

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

Present : Cllr Mrs A Gerrard - Town Mayor

Councillors : Cllr D Bowden Cllr A Cooper Cllr P Dolan
Cllr Ms S Eastwood Cllr T Lawrenson Cllr T Melville
Cllr P Naylor Cllr S Naylor Cllr Mrs L Nelson
Cllr K Rimmer Cllr M Rowley Cllr A Stott
Cllr J Taylor

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

NTC 18/69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G. Emmett, Cllr B Jamieson and Cllr Mrs J Illidge. Cllr M Falzon and Cllr T Murphy were not present.

NTC 18/70 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 P Dolan declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

NTC 18/71 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 18/72 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 1st October 2018 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record with the following points mentioned:
Cllr L Nelson was present at the last meeting.
Cllr P Dolan was present at the last meeting.
Cllr S Naylor showed as present and absent, he was absent from the last meeting.
Proposed by Cllr Rimmer and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Nelson. Signed by the Town Mayor.

Cllr K Rimmer informed members of the recent meeting with Transition Northwich which had taken place after the last full Council meeting. Cllr K Rimmer meets with Transition every month and agreed that any relevant information from these meetings would be shared with Full Council.

Resolved

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC18/73 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16th October 2018.
- 6.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee meetings held on Tuesday 16th October 2018.

NTC 18/74 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor attended the following events during October, 2018

Thursday 4th October	Knutsford Town Council	Come Dine with the Mayor, Charity event at Gusto Knutsford
Saturday 6th October	Knutsford Town Council Deputy Mayor attending	Centennial War Memorial
Saturday 6th October	NOW Northwich Festival	Barons Quay VIP reception
Sunday 7th October	Soroptimist International	Charter Lunch at Portal Golf Club
Thursday 18th October	Knutsford Musical Theatre Co	All Shook Up
Thursday 18th October	Leftwich High School Deputy Mayor attending	Presentation Evening
Friday 19th October	NTC	Lunch with Hugo Brunner
Friday 26th October	Rotary Club of Northwich and Vale Royal	Charter Dinner – Vale Royal Abbey

NTC18/75 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Northwich Railway Improvement Works

The final work has now been done to improve Northwich Railway Station by the installation of a new recycled plastic picket fence. The works were originally to be carried out by NTC staff but Network Rail decided to install the fence on our behalf as the fence was programmed for renewal in the next few months. Thanks to Community Rail Partnership, Northern Rail and Network Rail for their contributions to this project, the station now has a new fence, hanging basket trees and the bank has been re-seeded.

Star Council

Cllr S Naylor and Cllr A Cooper attended the Star Council Awards at the National Association of Local Councils conference last week and Cllr A Cooper reported as follows:

NTC were one of three Councils nominated in the "Council of the Year" category. The others were Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council in Northamptonshire, who set up a not-for-profit bus service to serve their village; and Watchet Town Council in Somerset, who have taken over a number of services from the principal authority in their area.

The other nominees had strong submissions and certainly deserved to be there, but ultimately we were successful and came away with the award.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

The judges were particularly looking for town and parish councils that reach out beyond the traditional functions of those bodies. They were impressed with the range of events we organise or have contributed to organising and they liked the efforts we have made towards the town's regeneration.

This is a fantastic achievement by this Council and it demonstrates how far we've come in recent years. It's only right that we should pay tribute to the staff who have made this possible by supporting everything that we do. Many of the outside staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty this year with keeping the town centre sparkling and keeping on top of the watering in what has been an exceptional summer. The office staff as well, and the Town Clerk in particular, are a big part of the reason that we have had such a successful few years and that we have achieved this particular honour.

It's worth noting that, unlike the other entrants; we did not actually put ourselves forward for this award. We were in fact nominated by Chris's colleagues elsewhere in Cheshire. I think this is a huge credit to Chris and demonstrates how respected and looked up to as a source of advice and inspiration he is to his peers.

We should also acknowledge the contribution of our partners across the town. Organisations like Cheshire West and Chester Council, Northwich BID, our two Rotary clubs, Visual Arts Cheshire, Cheshire Dance, the rugby club, and many others are all working towards the same goal: to make Northwich an even better place to live and to make a success of our regeneration.

