

**NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

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

Councillors : Cllr D Bowden Cllr A Cooper  
Cllr T Lawrenson Cllr. Mrs. J. Illidge  
Cllr S Naylor Cllr Mrs L Nelson  
Cllr K Rimmer Cllr M Rowley  
Cllr. Ms H Rowlands Cllr. A. Stott  
Cllr. B. Whitter Cllr. G. Emmett  
Cllr. Ms. S. Eastwood

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

**NTC 18/100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Dolan, T Murphy, P Naylor, T Melville and J. Taylor. Cllr. M Falzon did not attend.

**NTC 18/101 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. S. Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

**NTC 18/102 OPEN FORUM**

A member of the Public wished to speak about issues which he has previously raised with NTC via email. Explained to those present what the specific issues were. The Town Mayor responded by advising that the speaker will be responded to in writing in due course.

At this point, the Town Mayor wished to welcome the new Councillors to the Chambers, Ms. Helen Rowlands and Mr Ben Whitter.

**NTC 18/103 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record with the following points mentioned: Ref 18/95 Cllr. Bowden had commented that schools in our area are very good for students up to 16 years, and college, but then there is a huge gap for a vast number of pupils over that age requiring Further Education.

**Date**.....

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

Under reference No. 18/89, Cllr. Cooper commented regarding HS2 and the proposed adjustments to the A556. Attended the consultation meeting at Rudheath, and this was mentioned in our consultation response, that there would be two lots of construction being carried out simultaneously.

In respect of the lime beds it is proposed these would be above the route levels, and gave further Information regarding risks on the dual carriageway. Issues were raised by Cllr. Melville at the meeting regarding noise, impact on wildlife on the lime beds and visual impact. These issues have not been released by HS2 as yet. Our suggestions included an assessment of traffic flow in nearby villages, industrial estate and Gadbrook Park, the Trent and Mersey canal and the Northwich Transport strategy.

Cllr. Bowden enquired as to progress on arranging a meeting with Governors and Senior Members of Staff from Mid Cheshire College. TC advised.

Cllr. Rimmer advised relating to Hartford Manor. He understands the owners have sold the site to the Plymouth Brethren for a teaching establishment.

Proposed by Cllr Rimmer and seconded by Cllr Cooper. Signed by the Town Mayor.

**NTC18/104 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- 6.1 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. Noted by Cllr. Rimmer
- 6.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Noted by Cllr. Stott. Cllr. Cooper spoke about the Proposed development at Dane Valley and has submitted a response which has been forwarded on.

Cllr. Rimmer commented about Hartford Manor. He has been advised that it would appear no housing development company wanted to build residential houses on this site, and apparently the owners have now sold the site to the Plymouth Brethren for a proposed teaching establishment.

**NTC 18/105 TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor attended the following events during December, 2018

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Talking Newspapers	Christmas message for listeners in Northwich
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Rudheath Senior Academy	Awards evening <b>**Deputy Mayor attended**</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	NTC	Tree of Lights Ceremony at NTC
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Middlewich T.C.	Mayor’s Charity Cheese and Wine
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Rotary Club N’wich & Vale Royal	Christmas Street collection
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Sir John Deane’s College	The Spirit of Christmas, Christmas Concert <b>**Cllr. Mrs. Linda Nelson attended**</b>
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	The Grange Theatre	Pantomime performance Dick Wittington

The Town Mayor thanked Cllrs. Rimmer and Nelson for their support.

**Date.....**

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

**Verdin Park improvements**

We are now in the process of contacting the 5 local schools in order that the children can take part in the consultation as to what equipment they would like to see in Verdin Park. Plans will be delivered to the schools and pupils will be able to select their favourite scheme. Plans will also be displayed at the Artisan Market in February, and a consultation event will be held in Verdin Park shortly afterwards.

Works have now commenced on the cycle route through the Park with identified trees being felled – these will be replaced with new trees during the works.

We have submitted a funding application to Awards for All to improve the woodland walk through the wood. If the application is successful we shall see an upgraded path and nature walk around the Park along with additional seating.

Cllr. Illidge asked regarding the new trees and suggested that herself as past Mayor and the current Mayor could plant one. TC will consider this request.

**Dane Bridge Cenotaph**

Following the successful refurbishment of the Cenotaph outside the main cemetery gates, we have noticed that the Dane Bridge Cenotaph is in need of some repairs. Cracks have begun to appear in the main slab and stone has begun to lift from the top of the monument. We shall look into obtaining funding from the War Memorial Trust to carry out works and a full report and costs will be presented to the Amenities Committee as soon as possible.

