

**NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

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

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

**Also present:** Chris Shaw Town Clerk  
Liza Clansey Assistant Town Clerk

**NTC 17/129 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs A Gerrard. Cllr A Dimelow and Cllr P Naylor were not present

**NTC 17/130 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 any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council and CW&C  
Cllr S Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to CWAC

**NTC 17/131 OPEN FORUM**

Tina Hickman from Plastic Free Northwich addressed members again. Since her last talk to members at the January Council meeting Tina wanted to thank NTC for the potential purchase of water fountains at Vickersway and Church Walk (subject to funding) and thank us for looking into new stock items in our shops that are plastic free. Tina asked if she could be involved at NTCs forthcoming events. TC invited Tina to have a stall at the Community days and Christmas Extravaganza and also suggested Tina apply for a small grant from NTC to enable her to purchase a gazebo for future events and she would need to set up a company and bank account to apply for the grant. Cllr Rimmer suggested that she attend the Verdin Park Music Festival and TC to look into the possibility of installing recycling bins at Verdin Park when the music event takes place and for other big events. Cllr Rimmer said he is happy to support when available. Cllr Cooper thanked Tina and her team for their help in clearing up the area near to Sainsbury and Salvation Army on Saturday and congratulated Tina on her hard work in helping move Northwich forward to being plastic free.

**Date**.....

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

**NTC 17/132 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th February 2018 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

*Proposed by Cllr A Cooper and seconded by Cllr K Rimmer. all agreed*

**NTC17/133 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

5.1 To note Policy and Operations Committee held on Monday 19th February 2018  
Further to minute number: PO17/12 No 3. All application forms to be looked at by a new sub-committee. New subcommittee members: Cllr K Rimmer, Cllr S Naylor and Cllr B Jamieson were agreed

*Proposed by Cllr B Jamieson and seconded by Cllr A Stott, all agreed*

5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2018 with the following amendment – FIN 17/105 Asset Register – to be re-worded as not clear and change to: *Members raised a question as to why the office building is not listed and TC explained that it is a Community Asset therefore has a value of only £1.00 on the Asset Register and not its market value*

5.3 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2018 and to note the further updates since meeting:

- Cllr A Cooper has received an email from the Neighbourhood planning examiner saying the draft will be out by the end of the week after the fact checking report has been completed.
- Cllr A Cooper also commented on the strategic land application at Danevalley and is very disappointed with the outcome after the application was put on hold for 6/9 months whilst waiting for a developer. There is a planning committee meeting in April and Cllr A Cooper will report at the next planning meeting
- TC informed members that there is a public speech tomorrow regarding the outline planning at Winnington Urban Village at 4pm, Tuesday in Chester. Cllr S Naylor said he may be able to attend and will mention the cycling route that NTC planning committed wanted to be included

**TC17/134 TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor attended the following events during February 2018

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	Northwich Library	Health & Wellbeing week. To unveil the Mindfulness Colouring Wall & receive thanks for NTC funding.
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2018	Winsford Town Council Academy Theatre	Dep Mayor attended the Mayors Charity Variety Show.
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Winnington Primary School	Reading Week & Book Fair. Reading and interaction with the children as well as visiting the travelling book fair.

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Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Victoria Road School	Visual Arts Cheshire To unveil primary school children's art work and take part in the art trail in Northwich which showcases this work.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Rotary Club of Northwich Vale Royal	Annual Pensioners Party.
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	146 Sqn Northwich	Graduation of 61 Entry FCTC Course
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	The Indian	Organised by Arthur Neil for the Mayor and her charities.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Sheriff of Chester Councillor Jane Mercer	Sheriff's Breakfast Dep Mayor attended.

**NTC17/135 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Northwich Railway Station Improvements

Funding is now in place for the improvements to the railway station, hopefully this work will start very soon. Due to staff holidays and poor weather the works will have to be completed as and when the staff can get on site in between grass cutting which will start soon

Yarwood Close

Due to the cold weather works were postponed on this site until the middle of March, TC will let members know the exact date when received from the contractor

Churchwalk Paddling Pool

The work to the paddling pool has now begun and is going really well, TC expects a 4 week project depending on the weather and will send members a weekly update as to how the works are progressing

Northwich Cenotaph

Works to the Cenotaph will be put on hold for 5 weeks; this is due to the paving that was delivered for the surface around the cenotaph. TC visited the quarry to pick the stone last week and this is now being cut to the correct specification. The works to this site will hopefully be completed mid-April