Lastly though, I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of one person in particular, Cllr Brian Jamieson. Brian has served this town, this community, one way or another for the past four decades; sometimes from the back in helping to get candidates elected, but more often from the front as a school governor several times over, as a parish councillor, as a town councillor, and as a Vale Royal Councillor and cabinet member. Brian's dedication, his attention to detail, his determination that we should never settle for anything but the best for Northwich has made this a better Council and has driven us to do better for our residents. Brian has a fierce belief in what we can achieve together and Northwich is better off for his contribution to it. With that in mind, I would like to propose that we dedicate this award to Brian in recognition of the service he has given, and ask that the Mayor writes to Brian thanking him for his contribution towards this achievement.

Resolved

Cllr S Naylor wanted to thank the Town Clerk and staff for everything they do and said well done to the Clerk and team of dedicated staff. Town Clerk said it was a team effort and a big thank you to all the staff.

Northwest In Bloom

Town Mayor Cllr A Gerrard attended the North West In Bloom Awards along with Steph Astbury and Mike Crimes from the NTC offices and David Dutton from the gardening team. The event was held in Southport on the 1st November. It was a night of success for Northwich efforts as NTC was awarded the Sivler Gilt award.

Winter Planting

NTC staff have been busy planting all the winter bedding around the town centre and neighbouring parishes to ensure it has a burst of colour in the Spring.

New Cycle Path

Plans of the proposed works have now been placed in Verdin Park highlighting the changes and improvements, these will be in place until Friday 2nd November and the works will commence shortly afterwards. Plans were shown in the agenda for Members to look at.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

Anti-Litter Posters

All anti litter posters have now been installed on the litter bins within the town centre, thanks to all partners that took part in the project.

Sir Hugo Brunner Visit

Members were invited to attend a visit from Sir Hugo Brunner who visited the town on Friday 19th October to discuss a potential visit next year. We discussed the moving of the statues into the town centre and the possibility of a heritage trail around the town, highlighting local landmarks.

Percy Street Meeting

A meeting was held with CW&C Officers and representatives from NTC with residents of Percy Street and the surrounding streets to discuss a residents parking scheme. Residents asked various questions and completed feed back forms which will now be collated by the localities team and the next steps agreed.

Verdin Park Improvements

We have recently met with play manufacturers to discuss the refurbishment of the toddlers play area at Verdin Park. They have been asked to come back with some designs and costings before Christmas. They were all given a copy of the consultation that was carried out at the beginning of the year and asked to work from the results that were produced, we hope to capture what the public want to see in the park.

Once all plans and costings are received I will arrange an Amenities meeting to discuss the next steps.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 11th November we will once again remember all that have given the ultimate sacrifice with a Town Parade and Remembrance Service. This year will mark the 100 years since the end of World War One and we are hoping that people will turn out and remember those that have fallen at the towns Remembrance Service.

Beacon Lighting

Following on from the act of Remembrance in the afternoon, we will be lighting a Beacon on the top of St Helen’s Church tower at 7.00pm along with other cities, towns, and villages throughout the UK. This will be followed by bell ringing and light refreshments within the church, for all. Flyer was available for members giving information of this event.

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 we will have all the usual favourites along with some new additions which will be confirmed in the next few weeks

As usual we will have the School Lantern Parade with Samba Band leading to the library where the lights will then be switched on at 5.00pm in Brunner Court, followed by a fantastic firework display finale.

Tree of Lights

The Tree of Lights will take place on Friday 7th December around our Holly Tree within Witton Cemetery. Followed by light refreshments and entertainment in our Condate Room. Stars will once again be available from the NTC office, Northwich Info Centre and Snippets Hair Salon.

Old Hall Road Play Area

CWAC have informed us that the work starts on the play area at Old Hall Road in Leftwich on Monday 29th October. I will keep members updated with the progress.

Date.....

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

NTC18/76 CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES 2018/19

During the Christmas & New Year holiday we usually have the office open on all days other than Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day. The office is usually staffed by two officers with one being able to undertake any funeral duties that come in over this period. We also have a staff member who will feed our animals, check on parks and clean the town centre, this member of staff is usually on call to respond to any out of hour emergencies along with the TC. In previous years when the office is staffed we rarely get any calls or enquires regarding NTC as most of the calls are from the public enquiring about CW&C.

Whilst the office is closed over the Christmas period the TC & ATC will deal with any funerals via their mobiles, if a funeral is needed then either the TC or ATC will come into the office to arrange.

Members were given two options and the below opening/closing times agreed.

Proposed Cllr K Rimmer, Seconded Cllr J Taylor, all agreed.

Date	Office	Parks
Monday December 24th	Open until 12.00 noon	On Call Staff
Christmas Day	Closed (Emergency Number)	On Call Staff
Boxing Day	Closed (Emergency Number)	On Call Staff
Thursday December 27th	Closed (Emergency Number)	On call Staff
Friday December 28th	Closed (Emergency Number)	On call Staff
Saturday December 29th	Closed (Emergency Number)	On Call Staff
Sunday December 30th	Closed (Emergency Number)	On Call Staff
Monday December 31st	Closed (Emergency Number)	On Call Staff
New Years Day	Closed (Emergency Number)	On Call Staff
Wednesday January 2nd	Office re open at 9.00am	All Staff Back In

NTC18/77 CW&C PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

Cheshire West & Chester have released an Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act which commenced on 20th October 2018 for a period of three years. Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of the Order is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction of a fine not exceeding £1000 or a fixed penalty notice of a maximum of £100.

- No dogs allowed entering the following areas: A fully enclosed children’s play area which contains play equipment, a fully or partially enclosed multi-use games area or tennis court
- If in charge of a dog, have the means to pick up dog faeces
- At request of an authorised officer, place dog on a lead
- No more than six dogs to be walked at any one time
- No smoke within a fully enclosed children’s play area which contains play equipment

Members agreed out of control dogs are a danger with children. Signage might be helpful to see policy enforced in areas so dog walkers are aware. TC was asked to find out details of authorised officer so contact details can be passed on if any issues are reported.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC18/78 HEALTH AND WELL BEING GROUP FOR NORTHWICH

Further to Winsford Town Council group “providing opportunities for health living in Winsford” Mark Simmons from CW&C reported the group has grown over the three years and includes a vast array of public, private and voluntary partners who provide a wide range of health type activities and services. The news of the group’s success has spread and the GP practices in Northwich are very interested in being part of a Northwich well-being hub. In addition the Northwich BID wants to hold a well-being event in Northwich town centre on the 16th March 2019 and is in the process of setting up a steering group to coordinate the event.

Approved: BID to go ahead and organise the event in March. Cllr K Rimmer said he is happy to be involved.

Proposed Cllr A Cooper, Seconded Cllr T Melville, all agreed

NTC18/79 HS2 PHASE 2B AUTUMN 2018 CONSULTATION

The Secretary of State for Transport has announced the launch of two HS2 consultations for the section of the route from Crewe to Manchester and West Midlands to Leeds which is known as Phase 2B. Cllr A Cooper reported the closing date for enquires is the 21st of December 18 and suggested a working group is formed and a report brought to full Council at the next meeting in December.

Cllr D Bowden , Cllr T Lawrenson and Cllr M Rowley all agreed the working group was a good idea and there were many issues that needed addressing.

Resolved Cllr M Rowley, Cllr A Cooper, Cllr T Melville to form a working group and report to Council in December

NTC18/80 CW&C & POLLING DISTRIC AND PLACES REVIEW 2018

Cllr A Cooper discussed the polling lay out and suggested minor changes which were approved as detailed:

Approved Cllr J Taylor and seconded by Cllr T Melville, all agreed

In making this submission, Northwich Town Council (NTC) has considered the effects of the proposals made by Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) on Northwich CP and the surrounding Northwich Urban Area.

The following wards are covered by our response:
Hartford & Greenbank, Northwich Leftwich, Northwich Witton, Northwich Winnington & Castle

Rudheath (including both Tatton and Weaver Vale)

We would like to suggest that polling cards are re-designed to include a small map of the location of the polling station. Given the high number of changes across the borough to take account of the new boundaries, this could be useful for residents who are confused about where their new polling place is.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

The new Hartford & Greenbank ward covers the following area:

Cheshire West and Chester Polling District and Places Review 2018 – Northwich Town Council Submission 3

Our response is limited to the polling districts within Northwich CP, proposed as **SC4** and **SC5**.

We are happy with the proposed polling district pattern and proposed polling places for this ward. In particular, we welcome the return of Christ Church Greenbank as a polling place, as this is much closer to the Greenbank Estate community that this polling place serves.

Northwich Leftwich

The new Northwich Leftwich ward covers the following area:
Cheshire West and Chester Polling District and Places Review 2018 – Northwich Town Council Submission 4

The whole ward is encompassed within Northwich CP, and hence our response relates to all of it.

