

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, 2019

Present : Cllr. K. Rimmer - Deputy Town Mayor

Councillors : Cllr. A. Cooper Cllr. Ms. S. Eastwood
Cllr. G. Emmett Cllr. T. Melville
Cllr T Lawrenson Cllr Mrs L Nelson
Cllr. Ms H Rowlands Cllr. A. Stott
Cllr. J. Taylor

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

NTC 18/112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D. Bowden, P Dolan, T Murphy, P Naylor, S.Naylor, Mrs. A Gerrard, M. Rowley, Mrs. J. Illidge, and B. Whitter. Cllr. M Falzon did not attend.

NTC 18/113 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 Cheshire West and Chester Council and Rudheath Parish Council

NTC 18/114 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 18/115 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7th January, 2019 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record with the following points mentioned: Alteration to show that Cllr. Mrs. S Eastwood did attend. Pilgrim Brethren should read Plymouth Brethren. Item 18/106 Give and Gain should read ...Streetcare Services the maintenance will not be carried out.

NTC18/116 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.1 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th January, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Rimmer

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Deputy Town Mayor

6.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15th January, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Stott.

NTC 18/117 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor attended the following events during January, 2019

Monday 21 st January	Active Cheshire	Playbox opening in Verdin Park
Monday 28 th January	Friends of Greenbank Station	Meeting with the Mayor – also attended by Cllr.Rimmer.

Cllr. Rimmer mentioned the WW1 Centenary display at Greenbank Station, it is a credit to those involved in the ongoing artwork on the platform.

NTC18/118 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1.0 Verdin Park improvements

Designs now taken into local primary schools for pupils to pick their favourite equipment. Over 500 Children have taken part and teachers reported back of enjoyment in having the chance to have their say. There was no clear winning design with all five receiving virtually the same amount of votes. This will be referred to Amenities Committee meeting on 12th February with recommendations on the way forward. We still await decision on the funding application that was submitted in December to create a woodland walk through the Park.

2.0 Dane Bridge Cenotaph

Funding application now completed for the refurbishment of the Cenotaph and submitted to the War Memorial Trust. A decision may take up to 14 weeks, and members will be advised of outcome.

3.0 Victoria Street and Burnside Way Play Areas

Funding applications have been submitted for both these sites which are in need of refurbishment. If successful, both sites will benefit from new equipment, safety surfacing seating and additional planting. The funding we applied for had a very short timescale in which to apply, and thanks go to our office staff who put this together really quickly. We will know if successful later this month, and hopefully the equipment will be on place by early April. Cllr. Cooper echoed his thanks to staff. This also had matched funding by local businesses. Will acknowledge these if successful.

4.0 Old Hall Play Area

Improvement works now completed at this site. A well done to all that were involved in the refurbishment.

Date.....

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5.0 Staff Appraisals

All staff appraisals have now been completed and a report will be presented to members of the Policy and Operations Commttee meeting on 14th February.

6.0 Crown Street Service Yard

We have recently been working with businesses that back onto the service yard at the rear of Crown Street after receiving complaints regarding disused bins, fly tipping and other issues. A meeting was arranged with CWAC and BID and all businesses affected to address these issues. Meeting was very productive with all concerned agreeing to suggestions from officers. NTC have now carried out a Give and Gain clean of the service yard, and installed a cigarette bin for business staff to use in a bid to keep the area clean and tidy, This was great partnership working from all involved as we continue to make improvements to the town centre. Cllr. Cooper commented this was a really good result.

7.0 Unauthorised Encampments

There is to be a meeting arranged with partners to discuss how we deal with unauthorised encampments in Northwich this coming year. Members will be advised of the date in due course.

8.0 Fizz Free February

Working in partnership with Middlewich, Winsford Town Councils and Northwich BID, we are supporting the Fizz Free Feb campaign. Cllr. Rowlands gave an overview which promotes giving up fizzy drinks for February. There are posters available, and the BID are promoting online.

9.0 Marks and Spencer Proposed closure

A letter prepared to send to the CEO of Marks and Spencer was read out by the Deputy Mayor, in response to the potential closure of their store in Northwich.This was proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour to send the prepared letter.

Approved.

10.0 Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday 12th February, Amenities Committee Meeting 5.00 p.m. NTC Council Offices
- Tueaday 12th February, Town Mayor’s Cheese and Wine Evening 7.00 – 9.00 P.M. Council Chamber
- Thursday 14th February Policy and Operations Committee Meeting 5.00 p.m. NTC offices
- Tuesday 19th February, Finance Meeting 9.30 a.m. at NTC offices.
- Tuesday 19th February, Planning Meeting 5.00 p.m. at NTC offices.
- Wednesday 27th February, Town and Parish Conference 5.30 p.m. Double Tree Hotel Chester.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Deputy Town Mayor**

NTC18/119 PRECEPT 2019/2020

Finance Committee discussed in length the 2019/20 budget requirement for Northwich Town Council and recommend that the budget previously distributed to Members. Decision of the Council is requested.

Following Finance recommendation to accept the precept with minor adjustments. We precept to CW&C for £513,849. This gives a Band D Charge for 2019/20 of £76.38, which is a £1.25 increase on a band D property per year (1.7%).

Cllr. Cooper commented that the precept has not been raised for many years. NTC have achieved so much over recent years. This is a very small increase in comparison to other local councils in the area. There are some risks coming up during this coming year, in addition to the expenditure anticipated on Verdin Park.

Moved by Cllr. Cooper to accept, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. Vote taken eight for, with one abstention and one against. Motion carried.

Approved

Councillors also considered the Internal Audit Report. It was decided to accept the recommendations contained within the report. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

NTC18/120 FUEL CARDS

Fuel is currently purchased for our works vehicles and equipment using a Council issued credit card which has an annual fee. After looking at various options and savings for the alternative of using a fuel card provided to our staff, it was decided by Finance Committee Members that On Route Fuel Card would give the biggest savings. Benefits as follows:-

- Fixed rate each week
- No card charges
- No annual fee
- Monthly invoicing to fit in with Finance
- Mileage is recorded and can be checked online
- Local fuel stations for filling up
- Each staff member issued with a card and record vehicle and mileage.

Decision of the Council requested to approve Finance Committee recommendations to commence using the On Route Fuel Card for all staff members. Cllr. Stott asked if credit cards will still be used. There will be just one card in use. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Melville.

Approved

Date.....

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Deputy Town Mayor

NTC18/121 MERSEY FOREST FORUM & NATIONAL COMMUNITY FOREST CONFERENCE

Details of these events previously distributed to Members. The late Cllr. Jamieson previously attended these. Members were asked to consider a representative to attend future meetings. Cllr. Emmett showed his interest in attending.

Resolved.

NTC18/122 NORTHERN RAIL

Cllr. Cooper reported on the recent meeting held with representatives from Northern Rail, the CRP and other stakeholders, in addition to our local M.P. Mike Amesbury. Discussed rolling stock and times used. Also on-time performances. One stakeholder claimed there should be no cancellations on hourly trains. At the moment it is not appropriate to change trains to Pace style. The line running through Northwich is a heavily used line. When cancellations occur it is not ideal for schoolchildren in particular to be left waiting on platforms. Stakeholders took away several actions discussed and advised a 6 month timescale to tackle these issues. Further discussed were the 2 trains per hour on the Mid Cheshire line. This was dependent on infrastructure improvement work not having taken place. The shelter at Greenbank station is now much smaller and bins had been removed. Members were reassured that the approvals process has now been changed to include consulting with local stakeholders before any changes made. The shelter will be reviewed proposal, restore bins and poster holders. This was a positive meeting but acknowledged some things not ideal. Our biggest concern was regarding the schoolchildren not being left on platforms. Cllr. Taylor asked in relation to the current rail strikes on Saturdays. These had been discussed at an earlier meeting. Cllr. Rimmer commented it is important to know the timescales set. He is a regular train passenger and felt it important to discuss at the meeting. Cancellations impact upon all communities. Cllrs. Nelson and Rowlands mentioned the Railway station accessibility at Northwich. Cllr Cooper advised that the process needs to be followed and there is no access to funding at present. The Local Enterprise Partnership also to report on re-opening of a disused rail line and additional stations which are under consideration. Cllr. Emmett suggested other strategic bodies such as Transport for the North who deal with other issues such as HS2/3, but asked would they have any influence in relation to Franchises.

NTC18/123 CWAC & PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Cooper referred to the Local Plan Part 2, and the attendance at the last Planning Meeting of Catherine Fox. There are amendments to be made on it in view of our Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned the closure of Morningside Residential Home in Winsford and the impact this has on an aging population. Most residents have moved to Lostock Lodge. Cllr. Rimmer also mentioned comments he has seen on social media in relation to Northwich Carnival. As he is our outside body representative, he has not been contacted.

Cllr. Rimmer has also met the new PCSO for Hartford, Greenbank and Moss Farm, and is very impressed at her commitment to communities. Has suggested a letter is sent from NTC to the Chief Inspector considering her to be a role model for PCSO's. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer, seconded by Cllr. Cooper.

Resolved

At this point Cllr. Cooper declared an interest in Victoria Road Primary School where he is a School Governor. Wanted to acknowledge the fact that Victoria Road School is in the 0.2% bracket of top schools in the country.

Date.....

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NTC18/124 MONTHLY COUNCILLORS SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

The next Councillor Surgery at the Artisan Market will take place on Saturday, 9th February. There was no Artisan Market held in January. Councillors agreed on the following attendance:-

- 11-12 Cllr. Shelley Eastwood
- 12-1 Cllr. Graham Emmett
- 1-2 Cllr. Andy Stott.

Cllr. Rimmer will also cover most of the hours.

NTC18/125 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 4th March, 2019 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Deputy Town Mayor