

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER, 2019

Present: Cllr. K. Rimmer Town Mayor

Councillors: Cllr. . Bowden Cllr. Mrs. J. Illidge Cllr. A. Cooper
Cllr. Ms. S Eastwood Cllr. Ms H Rowlands Cllr. A. Stott
Cllr. Mrs. L. Nelson Cllr. S. Naylor Cllr. G. Emmett
Cllr. Mrs. A Gerrard Cllr. M Rowley Cllr. M. McNamee
Cllr. Mrs. A. Lockett

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

NTC 19/45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Melville. C. Fox, and G. Edwards

NTC 19/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

- Pecuniary Interest
- Outside Bodies Interest
- Family, Friend or Close Associate interest

Cllr. S. Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr. A. Cooper declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Ms H Rowlands declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.
Cllr. T Lawrenson declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.
Cllr. A Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.

NTC 19/47 OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Gaynor Sinar wished to speak about several issues.

- NIRA will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in January.
- Communications from Cheshire West need to improve to tenants and retailers in Weaver Square.
- Retailers are of the opinion that preference is given to Barons Quay in respect of free parking. Smaller retailers at a disadvantage due to this and therefore affecting some independents.
- The Artisan Market site is moving towards Barons Quay area. Local retailers want to take part but find businesses from outside the area are getting preference for stalls, and similar products on sale from outside businesses over local retailers.
- Mentioned current problems with the derelict building at the bottom of Castle Street

.Cllr. Emmett enquired regarding a footfall survey. New residents enjoy the town facilities and free parking at Barons Quay. Cllr. Naylor added that these comments are welcome and NTC should meet regularly with the BID, CWAC and Barons Quay, and is vital that we listen and try to get the town which is thriving and succeeding, more attractive to visitors. Town Clerk to respond to the speaker. The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Sinar.

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC 19/48 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. Emmett seconded by Cllr. Stott. Minutes signed by the Mayor. All in favour.

NTC19/49 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd September, 2019 Noted by Cllr. Stott. Cllr. Eastwood confirmed that she attended the meeting, this will be corrected on the Minutes..
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September, 2019. Noted by Cllr. Nelson.

NTC 19/50 TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended the following events during September

Thursday 5 th September	Northwich Leg Club	1 st anniversary
Saturday 7 th September	High Sheriff of Cheshire	Afternoon Tea Deputy Mayor Cllr. Nelson attended The Garden Party
Monday 9 th September	Mid Cheshire Rail	Station Clock photocall.
Sunday 15 th September	RBL	Battle of Britain service
Saturday 20 th September	Rotary Club Northwich	Beer and Drinks Festival
Saturday 21 st Sept	Wincham PC	Unveiling Wincham Jet Commemorative stone
Sunday 22 nd Sept	Cheshire RBL	Service of Commemoration & Thanksgiving
Friday 27 th Sept	Daneside Court	Harvest Festival
Friday 27 th September	Mid Cheshire Rail Users Assocn.	Dedication of Peace and Reflection Garden at Greenbank Station

The Town Mayor mentioned the Friends of Greenbank Station, the Garden of Remembrance they have created, very special thanks to them.

Also reminded members of the Cheese and Wine evening on 22nd October in support of the Mayor’s charities.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

1.0 Church Walk and Vickersway Park Shops

Church Walk has now closed for the winter period and Vickersway Shop will now only be open at weekends. TC wished to take opportunity of thanking all the staff who have worked extremely hard throughout the summer.

2.0 Penny Black Phone Box

Great feedback received from the public regarding its future use received. Amenities meeting to be arranged within the next month or so to discuss suggestions, and report back to Full Council for final decision.

3.0 Northwich Floral Displays

Displays will be removed over the next few weeks and replaced with winter bedding. Displays have looked fantastic again, and thanks to all NTC staff who have maintained them throughout the year.

4.0 Outside contracts

Contract work continues to grow throughout the year and has now seen an increase in Christmas tree orders for neighbouring towns and parishes.

5.0 Events

The NOW Festival took place over last weekend and again, proved to be a great success seeing thousands of people flock to the town. Cllr. Cooper commented that it was organised by Cheshire Dance, with support from NTC. Busier than last year and was a brilliant event. This is part of the regeneration, and will be repeated next year. The Mayor reiterated these comments. Cllr. Naylor commented that he would like to turn Northwich into an events capital. Great assistance by NTC, and thanks to CWAC and the Arts Council for financial support. Wants to see more town businesses to become involved and support to make this a sustainable fantastic event.

NTC are now approaching one of our busiest times of the year working on plans and organising Remembrance Parade and Service and the Christmas Extravaganza. Any help that Councillors can give to our events would be greatly appreciated, and would Members let the TC know of their availability to volunteer.

NTC has plans for a Babies section at Dane Valley cemetery, and is working with SANDS. St Helen's Church and the Cenotaph will be lit up in the colour pink in support of this. Rotary Club is doing a similar thing. This is an initiative the Town Mayor wants to personally support.

6.0 Meetings

Planning and Environment Meeting 7th October 4.30 p.m.

Finance and General Purposes Meeting 15th October 9.30a.m.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC19/52 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Proposed that they are accepted by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. All in favour.
Approved

NTC19/53 NORTHWEST IN BLOOM

NTC has received an invitation to attend the In Bloom Awards ceremony in Southport on Friday 1st November. If any members would like to attend, please let TC know over the next few days.

NTC19/54 PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

Reasons given are contained within the report distributed among members. Cllr. Cooper gave background information and general points regarding this initiative. Discussions took place among members. Proposed to accept by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.
Approved

NTC19/55 KRAZY RACES JUNE 2020

TC gave background report to this.. This event is set for 14th June 2020, and applications are now open.

NTC19/56 CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Update given by TC as to arrangements so far. Event takes place on Saturday 23rd November. Volunteers are requested from members to help wherever possible. In particular assistance required for the Lantern Parade, and Cllr. Lockett has already agreed to give her assistance on the day. Cllr. Cooper also offered his help, and it was requested that any members able to volunteer to get in touch with the Town Clerk.

NTC19/57 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2019.

Report received was distributed among members. Cllr. Naylor explained of the Police presence being withdrawn from ceremonies. This has been a unitary decision by Cheshire Police, and it is hoped that this decision may be rescinded in the future.

NTC19/58 CWAC AND PARTNERS CORRESPONDENCE.

Cllr. Naylor commented regarding a report sent in respect of a No Deal Brexit. Several meetings have taken place with many stakeholders, Goods, Services, employees, Hospitals etc. These have taken the form of cross-party discussions. It is considered that the consequences of a No Deal Brexit could be seriously horrific. As an authority, CWAC have got a form of planning in place.

NTC19/59 MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY AT THE ARTISAN MARKET

Members gave update. Many compliments received for NTC and CWAC.
11 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Cllrs.. Cooper, Emmett and Stott

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC19/60 OUTSIDE BODIES UPDATES

Cllr. Cooper attended a meeting of the Mid Cheshire Rail Partnership, which is going through a period of change. Pacer trains will be replaced by Sprinters by end of year. Points made about children at Greenbank station. Tickets machine problems being looked at. The Town Mayor personally finds the Rail Service unsatisfactory with lateness and cancellation of trains. Promise to Pay initiative was specifically raised. There have been some improvements in maintenance along the line towards Manchester. Northern Rail acknowledge the facts that staffing levels are too low and there is poor retention of staff, and they are trying to resolve. Our M.P. Mike Amesbury has organised a follow up meeting.

Cllr. Emmett advised that he will no longer be able to continue to be representative for Orsted, and other NTC Committees as he is now employed. Cllr. Naylor continues to be representative for Orsted.

Cllr. Bowden spoke about educational provision in Northwich. A letter stating our concerns in respect of the closure of Mid Cheshire College, was sent to local schools early in the year but had little or no response. The decision made to write again to enquire if Vale Royal College is honouring their commitment to High Schools, and if they are satisfied. To let us know and how we can help. This was proposed by Cllr. Illidge, seconded by Cllr. Naylor, who at this point declared an interest as he has become Member of the Board of Vale Royal College. This being primarily to ensure we have presence in the town and looking to get classroom provision in Northwich area for the needs of students.. Will report back to Council. All in favour to write to schools in the area again. Cllr. Rowley asks that the letter to be sent to Cheshire Association of School Governors. Cllr. Bowden suggests send to local schools first, Cllr. Rowley’s suggestion may be taken up as Part 2.

Town Mayor Cllr. Rimmer has received a PCSO report for Greenbank. Reports of malicious phone calls to the Emergency Services have been made from a phone kiosk on the estate. He made a plea to the Guardian to highlight that these must stop, and explained this behaviour has a serious impact on genuine cases. If necessary he will ask for the pone kiosk to be removed.

Saxons Lane – a degree of vandalism has occurred. Cllr. Bowden endorsed comments in respect of the Children’s Play Area at Saxons Lane. CWAC should know this area is well used and a great job has been made of improvements to the site.

NTC19/61 CWAC WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Naylor updated members on various items.. Cllrs. Cooper and Naylor are now members of the Regeneration Board. Good news regarding new retailers about to open in Barons Quay, and success is wanted for other independent retailers.

NTC19/62 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be Monday 4th November, 2019 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 p.m...

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor