

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 1ST APRIL, 2019

Present: Cllr. Mrs. Alison Gerrard Town Mayor

Councillors: Cllr. D. Bowden Cllr. Mrs. J. Illidge Cllr. K. Rimmer
Cllr. A. Cooper Cllr. T. Melville Cllr. M. Rowley
Cllr. P. Dolan Cllr. T. Murphy Cllr. A. Stott
Cllr. Ms. S. Eastwood Cllr. S. Naylor
Cllr. G. Emmett Cllr.Mrs. L. Nelson

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

NTC 18/139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Lawrenson, P Naylor and H. Rowlands. Cllrs. M. Falzon, J. Taylor and B. Whitter did not attend.

NTC 18/140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

- Pecuniary Interest
- Outside Bodies Interest
- Family, Friend or Close Associate interest
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Cllr. P. Dolan declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr. S. Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.

NTC 18/141 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public addressed Members in relation to previous issues brought up with them and read out a prepared statement repeating the previous issues.
The Mayor thanked the member of the public, but said we would not be answering any direct questions.

NTC 18/142 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4th March, 2019 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. Minutes signed by the Mayor.

Date.....

Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC18/143 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Rimmer
- 5.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Stott.

Cllr. Cooper referred to the Dane Valley development. An Appeal was upheld by the Secretary of State for Ainscough Strategic Land. NTC had worked hard with residents to prevent this development and opposed the Plans. Cllr. S. Naylor added that it was unfortunate in this situation when both Cheshire West and Chester Council and NTC opposed this. Residents incorrectly blame us for these decisions.

Cllr. Emmett mentioned at this point the poor lighting on Weaver Way, and asked ATC to write to Waitrose regrading this.

NTC 18/144 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor attended the following events during March , 2019

Sunday 3 rd March	146 Squadron (Northwich)	Graduation ceremony
Wednesday 6 th March	CWAC	Sheriff's Breakfast
Sunday 10 th March	Mayor of East Cheshire	Mayor's Charity lunch
Thursday 21 st March	Northwich Radio	Interview with the Mayor.
Friday 22 nd March	The Grange School	Legally Blond, The Musical
Saturday 23 rd March	Mayor and Mayoress of Knutsford	Charity Ball The Courthouse
Sunday 24 th March	Northwich Rotary Club	Charity Swimathon
Wednesday 27 th	The Russett School	Musical performance **Cllr. Rimmer attended**
Friday 29 th March	Northwich Rotary Club	Charter Night dinner
Saturday 30 th March	Cheshire Autism Practical Support	Art Exhibition

Cllr. Rimmer mentioned the event at the Russett School and was very impressed by the production.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
Town Mayor

NTC18/145 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1.0 Verdin Park improvements

We have applied to Veolia for the funding for Verdin Park. A Stage One bid was submitted and this was successful, so we are now to submit Stage Two when the funding round opens later this year. If successful we hope to start the work late 2019, early 2020. We are doing all we can to obtain as much funding as possible for stage one of the play area.

Damage to the Bob Verdin statue that was caused by a fire has now been repaired, initial installation of the stonework was incorrect with the profile of the pillar at the wrong angle. This has now been rectified by the Contractor and the works now complete. NTC staff will now reinstall the replacement bench that was also damaged over the next few days.

2.0 Victoria Street and Burnside Way Play Areas

Works have already started on removing a damaged path and signage. Works will begin over the next few weeks on the full refurbishment.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our application for Burnside Way as the funding available was oversubscribed. We continue to look out for other funding pots for all our sites and if suitable will apply. Over the last few days some damage has been caused to the equipment at Burnside Way and has now been removed. Suppliers are being asked for costs to replace the equipment. This will be carried out by NTC staff to reduce our overall costs.

3.0 Vickersway Park

Our staff have been carrying out annual works to the Bowling Green and Putting Green in preparation for the Summer. Considerable damage has been caused due to last years dry, hot summer, but it is hoped the Greens will make full recovery. We plan to open the Bowling Green over the Easter weekend.

4.0 Parkrun

The First Anniversary of the Parkrun took place on Saturday 30th March. Cllr. Cooper commented this is a really successful regular event. There are between 200/300 taking part each week. This is a brilliant initiative and credit must go to the organisers. Cllr. Bowden added there is a very positive atmosphere and is very uplifting to observe.

5.0 Church Walk Paddling Pool

NTC staff have now completed works to the Paddling Pool shop and pump room in readiness for the coming season. Repairs to be done to the surface and servicing of the dosing system shortly. Some of the wet pour around the pool is lifting, so 3 quotes have been requested to carry out the repairs as soon as possible, as the guarantee ran out 6 months ago.

Date.....

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

6.0 Crown Street Service Yard

We are still monitoring Crown Street following emails received from businesses regarding fly tipping. These are being passed on to Regulatory Services to investigate wherever possible.

7.0 Town Clean Up

On Tuesday 2nd April, CWAC and partners will be organising a clean of the area across from Pure Gym and Northwich Glass. This is part of the funding that has come from Government to be spent on cleansing town centres throughout the U.K.

8.0 Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 16th April , Finance and General Purposes Meeting 9.30 a.m. at NTC Offices
Tuesday 16th April Planning and Environment Meeting 5.00 p.m. at NTC Offices

9.0 Town Mayors Indian

Places are still available for the Town Mayors Charity Indian Night at The Indian situated in Castle. This is a very popular night with fantastic food and great raffle prizes. All proceeds go to the Mayors chosen Charity, The North West Air Ambulance.

10.0 Staff

Over the last few months 3 members of staff have decided to leave NTC to take up alternative employment. Would like to extend thanks to them for all their hard work over the years and wish them all the best in the future. We are in the process of recruiting new staff over the next few weeks.

11.0 Witton Cemetery

Path improvement works have now taken place within the Cemetery. Two areas have now been completed and the works carried out by NTC staff to reduce costs to the Council.

12.0 Cheshire Constabulary

Following our letter of appreciation of our local PCSO's to the Chief Cnstable, we have received a letter of thanks regarding this. Copy distributed to Members.

NTC18/146 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Asset Register 2019/2020

The Asset Register 2019/2020 were approved by Finance Committee on 19th March 2019. The decision of the Council is requested. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Rowley. All in favour.

Approved

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
Town Mayor

Financial Regulations 2019/2020

The Financial Regulations 2019/2020 were approved by Finance Committee on 19th March, 2019. The decision of the Council is requested. Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

Financial Risk Assessment 2019/2020

The Financial Risk Assessment 2019/2020 was approved by Finance Committee on 19th March, 2019. The decision of the Council is requested. Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Stott. All in favour.

Approved

Internal Audit 2019/2020

It was noted at the Finance Committee on 19th March, 2019 there were no recommendations made to us, which indicated we had achieved a ‘Clean Audit’. Proposed by Cllr. Rimmer, proposed by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved.

NTC18/147 CWAC & PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Rimmer made reference to the Cheshire F.A. matter, in reference to grass-roots football. Cllr. Naylor commented that it was a shame this facility was not coming to Northwich and going to Winsford instead as a multi-million pound venture. The facilities will be available for Northwich Groups to make use of in Winsford. The good news however, was that CWAC is investing a £2m improvement project at Moss Farm. Cllr. Dolan added he would be keen on the inclusion of all groups and abilities to use. Cllr. Murphy voiced his disappointment that Cheshire F.A. chose the Winsford site. NTC should complain after we had been promised this would be in Northwich. Cllr. Murphy continued that in football terms, grass roots costs too much. Moss Farm is currently a disgrace for football and the all weather pitch does not appear to be used at all. £2m will not make a great deal of difference, and a lot more needs to be spent, and we should ask for more finance. Cllr. Naylor commented it used to be the Jewel in the Crown for both football and hockey, and he was hopeful that matched funding would come from other partners to increase the investment into Moss Farm. Cllr. Murphy also questioned ownership of the Winsford site.

Cllr. Cooper advised he had attended a meeting regarding the Unauthorised Encampments. Discussions took place in respect of agencies preparations for this coming year. Various options were discussed by the Police and were reassured that measures are in place. NTC have placed bunding at sites that were used last Summer, this was worth doing, and funding is in place to complete the work at Belmont Road.

Cllr. Rimmer advised he attended a meeting to try and arrange this years Carnival in July with members of the Carnival Committee. Asked the press (present) if they could highlight this event, and also if any Councillors who would be available 6th and 7th July to support, as there is a shortage of Manpower for this event.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
Town Mayor

Cllr. Dolan at this point wished to show his appreciation to Officers and staff of NTC. Has been a Councillor for 10 years, and wished to thank a fantastic team. Acknowledged the pivotal part in many transformations was paid to the late Cllr. Brian Jamieson. Cllr. Dolan added that upon reflection, Cheshire West and Chester were very ambitious in their plans for Northwich, and little evidence shown as to the wishes of residents. There are still challenges and frustrations ahead. Wanted to use this occasion to thank everybody. NTC were very deserving of the Award recently won, and the Town Council is well regarded by its residents. Cllr. Naylor echoed this vote of thanks to those Councillors now standing down. Cllr. Dolan has been a tremendous support and inspiration to him personally, and will be a great loss to this Council. Cllr. Dolan in his role as Cabinet Member will also be sadly missed at Cheshire West and Chester Council.

NTC18/148 MONTHLY COUNCILLORS SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Last month the Artisan Market was held indoors at Barons Quay due to adverse weather conditions. Cllr. Rimmer advised that members of the public asked if the Artisan Market could be held indoors again. General questions were asked mostly in relation to matters dealt with by Streetcare. Appropriate guidance was given to residents as to how they may contact Cheshire West and Chester Council.

There will be no Councillor Surgery this month at the Artisan Market, due to the upcoming Local elections in May.

PART B

In accordance with Local Government Act –Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the following Agenda item is to be considered in the absence of press and public.

NTC/149 PAY SCALES

Please refer to Appendix 122.

NTC18/150 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 7th May, 2019 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Date.....

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Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard
Town Mayor