat of the Hartford Railway station and parking in nearby streets. Cllr. Cooper agrees this is a good point regarding displacement. Referred to a recent planning refusal due to inadequate parking. Cllr. Cooper attends a meeting with Mid Cheshire Rail Partnership over the next week and will relay our concerns with the practical issues – no alternative parking and will create problems in residential streets. It was proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Rimmer that NTC should write formally to Arriva. Further highlighted problems with Northwich station regarding disabled access, and poor state of trains. Cllr. Murphy considers the expense put on lower paid workers who rely on trains to get them to work. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned about smaller stations, will they be next to bring in charging. Taxpayers will have to bear the cost of implementing. Cllr. Nelson mentioned potential damage to vehicles. Parking restrictions in the form of double yellow lines are being introduced in Hartford to alleviate the problem. Cllr. Cooper asked about volunteers that work in the Samaritans office and their need to park over a 24 hour period. These additional issues will be relayed back to the meeting mentioned above. Cllr. Cooper further offered to assist with the content of the letter. All in favour.

**Resolved.**

## **NTC 17/41 NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCILLORS ENGAGEMENT**

Cllr Cooper has been approached by a resident who would prefer to find out what goes on through Social Media. Many Councillors don't get involved with answering their questions. Asked if Coucillors can inform residents in this way. Recognised the fact there is a lot of negativity on a range of issues online. Considers we don't engage enough to help keep people informed. Asking members to get involved and change people's views and opinions.

Date.....

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**Cllr Mrs. J. Myerscough-Illidge**  
**Town Mayor**

Cllr. Rimmer agreed,, but added that care needs to be exercised, and perhaps this should be trialed and serve community. It is right we respond to genuine requests. Cllr. Cooper added we should respect feelings, but engage and become involved. There are a large number of various groups within Northwich on Facebook, the majority of whom are genuine people. Cllr. S Naylor commented that some people have little knowledge about tiers of Government. We would not wish to appear aloof and disinterested. Need to set rules of engagement. Cllr. P. Naylor agreed with engagement but suggested it needs to be NTC on social media and not individual members. Cllr. Cooper further commented that our responsibilities as elected members are community based, and should all be verifiable. Not to express our own opinions. Town Mayor asked if we need to for a Group to take this idea forward. Cllr. S Naylor pointed out we need to have guidelines for members. Cllr. Bowden Agreed the principal is good and we have a massive obligation to give information and clarify where possible. There are lots of issues brought to the Artisan, not in particular a NTC matter, but more than willing to look at questions and formulate responses within a formal structure within the council. Cllr. S. Naylor has agreed to contact CWAC regarding their social media policy. This was proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Rimmer. All in favour.

**Resolved**

**NTC 17/42 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS**

In respect of Annual Insurance, details of which had been distributed among Members prior to this meeting. The decision was taken at the last Finance and General Purposes meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Gerrard. All in favour.

**Approved**

**NTC 17/43 LOCAL COUNCILLOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017**

Members to consider submitting an application for categories as advised Cllr. Cooper suggested a Policy and Operations Meeting to consider the additional category which covers Outstanding Service – Clerk. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

**Resolved**

**NTC 17/44 TO NOTE RESPONSE TO SIR JOHN DEANE’S COLLEGE CONSULTATION**

The Town Mayor commented that all credit must go to Cllr. Bowden who constructed the letter, which has been distributed among members. SJD proposes to become an Academy Trust. There is significant pressure to become Academies. Also spent time with members of staff and Cllr. Cooper, discussing their interests in education, values and support schools. The letter has contained requirement to keep local. Thanks extended to Cllr. Bowden from the Mayor.

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Town Mayor**

**NTC 17/45    OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. Murphy attended a recent meeting at the Lostock Energy Plant regarding the new Incinerator. This will take over the skyline in Lostock Gralam due to its huge size. Demolition has begun on existing buildings., and this will be a massive project just to get the site ready. Will take approx. four and a half years to complete. It was hoped to get together a liaison committee, but no representatives from CWAC attended. The volume of HGV's will increase, and the plant will be similar to one in Runcorn. Cllr. Cooper added this is a Waste Management issue – the U.K. exports waste to Denmark for disposal. Cllr. Nelson added that Environmental Health should monitor the air quality. Cllr. Lawrenson commented the issue is not the building, but access to it, and considers it will cause chaos on the surrounding roads. Cllr. Bowden with Cllr. Murphy will attend the liaison group. It is our responsibility to feed back our concerns. Meetings will take place every three months or so. Will update to members.

Cllr. S. Naylor attended the Mid Chesire Development Board at which he represented both CWAC and NTC. Objective of ours is to deliver and get a running track on Hartford campus

**NTC 17/47    TO NOTE UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAINING COURSES**

Members have been advised of these previous to this meeting.

**NTC 1748    CWAC & PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE**

Regarding the Police and Crime Commissioners correspondence, Cllr. Cooper would like to respond to ask David Keane (PCC) the situation of Policing in our town.

**NTC 17/49    DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Cllr. B. Cooke and Cllr. Mrs. D. Cooke left the meeting at 7.35 p.m.  
Date of the next meeting will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

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**Date**

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**Cllr Mrs. Janet Myerscough-Illidge  
Town Mayor**