

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

Present : Cllr. Mrs. Alison Gerrard Town Mayor

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

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

NTC 18/126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

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

NTC 18/127 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

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

NTC 18/128 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public addressed Members in relation to previous issues brought up with them. The Mayor advised that the Council will be taking advice following this visit and will issue a response in due course.

NTC 18/129 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

- 4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4th February, 2019 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record with the following points mentioned: Alteration to show at NTC18/120 Cllr T. Melville. Was incorrectly shown as T.Mellor. Now corrected. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. All in favour.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC18/130 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Amenities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th February, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Cooper with alteration at AM19/14 should be K Rimmer, not D. Rimmer.
- 5.2 To note Policy and Operations Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14th February, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Nelson.
- 5.3 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th February, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Rimmer with the correction made regarding voting and abstention.
- 5.4 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th February, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Stott.

NTC 18/131 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor attended the following events during February , 2019

Saturday 2nd February	Churches Together in Northwich	Barons Quay
Monday 4th February	Winsford Town Council	Mayor's Chinese Night
Tuesday 5th February	Cheshire Best Kept Stations	2018 Awards Evening
Thursday 7th February	Friends of Weaver Hall Museum	20th year anniversary
Friday 8th February	Mid Cheshire Scouts	District Gang Show
Saturday 10th February	Rotary Club	Annual pensioners lunch
Monday 11th February	Visual Arts	Once Upon a Time Children's Art
Tuesday 12th February	NTC	Mayor's Charity Cheese and Wine evening
Wednesday 13th February	Age UK Hartford	Men In Sheds 10th anniversary.
Friday 15th February	Sir John Deane's College **Deputy Mayor Cllr. Rimmer attended**	College production 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'
Friday 15th February	Lord Mayor of City of Chester	Lord Mayor's Banquet
Thursday 21st February	Funeral of the late Mrs Eira Bowden	N/A
Friday 22nd February	Mid Chesh. Musical Theatre Co.	'Spamalot' production

Cllr. Rimmer commented regarding the production he attended and said it was the best one ever.

Date.....

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Town Mayor

NTC18/132 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1.0 Verdin Park improvements

The funding application has to be submitted by 13th March, but due to the tight timescale this may have to be put back due to NTC now designing the scheme in-house. Will keep members informed of progress and designs.

We have been successful for the Awards for All bid and received the full amount of £9800 for the construction of a woodland trail around the Park. TC advised we can no longer apply for funding from WREN as we are out of their boundary. However, we have applied to Veolia at Stage 1 of their funding process.

2.0 Victoria Street and Burnside Way Play Areas

We have just had confirmation that we are to receive the full funding of £25,500 this will be used in respect of Victoria Street. We were unsuccessful in obtaining funding for Burnside Way. Cllr. Cooper commented this is fantastic news. Victoria Street was in a worse state, and the plans put together are really something. It will make a huge difference to children in the local area. The funding scheme was oversubscribed with applications. This success reflects well on the whole NTC team. TC outlined plans for the play area regarding equipment. Also wanted to give massive thanks to Oakmere Toyota and J.P. Ceramics for their support.

3.0 CWAC Town and Parish Conference.

We recently attended the Town and Parish Council Conference which was held in Chester, where we gave a presentation on how we won the Council of the Year Award. Presentation was well received and many questions asked about the services we provide and how we obtain funding for our projects and events. Good opportunity to network and share best practices and listen to others experiences. Cllr. Whitter who also attended considered this a great event. Northwich considered a leading light.

4.0 Active Communities

Cllr. S. Naylor had agreed to give background, but was not in attendance at the meeting. A report was previously distributed among members prior to this meeting. Briefly the objective is to make physical activity available and easily accessible. Encourage and support as many people as possible to take part. Cllr. Cooper asked what it is we are being asked to do. Cllr. Rowley mentioned he was involved in this initiative last year.

5.0 Crown Street Service Yard

Following on from our work with partners and businesses within this area, we have seen a vast improvement with no reports of fly tipping or parking issues which prevented trade bins being emptied. A conscious effort is being made to keep the area clean and tidy which can only have a positive effect on the town.

Date.....

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Town Mayor

6.0 Unauthorised Encampments

Still in the process of arranging a meeting and getting all partners together to discuss Unauthorised Encampments in Northwich. Dates will be advised when partners come back to us.

7.0 Vickersway Park and Church Walk Paddling Pool

Preparations are now well under way for the opening of both parks in early April, weather permitting. Shops will be decorated and pool area cleansed and repainted where necessary. We shall again be working with our suppliers to cut down on plastic use wherever possible.

8.0 Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 19th March, Finance and General Purposes Meeting 9.30 a.m. at NTC Offices
Tuesday 19th March Planning and Environment Meeting 5.00 p.m. at NTC Offices

TC also wished to advise regarding the Barons Quay Pontoon Opening, taking place next Monday 11th March. Cllrs. Rimmer deputising for the Town Mayor, and Cllr. Murphy will attend.

Cheshire Costabulary are now sending regular updates to NTC. Latest report was advised to members.

Cheshire Radio – has asked OFCOM for a licence, and have asked if we will support their application by way of a letter from NTC. TC read extract from information received from them outlining their objectives. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer and seconded by Cllr. Cooper that we provide letter as requested. All in favour.

Resolved.

Northwich Carnival - Cllr. Rimmer wished to update members on a recent meeting he attended. If no take up for new Committee Members, the Carnival may have to close. There is the need to look at other ways of hosting this annual event. Cllr. Rimmer appealed for any Councillors available to help with marshalling on the day of the Carnival to get in touch with him directly. The Carnival had low attendance last year, and there are new members on the Committee. TC has requested a meeting with the Committee in relation to the use of Verdin Park.

NTC18/133 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Contract Fees

The Finance Committee reviewed our contract fees and recommend that these remain the same over the next 12 months. If we decided to increase our rates, we would not be competitive when tendering for external contracts. Decision of the Council is requested. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper seconded by Cllr. Stott.

Approved

Burial Fees April 2019 – March 2020

The Finance Committee reviewed our Burial fees for Witton and Dane Valley Cemeteries, and recommend these remain the same over the next 12 months. Decision of the Council is requested. Proposed by Cllr. Rowley, seconded by Cllr. Emmett.

Approved

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
Town Mayor

Unauthorised Encampments

TC gave background to this issue around the town including Belmont Road playing field and Winnington Meadow, both sites currently being unprotected. TC has worked over the past few months with partners to have both these fields bunded to protect against future attempts at Encampments. CWAC will make a contribution to the works and NTC will Project Manage the work. Contribution coming from Rudheath and Witton Together will go towards the Belmont Road site. Decision of the Council is requested to approve Finance Committee recommendation to install soil bunding to both fields with NTC contributing £1600. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Amenities Fees April 2019- March 2020

Finance Committee reviewed our Amenity charges and recommend the following charges remain the same over the next 12 months:-

- Vickersway Park Amenity Charges to remain the same for 2019/2020
- Whalley Road Football Field Charges to remain the same for 2019/2020
- Hire of Verdin Park Charges to remain the same for 2019/2020
- Allotment Charges to remain the same for 2019/2020
- Chapel Costs to remain the same for 2019/2020

Decision of the Council is required to approve Finance Committee recommendations to keep the Amenity rates the same due to the current economic climate. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Rowley. All in favour.

Approved

Town Centre Pest Control and Cleansing

Decision of the Council is required to approve Finance Committee recommendations that a contribution of £1000 is made by NTC towards pest control in the town centre. Northwich BID and CWAC have agreed to contribute £300 towards proofing and cleaning on identified buildings. Proposed by Cllr. Whitter, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. 13 votes for and Cllr. Rimmer voted against this. Motion carried.

Approved

NTC18/134 AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Witton Cemetery footpaths

Improvement to these is urgently needed, particularly to the main thoroughfare which needs kerbing and resurfacing. The decision of the Council is requested to approve the Amenities Committee recommendation to refurbish the path which is in very poor state. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Rimmer. All in favour.

Approved

Date.....

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Verdin Park Play Area

From the consultation carried out on the proposed first stage infant play area in Verdin Park, it was identified that there was not one design that stood out. It has been recommended that NTC project manage themselves to develop the site. The decision of the Council is required to approve Amenities Committee recommendation for NTC to fully project manage Verdin Park to provide the first phase of the toddler play area. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Whitter. All in favour.

Approved

Pocket Parks Funding

2 applications submitted to refurbish Victoria Street in Lostock, and Burnside Way Winnington. (Funding has been mentioned above in these Minutes referring to Victoria Street Play area).

The decision of the Council is requested to approve Amenities Committee recommendation to have Play and Leisure as the preferred Play Manufacturer to carry out these works. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

NTC18/135 CWAC & PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Cooper attended Community Conversations meeting in relation to bringing Organisations that provide support to manage health and care needs closer together to enable more support to be provided in people’s homes in the local community. A further meeting is arranged to progress this initiative.

Cllr. Rimmer attended a meeting with Plymouth Brethren in relation to Hartford Manor, which he found both constructive and honest. There are a lot of local concerns. The school is due to open in September with students coming from South Liverpool, Manchester, Chester and Crewe areas, and will be transported by minibus. The school will follow the National Curriculum and will provide education for Years 7-13. The school is self-funded and Cllr. Rimmer was advised the site will be put to good use. Plymouth Brethren are keen to get in touch with the local community.

Cllrs. Cooper and Stott attended a recent CWAC Members briefing. The following were among items discussed.

Regeneration of Barons Quay – Sports Direct are due to open this month. Discussions being held with other prospective businesses. A new entity Barons Quay Social are due to exchange contracts shortly, this will be a food outlet.

Events taking place – Easter week activities will tie in with the Northwich BID Easter Extravaganza event. NOW! Northwich looks set for a comeback this Summer.

Watling Street – demolition of the office building to commence shortly.

Winnington Village – This appears to be a complicated issue with the Developers and CWAC having an arbitration case coming up. Cllr. Murphy commented there have been no monies spent in Winnington, in view of the large volume of homes being constructed and built. The planned reduction of the speed limit should be in place over the next few months, but have to be phased in due to ongoing road works.

Date.....

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Town Mayor**

Cycle routes and tree works completed.

A crossing is to be installed at Birdcage Walk in May.

Lostock corridor – Improvements to be delivered include a Roundabout to the entrance to Jack Richards Haulage. Crossing at Cookes Lane, signalised crossing at the junction of Broken Cross and King Street. Gadbrook Park improvements to lengths of slip roads and 2 lanes towards Manchester and 2 lanes opposite direction will be completed later this year.

Localities – Following referendum regarding parking permits on Percy Street, Whalley Road and Church Walk, result was in favour. Priory Street and School Lane did not reach the threshold required to implement permits.

Moss Farm - £2m for outdoor sports improvement.

TC will approach CWAC for landscaping work in Verdin Park to add to the Cycle Scheme.

NTC18/136 WARRINGTON AND VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

Cllr. Bowden gave update of a meeting he attended. If Northwich want access to Further Education, it has to be accepted that we go along with current plans. The College is looking at hiring buildings in Northwich for use. A proactive and genuine meeting. With our existing High Schools they offer great opportunities for students up to 18 years old. The College are finding pressure from High Schools for Further Education facilities. Cllr. Bowden then put the question to our members as to how well are we, as a Council represented on School Boards? He suggests we contact our High Schools to express our wish to support them in active links to Warrington and Vale Royal College, and to meet with us to indicate what support is needed. Cllr. Rimmer agreed with the fact the College were totally honest with us. There was concern at the number of properties to be built on the site. Cllr. Cooper added he would like tie-ins with our larger local companies in the area. Cllr. Bowden remarked those attending the meeting were listened to respectfully. Cllr. Stott also attended the meeting and considered the meeting to be positive on all sides, and it was showing good effort on their part that they were looking for suitable buildings to utilise, and they may consider Baron’s Quay. All questions were answered honestly and openly. Looking for the best outcome for students. Cllr. Bowden reiterated his request to draft a suitable letter to the College and High Schools. It was agreed that Cllr. Bowden and the Town Clerk to a joint approach. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Rimmer.

Resolved.

NTC18/137 MONTHLY COUNCILLORS SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

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

- 10-11 Cllr. Rowley
- 11-12 Cllr. Murphy
- 12-1 Cllr. Rimmer
- 1-2 Cllr. Illidge/Cllr. Rimmer

Cllr. Rimmer will also cover most of the hours.

Date.....

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

NTC18/138 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Monday 1st April, 2019 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
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