Impact Day

Due to the weather conditions and Health & Safety concerns the impact day did not take place, this will be arranged another day in the summer when the weather is slightly warmer

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River Dane Bank Collapse

The collapsed bank on the River Dane adjacent to the footpath and dog exercise area is fenced off to protect the public but the fencing is constantly being pulled down and damaged. Advice has been taken from Mersey Forest, the EA and the tree officer from CW&C and all are in agreement that the path should be re-routed around the back of the dog exercise area and remove the current path that is being undermined by the river. Following on from the re-routing we can then look at a cost effective way of stabilizing the river bank in this part of the river

TC has had three contractors out to the site to quote for the work

Chair of Amenities and Finance to meet and look over the quotations so approval can be obtained ASAP

*Proposed Cllr A Stott seconded Cllr D Bowden, all agreed*

Northwich Subway

This project is underway with all art work due to be collected and sent to the printers around the 15<sup>th</sup> March, once this is done the panels will be installed and the prints will be visible for all to see. The prints are currently being displayed in some shops around the town centre as part of the Northwich Art Trail. Planters have been installed; these will add a splash of colour to the subway throughout the year. TC will advise members when these works have been completed and arrange for the Mayor to officially open the display

Winnington Urban Village

Following on from last month’s meeting and members request for a bus service through the development TC has now had a response from CW&C. This is already being looked at and the council’s vision is to see bus services running through the village connecting to local rail services and businesses.

Parks

Vickersway Park shop is set to open at Easter for the Summer Season and Church Walk Paddling pool will open 28<sup>th</sup> April. TC is considering running a BBQ during some of the weekends at the pool to add another element to the venue. TC will keep members informed of the dates when these will take place

Parkrun

A start date for the first parkrun has been set but this is being kept under wraps until volunteers and the run director has a couple of practice runs to ensure that all will run smoothly on the first run

Meetings

Finance - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am  
Planning – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 5.00 pm

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**NTC 17/136 PLAYGROUND INSPECTION APP**

Due to the increased number of playgrounds and contracts that we currently maintain the TC looked into more professional and efficient play inspection application rather than the paper inspection sheets and excel spread sheets we currently use as these are not the most professional and have a lack of information and pictures

Suppliers were invited in to demonstrate their software

TC recommended the Play Inspection Company and suggested we tried a three months trail to make sure that this is the best app for our needs

Costs:

Initial set up costs	£3,745.00
Three new tablets	£ 900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,645.00</b>
Annual cost	£3,250.00

*Proposed by Cllr K Rimmer and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Nelson. All agreed*

**6.55pm Cllr P Dolan arrived to meeting**

**NTC 17/137 NORTHWICH PLAY AREAS**

Heads of Terms were given to Members to view for the below public open spaces at:

- Belmont Road, Northwich
- Old Hall Road, Northwich
- Victoria Street, Northwich
- Winnington Grange (Burnside Way) Northwich
- Yarwood Close, Northwich

Members looked over the 30 year lease/Heads of Terms/Business case for all five play areas, Cllr Cooper said thank you for all the hard work from NTC and CW&C to get to this stage as it took a lot of time and effort to get here.

Cllr B Jamieson asked if an amendment could be made as it states 200 households were consulted when in fact it should read 2000 households

*Proposed by Cllr A Cooper, seconded by Cllr B Jamieson. All agreed*

**NTC 17/138 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Recommendations as detailed were approved with the following amendment:

- FIN 17/01 Amenity Charges April 18/19 – approved
- FIN 17/102 Outside Contracts April 18/19 - approved
- FIN 17/103 Witton & Danevalley Cemetery Fees April 18/19 – approved with the following amendment – free of charge cost for burial of a child be increased from the age of 16 to 18 years

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- FIN 17/104 Rudheath Parish Council Fees & Charges – April 18/19 – approved
- FIN 17/105 Asset Register – year ending March 2018 - approved
- FIN 17/106 Financial Regulations – April 18/19 – approved
- FIN 17/107 Financial Risk Assessment – for April 18/19 – approved
- FIN 17/108 Danebridge Wall Repairs – To approve chosen quotation of £2,150 from Stoneguard – approved
- FIN 17/90 Secure Haven – To approve Innovative Cremation Products as recommended by F&P Committee for the supply of urns, keepsake urns, blown glass memory pebbles and sterling silver jewelry

Proposed by Cllr A Cooper, seconded by Cllr K Rimmer, all agreed

**NTC 17/139 CO OPTION POLICY**

The Co Option policy had been drafted for Members.

This was approved with one amendment to number 6. “Full Council to vote on ALL applications (after hearing recommendations from subcommittee) ***including the option to re-open applications.***”

Proposed by Cllr A Cooper, seconded by Cll B Jamieson, all agreed

**NTC 17/140 OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr S Naylor and Cllr B Jamieson reported on the Victoria House Community meeting held on 26th February at St Helens church. 4 Vendor will be managing the site and making improvements. Cllr S Naylor will carry on attending future meetings and report back to members. 4 Vendor will focus on prevention; they will also be keeping two rooms free for desperate overnight sleepers and reported that currently there are no homeless in Northwich

Cllr A Cooper attended the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership Steering Group meeting held on the 1st of March at Knutsford Town Council Offices. Performance problems over the past 6/9 months were discussed and Net Work Rail has a plan to improve the issues in the next three months. Government is reopening the” Access for All Funding Bid” relating to access issues at stations. Friends of Handforth are putting in a bid along with Levenshulme Community Group. It was suggested NTC explore the options of putting in a bid. Vicky Cropper will give some help with contact information and assistants. We also need a group two study to see what is needed to improve this. Funding may also be available to help. Mike Amesbury has been in touch regarding this; they are willing to help. CW&C and Vale Royal Disabilities will also need to be involved in moving this forward

Cllr P Dolan suggested NTC contact Graham Gardner the Disability officer for CW&C for more help and guidance

NTC to look into the options of putting in a bid

*Proposed Cllr A Cooper, seconded Cllr K Rimmer, all agreed*

Cllr T Murphy and Cllr B Jamieson reported on the Local Liaison Committee meeting at the TATA Sustainable Energy Plant at the Lostock site on the 1st March. Work will commence in 2019, in the meantime drilling of holes and looking into drains and ground conditions will continue

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**NTC 17/141 CWAC CORRESPONDENCE**

1135 - Proposed Public Space Protection order consultation relating to the control of dog’s across the Borough. CW&C are considering the delegation of powers to the Town and Parish Councils in relation to land which they own or manage. It also invites Parish and Town councils to submit their views with an offer for a CW&C officer to attend a meeting

TC to see if this is something we can get involved in. The consultation period is the 1st February to 28th April

*Proposed Cllr B Jamieson, seconded Cllr Mrs L Nelson, all agreed*

1137 – Increased in potholes – CW&C have given extra funding to make temporary repairs to potholes

1138 – Parking Strategy Implementations – next steps – In due course areas such as Northwich will see the implementation of car parking charges. Members are concerned if this is enforced too soon it will drive people away and they feel it would be better to wait until Barons Quay is more settled

NTC would like to pass a resolution and say the following:

Northwich Town Council supports and applauds the ongoing regeneration of Northwich Town Centre by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

In order to support the regeneration and to give the development the best possible chance of success, we request that CW&C Council defer implementation of the car park charges in Northwich Town Centre until Barons Quay has reached 65% occupancy, as measured by ground floor square footage.

*Proposed Cllr D Bowden, seconded Cllr A Cooper, all agreed*

1139 – Homelessness Support Services – members welcome this new service

**NTC 17/142 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET**

There was no Artisan in January but February Artisan took place on the 10th. Members were asked if they could attend the Council Surgery at the Artisan on Saturday 10th March 2018. The following Cllrs agreed to attend:

- 10-11 Cllr Rimmer & Murphy
- 11-12 Cllr Naylor
- 12-1 Cllr Dolan & Cllr Eastwood
- 11am-12pm Cllr. S Naylor & Cllr. A Cooper

**NTC 17/143 CLLR DEE COOKE & CLR BRIAN COOKE**

TC reported that Cllr Mrs D Cooke and Cllr B Cooke regret to inform members that they have decided to resign from the Council. Cllr Dee Cooke has struggled with her health for a while now and Cllr B Cooke has been looking after her

They wish to thank all members for the support that they have received and wish everyone all the best for the future

It was agreed some flowers and a thank you card be presented to Brian and Dee by the Mayor along with the press at their home address

**Date.....**

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**NTC 17/144 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 3rd April, 2018 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 p.m

**Date.....**

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**Town Mayor**