**Winter Works**

NTC staff continue to carry out winter works within our Parks, cemeteries and open spaces in readiness for the Spring. We are also carrying out additional works for neighbouring Parish Councils including playground repairs, fencing, noticeboard installs and much more.

**Give and Gain**

NTC staff along with CWAC staff completed another successful Give and Gain initiative. This time on the footpath that borders Verdin Park on Castle Hill. We received a number of complaints that this path was extremely slippery and covered in leaves. The path was cleared along with the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the hill. Thanks to all staff from NTC and CWAC for all their hard work. Going forward we have asked for this path to be regularly swept throughout the year to maintain a safe walkway for all to use. Cllr. Rimmer added that unless residents report such issues to Streetcare Services the maintenance will be carried out. Cllr. Illidge recommended that Winnington Hill be cleared also. TC will pass this on to Streetcare.

**Tree of Lights**

Took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December around the Holly tree within Witton Cemetery. Followed by light refreshments and entertainment in the Condate Room. Many people attended the ceremony. Thanks extended to all our partners who donated stars and light refreshments.

**Date.....**

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

**Old Hall Road Play Area**

Work is almost completed on this refurbishment and should be completed shortly. A RosPA report is awaited at the present time.

**New Years Day Parkrun**

Almost 400 runners took part on the Parkrun on New Years Day in Carey Park. Many thanks to all the volunteers who came out to marshall the event and keep the runners safe. TC has recommended that the Mayor writes to the run Directors of both the Parkrun and Junior Parkrun to congratulate them on their success last year. Cllr. Cooper commented that he attended with his family, and it was a real credit to the Organisers. Other Parkruns took place throughout the County. Cllr. Bowden added that he had attended more recent Parkruns and found it very uplifting to see people of all ages taking part. Well done to Northwich. TC explained the defibrillators were donated along with the Rotary Club and we are now looking for 'crowd funding' for radios. Any funds raised, NTC would match and Rotary would match also. Radios could then be used for other events in town throughout the year.

**Northern Rail**

Following up from last months meeting, TC has contacted the Stakeholder Manager at Northern Rail to arrange a meeting as requested. Due to staff shortages a meeting was not possible in December with them, but they have promised a meeting will be arranged as soon as possible to discuss all our concerns. Cllr. Rimmer commented that he sympathises with current Rail users, but wants to personally attend the meeting when arranged.

**Christmas and New Year**

Thanks extended to NTC staff who worked over the Christmas and New Year period keeping our areas clean and tidy. Staff were on duty in the town centre all over the festive period every day apart from Christmas Day. Parks staff also attended to ensure the animals were fed and watered and all areas safe and litter free.

**Staff Appraisals**

Staff appraisals will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> January and a full report will be given at the next P & O meeting which will be arranged within the next 2 weeks.

At his point TC advised that he is currently looking at funding from DCLG as there appears to be funding available for Pocket Parks. You may apply for up to £25,000 for each site. Therefore the possible refurbishment fo Victoria Street and Burnside Play areas would be the priority.

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

**NTC18/107 NORTHWICH MEMBERS BRIEFING**

Cllrs. Stott, Cooper and others attended the recent Northwich Members Briefing. A number of items were discussed including Barons Quay. The newly opened shops are doing very well with other retailers, among them Sports Direct which is opening in February. There are 6 more prospective tenants including 3 retailers. The pontoon at Barons Quay is now in place and an official opening will take place when the weather improves. The NOW festival organisers are keen to have another event in town this year. Planning permission now granted for the part demolition of Watling Street office building, and this will take place shortly. Results of the Weaver Square Masterplan consultation were discussed. Among the responses was a mixed one in respect of developing residential properties especially a preference for affordable, and housing for young people. Regarding Leftwich Church, the future of this is now on hold. Cllr. Rimmer asked regarding the Health and Well-being. It is believed that the BID are to lead on this project, but TC will enquire further.

**NTC18/108 CW&C & PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr. Naylor advised Members of the Multiagency meeting he attended together with CWAC, NTC, Cheshire Police, the Traveller and Gypsy team, Regulatory Services and resident representatives in an attempt to avoid a repeat of last Summers disruptive problems in and around the town. In the short term there are no holding sites to direct Travellers to. Several suggestions were made and will be followed up. Cllr. Rowley added it would be good to see some progress made on this issue.

**NTC18/109 MONTHLY COUNCILLORS SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET**

Councillors reported a few general enquiries made at the last Artisan Market Surgery. There will be no Artisan Market in January, the next one will be held on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**NTC18/110 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

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