We would propose that polling district **SF1** should be split at the junction of Kingsmead and London Road (approximately at 191 London Road), with the north section of London Road forming a new polling district with The Crescent, Hollands Road, Webbs Court and Postles Place. This new polling district would use the Polish Catholic Mission as its polling place.

Properties at the furthest extent of polling district **SF1** are approximately a 1 mile walk up a steep hill to Emmanuel Church, as in the Council’s proposal.

Hollands Road mainly consists of privately rented or socially rented flats, with low rates of car ownership and historically low voter turnout.

The Polish Catholic Mission will be much more convenient for these properties and address the distance/gradient issue as a barrier to voting. Previously, the Polish Catholic Mission was used as a polling place for 2011 boundaries Winnington and Castle, which would have complicated administration of the ballot. With the redrawn 2019 boundaries, this is no longer an issue.

We would recommend creating this as a fourth polling district to simplify the implementation of the parliamentary boundary review, should this receive royal ascent.

Northwich Winnington & Castle

The new Northwich Winnington & Castle ward covers the following area:
The whole ward is encompassed within Northwich CP, and hence our response relates to all of it.

We are happy with the proposed polling district pattern and proposed polling places for this ward. Although the farthest extent of polling district SG3 is a long way from the proposed polling place, most of the western section of this polling district is lime beds or sewerage treatment plant.

All of the Cheshire West and Chester Polling District and Places Review 2018 – Northwich Town Council Submission 5 population is located in the eastern section of the polling district, which is no more than 0.7 miles from Winnington Park Recreation Club. We would recommend that the signage for the Castle Private Club polling place is improved to make it easier to locate. The signage should be visible from David Street as you approach the entrance.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

Northwich Witton

The new Northwich Witton ward covers the following area: The whole ward is encompassed within Northwich CP, and hence our response relates to all of it. We are happy with polling district **SH2** and the choice of polling place as Bethel Evangelical Church. We are happy with polling districts **SH1** and **SH4**.

Our preference is to use Northwich Town Council Offices as the polling place for this ward. Although any change of polling place is disruptive, this location has better parking and would not require closing on polling days.

We are unhappy with the proposed boundaries of polling district **SH3**, which would have residents of Forest Place, Peter Street, Elm Street, Hadfield Street, Bartons Place, Station Road and the western section of Manchester Road travel to Lostock to vote. For residents of the Peter Street/Manchester Road area, there is no direct safe walking route to this polling place, as there is only a footpath on the northern side of Manchester Road for most of its length, with no safe crossing points. Lostock Sports and Social Club is on the South side. A better boundary would be to use Wade Brook, with residents in the Western half voting at either Northwich Town Council Offices or Victoria Road Primary School. Both potential polling places would be closer for all these residents and would result in less disruption.

We would recommend that the signage for Lostock Sports and Social Club polling place is improved so that it is visible from Works Lane as you approach the Club.

Cheshire West and Chester Polling District and Places Review 2018 – Northwich Town Council Submission 6.6

Rudheath

The new Rudheath Ward covers the following area:

Our response is limited to the polling districts within Northwich CP, proposed as **SI1** and **TC3**.

We are happy with the proposed polling district pattern and proposed polling places for this ward.

NTC18/81 CW&C & PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Older people's week at Vivo Care choices

Cllr P Dolan said most of us think that becoming older means ill health but some older people live very healthy active life whereas others do have health challenges. There are good things happening for older people and challenges ahead for some with ill health.

NOW Festival

Cllr S Naylor said this was great partnership working. 26,000 people were in Town for this event.

Regeneration Meeting

Cllr S Naylor reported good news coming in the near future with tenants coming into Barons Quay.

CW&C Meeting on Air Quality

NTC Councillors did not get the opportunity to speak at this meeting. If they had been given the chance to speak they would have said that NTC invited CHAIN to come in to talk to us. We need to do our best for residents of Northwich.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC18/83 MONTHLY COUNCILLORS SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Artisan Market was cancelled due to bad weather; Saturday 10th November Artisan market will be attended by Chris Shaw and Lesley Moore who will be promoting the Christmas light Switch On and the Beacon Lighting. Members were asked to give their availability between 10am and 2pm at the Councillors Surgery. 10-11 Cllr Dolan, 11-1 Cllr Rimmer, 12-1 Cllr Naylor, 1-2 Cllr Eastwood, Cllr Cooper can fill in any other times needed.

NTC18/84 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 3rd December 2018 at 6.30pm and afterwards for a Christmas drink and a small buffet.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.11pm.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Town Mayor