

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2018

Present : Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard - Town Mayor

Councillors :

Cllr T Murphy	Cllr K Rimmer	Cllr. G. Emmett
Cllr A Stott	Cllr. T Melville	Cllr. D. Bowden
Cllr. M. Rowley	Cllr. Ms. S. Eastwood	Cllr. M Falzon
Cllr. S. Naylor	Cllr. A. Cooper	Cllr. B. Jamieson
Cllr. T. Lawrenson		

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

NTC 18/51 PRESENTATION BY TRANSITION NORTHWICH

Paul Mathias from Transition Northwich was welcomed by the Mayor, and proceeded to show a short film shot in London regarding climate change, highlighting how various communities get involved,

This was followed by a general presentation and explained what aims the Northwich group has. A draft proposal is available and will be sent to NTC Councillors, as a basis for any ongoing discussions. Cllr. Emmett asked what links with current communities in Northwich. Mr Mathias gave details of current ones and ones planned for the future. Cllr. Rimmer asked about the Hub in Greenbank as he is the current Chair of the Hub, as apparently Transition Northwich plan to use this as a Centre. Cllr. Bowden commented that climate change is the greatest threat and the technology is not yet perfected to become a fully green energy. Cllr. Cooper asked what their vision is and what do they hope to gain from NTC. Transition Group would like to have informal meetings with NTC, as they feel there is no alternative to holding a meeting.
The Mayor thanked the speakers for their presentation.

NTC 18/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P. Naylor, S Naylor, Mrs. J. Illidge and J. Taylor.

NTC 18/53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

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

Cllr. T. Lawrenson declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council and Rudheath Parish Council.

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

Cllr. P. Dolan declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC 18/54 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 18/55 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd September, 2018 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr Rimmer and seconded by Cllr Rowley. Signed by the Town Mayor
Cllr. Jamieson brought up the recent meeting with CHAIN – suggested we need to make a contribution to the proposal. Agreed to get together with Cllrs. Dolan, Murphy and Cooper to put together a response to the proposal. Proposed by Cllr. Jamieson, seconded by Cllr. Dolan. All in favour.
Resolved..

NTC18/56 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th September. Noted by Cllr. Rimmer. Cllr. Cooper enquired regarding the Schools Provision funding. TC agreed to give update when he has information from the schools in question.

- 6.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee meetings held on Tuesday 18th September. Noted by Cllr. Stott. Cllr. Jamieson asked regarding the Waterway Strategy which had no mention in the Minutes of last meeting. The last meeting was over a year ago at Middlewich. TC agreed to speak to Geriant Jones.. Cllr. Jamieson asks that any meeting should include Anderton and Marbury, River Weaver Navigation Society. It is anticipated there will be changes. Also would like a meeting of the local section to include Environment Agency, Canal and River Trust to review the riverbank near Town Bridge./Lock Road.

NTC 18/57 TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor attended the following events during September, 2018

Wednesday 12 th September	NTC	Re-opening of the Cenotaph following refurbishment
Thursday 13 th September	Knutsford Promenades Cllrs. Illidge and Nelson attended	Commemorating Amazing Women along the Chester-Manchester Rail lines.
Friday 14 th	Grange Theatre	Musical Show ‘Honk’ Performance
Sunday 16 th September	Winsford Town Council	Open Air Service Winsford Salt Fair
Sunday 16 th September	Royal Air Force Association	Service of Commemoration of 78 th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain
Sunday 23 rd September	Middlewich Town Council	Civic Parade and Service
Tuesday 25 th September	NTC	Scouts visit to Council Chambers

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

The Mayor also attended the Community Fun Weekend at Vickersway Park on Sunday, 26th August which was omitted on last months listing.

NTC18/58 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Church Walk Paddling Pool

Paddling Pool has now been closed for the season due to poor weather recently. Has been a great success exceeding our expectations. The fine weather played a major role in its success as a fantastic facility this is for the town. Repairs now need to be made to the pool surface and empty the water system to protect from any frost damage.. We are also looking at installing an additional sink and hot water for next year, as this was raised in our Environmental report from CWAC. Costs for this will be brought to Finance Committee for approval.

Vickersway Park

The shop within the Park is now only open when the weather permits, but will open every Sunday morning as we stage the Parkrun for juniors from 9.00 a.m.

Cenotaph Opening and Re-dedication

The Cenotaph was officially reopened following refurbishment on 12th September. Event attended by local clergy, NTC Members, Royal British Legion, Profitts, contractors and local school children. The Town Mayor together with a representative from RBL laid a wreath .The cenotaph is now lit at night which looks very impressive. The refurbishment was carried out to high quality and should remain in perfect condition for many years. Many thanks to those who attended.

Wild Flower garden at Witton Cemetery

Has been cut back for the winter. Display this year has been disappointing as the weeds become stronger within the beds and combined with a really hot summer. TC recommends that we do not sow seed for the next 2 years and lay back to grass to give the area time to recover. Cllr. Stott commented that it looked really good and was there not another area we could find for wild flowers during the next 2 years. TC suggested maybe Whalley Road.

Town Centre Hanging Baskets and displays

Removal of all hanging baskets and planters will take place shortly. Thanks should go to our staff who have kept the bedding, baskets and planters supplied with water during the hot weather, with our team out 2-3 times a week starting at 5.00 a.m. and also working late to avoid causing issues with traffic. It has been very challenging work. Cllr. Cooper wished to thank that staff who have gone above and beyond expectations. Britain In Bloom awards will shortly be announced.

There But Not There

We have installed 2 silhouettes on the benches outside the Chapel. These silhouettes represent those that did not come home from WW1, and will stay in the cemetery for the next few months. 4 were ordered so we have donated one each to Witton Church Walk and Victoria Road primary schools as they were both involved in the renovation of the cenotaph.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

Verdin Park Repairs

Following the bench fire around the Bob Verdin monument, we have finally got the go ahead from the Insurance Company to replace the bench, granite, and also the tarmac path. Works to be carried out within the next few weeks.

New Cycle Path

We are currently working with CWAC Highways on installing a new cycle path from Winnington Urban Village through Verdin Park and into the town centre. NTC staff have been working on getting necessary permission to install bike ramps over the bridge at Birdcage Walk to enable cyclists to push their bikes over the bridge into Verdin Park. Additional improvements will be made to the main path in the Park with some trees being removed, but this will be minimal.

Anti-Litter Posters

We were approached by local Children's Parliament if we would be interested in installing anti-litter posters on columns around the town to encourage people to use them. Following our assessment, we advised it would be more beneficial to place posters on all bins within the town centre and some surrounding roads. Funding has come from the School Council, Northwich BID, both Rotary Clubs and Barons Quay. NTC staff will install the posters over the next few weeks.

Northwich Half Marathon

Two meetings have taken place over the last couple of months with partners. Event planning at an early stage with lead organiser, and start finish venue to be decided. Members will be kept informed of progress over the next few months.

NOW Festival

Saturday 6th October, Northwich will stage the NOW Festival with a variety of artists performing on the streets of Northwich, and will take over the town centre. Full details may be found on the NOW Northwich website.

Remembrance Sunday and Beacon Lighting

On Sunday, 11th November we will once again remember all who have given the ultimate sacrifice with a Remembrance Parade and Service through the town and the Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. This year being the centenary of the end of WW1, we shall also be lighting a beacon at 7.00 p.m. on the evening of 11th along with hundreds of other towns and cities across the U.K. The location of the beacon lighting is yet to be confirmed and Members will be updated when we have final confirmation. At this stage St. Helen's church are very keen to have their roof used as the high point for the beacon.

Christmas Light Switch On and Extravaganza

Preparations are well under way for the Christmas Light switch on and Extravaganza which will take place on Saturday 24th November. This year will have all the usual favourites along with some new additions to be confirmed in the next few weeks. The Lantern Parade along with a Samba band leading it to the Library. Light switch on will take place at 5.00 p.m. in Brunner Mond Court followed by the fireworks display finale. Cllr. Jamieson commented that these events would be of interest to Transition Northwich.

NTC 18/59 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

- National Salary Awards – Members were distributed with the new Local Government pay scales which are to be implemented from 1st April, 2018.
- Members are to consider the recommendation of the Finance Committee to place all staff on the new pay scales and back date to at April, 2018.

Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

Date.....

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**Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor**

At this point it was also mentioned that the Christmas Lights Tenders were opened and considered. The contract was awarded to AMR Technical who offered the best value for money.

NTC 18/60 CO-OPTION

Cllr. Rimmer was disappointed there were no applicants for the vacancies. Has been advertised on our website and Noticeboards. Cllr. Cooper suggested that other Members may know 2 prospective candidates. Cllr. Rowley asks for formal extension of the closing date. Cllr. Melville asks for advert to be placed on Northwich Life.

NTC 18/61 HEALTH LEAD

Cllr. Cooper advised this has been a good project at Winsford, and this should be considered for Northwich. At this point it is not know what is expected. Consider within the budget next year following local elections in May 2019. Suggested we invite Winsford to come and talk to us and see how this may work. TC to contact Localities, CWAC.

NTC 18/62 PLAYSCHEMES.

Cllr. Rimmer agrees it works really well. Cllr. Cooper suggests we invite Multiflex to Amenities Meeting, and arrange earlier next year and then decide if we do it for the future. Cllr. Jamieson added that we need to look at the costs involved are within our budget.

NTC 18/63 NALC COUNCIL AWARDS

A report was distributed among Members. Our Town Council has been shortlisted along with 2 others to receive the Star Council Award. It was decided that Cllrs. Naylor and Cooper will attend the Awards ceremony. Cllr. Bowden gave his congratulations to all involved.

NTC 18/64 NORTHWEST IN BLOOM

Three members of the Grounds Maintenance staff will be chosen and asked by TC to attend the Awards ceremony. Cllr. Cooper asked that the Town Mayor should attend. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Melville. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC 18/65 CWAC AND PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Jamieson spoke about the speed reduction in Winnington. Thanks go to Cllr. Dolan.

NTC 18/66 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Cllr. Jamieson declared an interest in any matters relating to Dial-A-Ride.
Cllr. Murphy advised regarding complaints from residents in respect of crossings at the Bull Ring, and hedges at Moss Farm. TC will contact Northwich Cricket Club. Cllr. Rowley received complaints about Anti-Social behavior. Cllr. Nelson mentioned the crossing at the Bull Ring which has been progressed with Jamie Baron. Cllr. Emmett had issues raised in relation to Dial A Ride service which appears is now used for School contracts. Cllr. Dolan added that not all services were reduced, and agreed to ask Jonathan Griffiths regarding Health Services/transport. Congestion in Castle and closure of Victoria Infirmary Cllr. Nelson mentioned there is also a Councillor Surgery at Leftwich Our local M.P. has had a walk around Leftwich Estate. Cllr. Bowden commented regarding the bus service, is this something Transition Northwich could become involved in?

Rota for the next Artisan Market taking place on Saturday, 13th October is as follows:-

11-12 Cllrs. Murphy and Rimmer
12-1 Cllr. Emmett
1-2 Cllr. Dolan

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC 18/67 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 5th November. 2018 at 6.30 p.m.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

NTC 18/68 NORTHWICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Mayor welcomed members of the Target Action Groups (TAG). Cllr. Bowden gave a brief background to the Neighbourhood Plan which has been 5 years in the making. Good to see the Chairman Mr. David Roberts present at this meeting. There was much co-ordinated work and data collection, for which we offer our grateful thanks. Special mention to Cllr. Cooper who drew it all together. Congratulation also to Cllr. Jamieson, NTC office staff and anyone else who participated in this mammoth task. This is something the town may be proud of.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor