

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2017

Present :

Councillors :	D. Bowden	A Cooper	Miss S Eastwood
	B. Jamieson	P. Dolan	M. Falzon
	T Lawrenson	A. Stott	K. Rimmer
	S Naylor	Mrs. L Nelson	

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

Prior to this meeting started, as both the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor were absent, it was proposed by Cllr. Jamieson and seconded by Cllr. Bowden that Cllr. Rimmer Chair this meeting.

NTC 17/50 PRESENTATION FROM IAN DAVID REGARDING NORTHWICH EVENTS

Mr David was introduced to members by Cllr. Rimmer. Has returned recently to Northwich having a background working in Events Management. Has supported the Rotary Club with their River and Beer Festivals. His initiative is to encompass Northwch, Winsford and Middlewich. Event planning delivery with the use of volunteers, other stakeholders and to engage with NTC. Create a possible working group. Cllr. Dolan mentioned the Bright Lights initiative in Cheshire. Cllr. Bowden thanked Mr David for information given, and went on to say the majority of comments from residents is negative. There is a need to show awareness and positivity Mr David commented that Social Enterprise can be purely voluntary. Cllr. Jamieson listed the many public events that take place in Northwich Cllr. Rimmer asked that NTC are kept informed of progress, and spoke about the many difficulties in recruiting volunteers, but thanked Mr. David for his presentation.

NTC 17/51 PRESENTATION OF GRANTS AWARDS

Cllr. Rimmer presented the following organisations with cheques awarded following a recent Grants Committee meeting.

Northwch Mini League
Greenbank School
Charles Darwin Primary School
Northwich Running Club.

Each representative gave an update to Members on how they are using their Grant.

NTC 17/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs., B. Cooke, Mrs. D. Cooke, A. Dimelow, Mrs. A. Gerrard, Mrs G, Gough, Mrs. J. Myerscough-Illidge, S. Kryger, T. Murphy, P. Naylor and Mrs. J. Storey.

Date.....

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Cllr K. Rimmer

NTC 17/53 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. K. Rimmer declared an interest in any matters relating to Greenbank School.
 Cllr. S. Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to CWAC .and Sir John Deane’s College.
 Cllr. P. Dolan declared an interest in any matters relating to CWAC.
 Cllr. Falzon declared an interest in any matters relating to Barnton Parish Council

NTC 17/54 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 17/55 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

6.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th September, 2017, be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper , seconded by Cllr Nelson.. Approved. All in favour. Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.
 Cllr. Naylor advised regarding Social Media issue raised at last meeting. Has obtained advice rom CWAC and ChALC and said members should keep in touch with Town Clerk. Cllr. Jamieson asked if TC can give relevant information.

NTC17/56 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 7.1 To note Policy and Operations Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September, 2017 These were noted by Cllr Jamieson
- 7.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th September, 2017. These were noted by Cllr. Rimmer who queried if WVHT was the same entity as Weaver Horizons, and to clarify this in the minutes.
- 73 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th September, 2017. Cllr. Stott explained to members that due to the CWAC Planning online portal being out of commission, the Planning Committee were unable to view most of the Planning applications. It was decided by the Committee to rearrange a further date to consider Plans. However, Cllr. Stott noted these minutes.
- 7.4 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 25th September, 2017. These were noted by Cllr. Stott. It was noted also by Cllr. Stott that the Committee passed over the development plans for Watling Street, due to a meeting taking place in 2 days time with the Developers, It is hoped as many Councillors as possible will attend.

Cllr. Jamieson spoke briefly regarding the Mersey Forest questionnaire which he has completed and returned to Mersey Forest. Some of the areas are in a poor state and asks if the TC can arrange a meeting with Paul Nolan of MF to discuss proposals. Cllr. Cooper thanked Cllr. Jamieson for completing the forms, contents were discussed, and suggested timescales for the meeting would likely take place in the New Year. All in favour.

Resolved

Date.....

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Cllr K. Rimmer**

NTC17/57 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended the following events during September 2017

10th September	Middlewich Town Council	Civic Service
15th September	Winsford Salt Fair	Narrowboat Parade Deputy Mayor Cllr. Alison Gerrard attended
17th September	Royal Air Force Association	77th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain held at St Helen's and the Cenotaph Deputy Mayor Cllr. Alison Gerrard attended
22nd September	Northwich and NVR Rotary Clubs	Official opening of the 24th Annual Northwich Beer Festival. Deputy Mayor Cllr. Alison Gerrard attended

Cllr. Rimmer Thanked the Deputy Mayor for her support to the Mayor, and also to Assistant Town Clerk Liza Clansey for how well she handled the last full Council meeting in the absence of the Town Clerk.

NTC17/58 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Liverpool Street Garages

Working in partnership with CWAC, Rudheath and Witton Together and local members, we have now demolished all garages and removed all rubbish from this site. Area has been blighted by fly tipping, ASB and drug taking. Among the items removed were a garage full of empty beer bottles, over 350 used syringes, asbestos, beds, fridges, cookers and even a small boat. A meeting will be held to discuss next steps and it is hoped a residents association will be formed to ensure that this area develops into a community space.

During the clean up it was noticed that fly tipping was beginning to build up at the bottom of James Street, where a barrier had been removed enabling people access to the site. Land owner has been contacted who is aware and is putting in a plan of works to make good the site. Cllr. Jamieson mentioned this area, and valued the support from Ward Councillors, Lawrenson and Armstrong for the clean up. Cllr. Dolan asked if we could alert the Health Authority regarding the syringes. TC to ask for follow up regarding the fly tipping.

Verdin Park Consultation

Saturday 30th September, consultation took place for the community to put forward their ideas regarding the redevelopment of Verdin Park. Ove the last 5 years we have upgraded all NTC parks to a very high standard, and Verdin Park will be the biggest project that will be undertaken over the next 5 years. TC and Steph attended for the Consultation and it was a productive day. Cllr. Cooper suggested this is followed up at the next Artisan. Cllr. Jamieson thanked Steph and Cllr. Dolan for delivering leaflets, and Cllr. S. Naylor thanked Northwich Guardian for highlighting this.

Date.....

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Cllr K. Rimmer

Yarwood Close Play Area Consultation

Currently conducting a small consultation with residents on Yarwood Close regarding the small play area near the River. Limited equipment due to the size of area. Have leaflet dropped to residents to ask for their ideas as to what they would like to see. Perhaps just a general refurbishment, as funds for the project are limited. Feedback will be presented to Amenities Committee for discussion and forward planning. Cllr. Jamieson asked for a list of our Play areas and improvements made.. NTC is still in discussion with CWAC as to taking over the Play areas they currently have in Northwich. All areas should be done to a high standard. Cllr. S. Naylor mentioned Saxons Lane. He will speak to Localities Officer in order that CWAC Ward Councillors are kept updated with progress. Cllr. Rimmer was unhappy that his own area, Greenbank residents were not included , and would have liked Members of the Committee of Greenbank Hub to be involved. Cllr. Dolan added that he will also feedback this point, and that if the community buy into this, it would be looked after.

Town Centre Defibrillators

Following our first installation of a 24 hour accessible defibrillator outside High Street Barbers, have now obtained a cost to install 2 more in other town centre locations. Plans are to install in the Bull Ring area, and close to M&S. The defibrillator already installed was accessed a couple of weeks ago, fortunately did not have to be used, but illustrated that the community are aware of the device and comments received as to how easy it was to access and use. Total cost for 2 defibrillators will be £3440 plus VAT, and cost will be met by contributions from Members Budgets of £550, The remaining £2890 will be split 3 ways between NTC, Savills and the BID at a cost of £964 each. The Rotary Club have also agreed to contribute £500. Members happy to proceed with this initiative. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved.

Subway Art Project

NTC have been looking at improving the appearance of the subway for a number of years. The current Town Mayor has asked if this could be considered again during the next 12 months to see if this could be moved forward. One idea is to wrap the subway walls with vinyl to create a welcoming space. Local schools would create pictures on vinyl, each of whom would receive a chosen landmark or attraction. NTC is currently working with 26 schools to take part. Funding will be by way of an application to Awards For All once we have received quotes. Cllr. Jamieson asked if the lighting is adequate – this has already been looked at. Cllr. Cooper moved that this is taken into account when the budget is set. Initiative proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved.

Church Walk Paddling Pool and Vickersway Park

Paddling Pool has now been closed for the winter, and will be drained down completely over the next few weeks to protect the pumps and outside fittings. Vickersway will remain open for a limited time until after the October break.

Hanging Baskets and Planters

Hanging baskets and planters will be removed from the town centre over the next 2 weeks. They have looked stunning over the summer and have given a real burst of colour. Cllr. Jamieson remarked that the displays did look very lovely and thanked NTC for their work this year.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer**

Northwich Cenotaph Refurbishment

Work to be undertaken will include, cleaning and repointing the Cenotaph, repairing or replacing the damaged copings and resetting the Marble plaques into new railings. The Cenotaph was first unveiled on 8th July, 1925, so has been subject to almost 100 years of weathering. Thanks to a Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund these works will commence week beginning 13th November following this years' Remembrance Service. The works should be completed by Christmas, and therefore will be ready for next years' service marking the end of the Great War. Conditions around receiving the Grant include creating a community project surrounding this. Witton Walk School are keen to be involved having started this topic this school year. Help from Carolyn Shepherd, and local historians, Tony Bostock and Alan Lowe will bring alive the memory of the soldiers who fought in both World Wars. Meetings are ongoing all this year with Chester Records Office. The aim is to create something at the end of the project which will be displayed in town, and potentially for use at future Remembrance Services. Children will also be involved in the planting, as well as learning about different aspects of the Wars, playing their part in the transformation.

Steph presented facts to Members present. Cllr. Cooper thanked Steph for the hard work she has put into the project, well done. A credit for her hard work and enthusiasm. Cllr. Jamieson commented that the Royal British Legion will be putting on events next year to commemorate 100 years. Anniversary.

Parents Parking Charter

TC read letter from P.C.S.O regarding Parents Parking Charter. Cllr. Cooper said Parent Parking Pledges make a big impact. We should support this making it safer for children to and from school. Cllr. Bowden welcomes this initiative, but noted that drivers were leaving their engines running, thus giving out toxic fumes, damaging childrens health. This point should be in any letter going to Schools. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned the problems with parents parking and interfering with residents parking. Agreed we should support the initiative. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Bowden. All in favour.

Approved

Events

Christmas Lights

Will be erected at the end October throughout the town centre, and have invited 4 schools to take part in the design-a-light competition. The winning motif will be displayed above the Library steps as in previous years, with the winning pupil turning on the lights with the Mayor.

McMillan Coffee Morning

The McMillan Coffee morning that we arranged on 29th September at Vickersway Park raised over £40

Remembrance

Annual Parade and Service will take place on Sunday 12th November, parade starting from Crum Hill in time for 10 a.m. service in St. Helen's Church. Following the wreath laying at the Cenotaph refreshments will be available at Memorial Court.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer

Christmas Extravaganza

Will take place on Saturday 25th November with activity taking place in town centre and Barons Quay between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Promotional materials, banners, flyers, posters and web-based promotion are now being designed and finalized. Live entertainment from 2.00 p.m. on the Library steps from local artists. Children's Lantern Parade starting from Waitrose at 4.45 p.m. to the Library steps for the Light switch on and fireworks display at 5.00 p.m.

Tree of Lights

This ever popular event will take place on Friday 8th December around the holly tree outside our offices. Stars will be available in the next couple of weeks from NTC offices, Snippets Hair Salon and the Information Centre in town. Cllr. Jamieson commented on all the fantastic events we put on, and thanked NTC staff. These events are a lot of work and are very successful.

NTC 17/59 TENDERS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHT INSTALLATION

Weaver Vale Housing Trust are chosen as preferred contractors offering a competitive price. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Jamieson. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 17/60 TO APPROVE FINAL YEAR END AUDITS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

The following issues were raised and questions answered in greater detail relating to:

- Internal Auditors Recommendations – Assistant Town Clerk explained the process of audit trail invoices and payments.
- Risk Assessment – The Risk Assessment was minuted one month after the year end date.
- Electors Rights – Last years' Audit Report was available for public viewing before they had been approved at Full Council. Incorrect box was ticked to reflect this on annual Audit.

Decision of the Council was requested. Cllr. Jamieson moved to propose, seconded by Cllr. Nelson..

Resolved

NTC 17/61 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER

Cllr. Cooper briefly explained the Local Boundary recommendations, in respect of Ward splits. May wish to comment. Example of 8 members in Winnington Ward. Cumbersome to manage, residents don't often know who their Ward Councillor is. Cllr. Jamieson suggested a working group headed by Cllr. Cooper to put a response together. Further discussion as to how voting in the future would work.

Approved

NTC 17/62 CWAC TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Cllr. Cooper highlighted problems – badly in need of investment in this area. CWAC consultation open until 31st December with 6 sessions planned to show proposals. We should respond and say what priorities are, and can promote this on our Artisan stand. The Strategy includes Mid Cheshire Rail and Manchester Airport link. Cllr. Jamieson read extracts from the document and it covers most things residents want. Suggests setting up a sub-group to put together issues in a response. Cllr Dolan considered a lot of initiatives have been included over several decades, and all cannot be delivered, the need is to place them in terms of high, intermediate and low priorities. Cllr. Rimmer suggests using the same working group. Cllr. Cooper suggests placing this item on the next Planning and Environment Committee meeting. This was proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Dolan. All in favour.

Resolved

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer

NTC 17/63 OUTSIDE BODIES

Mid Cheshire Rail Partnership - In relation to Mid Cheshire Rail Partnership, the new franchisee is aware of the existing arrangements for The Samaritans office staff. In regards to parking charges at Northwich Railways station, any funding in relation to displacement, one of the conditions is to increase revenue. Rail North dictate non-metropolitan areas charges. In future CWAC need to be aware of this ruling. Northern Rail have no choice. Representatives agreed to take issue away regarding mitigation charges.

Performance of trains on line, trains are running slightly late perhaps as much as 10 minutes. Reasons for this are the condition of the track, the amount of freight is having a detrimental effect on this. Trying to rectify by preparation for new timetable in 2018 for more regular trains. Local M.P. has written to Chief Executive of Network Rail, and neighbouring M.P. has also written. Is it feasible for regular trains to run on time with increased usage of track. Cllr. Rimmer explained his personal experience as a regular train passenger. Cllr. Cooper gave statistics provided. Cllr. Bowden asked who will represent us on the HS2 project, and considers the national priority is totally wrong. The combined efforts of M.P.'s should get results.

Cllrs. Cooper and Stott attended the Northwich Members Briefing. Barons Quay and the Riverside Park almost complete and the cut through from Barons Quay to the High Street. The buildings at Winnington Hill – progress looks promising. Also discussed the roadworks at Winnington Urban Village.

NTC 1764 CWAC & PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Jamieson made reference to the reconfiguration of services within Cheshire. TC requested to contact Sue Charles-Jones Senior Manager of Integrated Early Support at CWAC and ask how this reconfiguration will affect Northwich, and what will change.

Speeding enforcement continues across Northwich area resulting with a high number of summons being issued. TC to arrange a meeting with Insp. Dave Snasdell to consider the development of a Road Safety Campaign in partnership with NTC.

NTC 1765 MONTHLY SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Have received a request from Marbury Ward Councillors to attend our Surgery. The stand is open to all. A query from a resident new to Northwich area asking about access to Northwich from Barnton. Volunteers for next Artisan on Saturday 14th October. Surgery open from 11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m.

- 11-12 Councillor S. Naylor
- 12 -1 Councillor K. Rimmer
- 1-2 Councillor Cooper

NTC 17/66 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 6th November, 2017 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

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Date

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Clr K. Rimmer