

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER, 2020 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllr. K. Rimmer Town Mayor

Councillors: Cllr. D . Bowden Cllr. Mrs. L. Nelson
Cllr. A . Cooper Cllr. Ms. A. Gerrard
Cllr. Mrs. J Illidge Cllr. S. Naylor
Cllr. Mrs. A Lockett Cllr. G. Emmett
Cllr. A. Stott Cllr. Miss C. Fox
Cllr. Ms. J. Thomas

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

NTC 20/35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Rowlands, Edwards and McNamee. Cllrs.Melville, Eastwood, and Rowley did not attend.

NTC 20/36 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. A. Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.

NTC 20/37 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers

NTC 20/38 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

- 4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7th September, 2020 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. With a small adjustment made to comments regarding Saxons Lane vandalism. Cllr. Rimmer asked to point out that he had not specifically asked NTC to repair any signage. This has now been amended on the Minutes. Otherwise happy to accept. Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Gerrard . Minutes to be signed by the Mayor. All in favour.

Date.....

.....

Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC 20/39 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15th September, 2020 Noted by Cllr. Stott.
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2020. Noted by Cllr. Nelson.
- 5.3 To note the Extraordinary Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17th September, 2020. Noted by Cllr. Stott.

NTC 20/40 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor attended the following event during September. COVID19 restrictions were adhered to.

Wednesday 9th	Hartford P.C.	Commemorative Tree Planting for Eira Bowden
------------------	---------------	---

The Mayor commented that this was a very fitting tribute and thanks conveyed for the invitation.

NTC20/41 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1.0 Verdin Park Play Area

The new play area in Verdin Park is nearing completion with very pleasing results. Once the wet pour is installed the fencing will be removed. An official opening will be arranged with representatives from Veolia, the play companies and the Mayor to be invited.

2.0 Verdin Park Gates and Piers

The piers are now being repaired ready for installation. These works should be undertaken as soon as possible.

3.0 Robert Verdin Monument

Repairs have now been completed to the surrounding piers to the Monument, after the bench that was positioned in front was set alight causing considerable damage. Bench has now been reinstalled in Vickersway Park.

4.0 Old Hall Play Area Leftwich

A trim trail has been installed at the Play area. A second consultation was held to form a 'Friends of Old Hall Road Play Area' group which will help us to apply for funding for this site. It is hoped the group will increase in size as more residents get to know about the plans for further refurbishment. Cllr. Cooper with M.P. Mike Amesbury attended the opening of the Play area which coincided nicely with the children finishing school for the day. It was great to see the children so delighted with the new equipment, which was soon put to good use. Residents are very pleased with the result with many favourable comments made.

Date.....

.....

**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

5.0 Hanging baskets, planters and summer bedding

Now the time of year to remove the summer bedding and replace with winter bedding plants. The displays have looked magnificent around the town. TC wished to thank all those who made it possible.

6.0 Vickersway Park Kiosk

The small kiosk within Vickersway Park will now only be open at weekends, weather permitting.

7.0 Artisan Market

Will take place again within Barons Quay on Saturday, 10th October with secure COVID measures in place.

At this point the TC reported to members vandalism to windows that has taken place over the weekend to both Chapels of Rest within the Cemetery grounds. Replacement will be at a very significant cost. Police attended the site and our Insurers have been advised. CCTV was in operation and all footage captured will be handed to Police. Cllr. Naylor spoke to Police and TC regarding this considerable damage, and reiterated the importance of the public reporting to Police anything they see, witness or hear, and the Police response has to be better. The incident occurred last Saturday afternoon, 3rd October, with more than one person involved. As the Northwich Guardian Reporter was present at this meeting, several Councillors asked that this is noted.

NTC20/42 CO-OPTIONS

There are currently three vacancies for Co-option to Northwich Town Council. Six applications have been received.. Our policy states that all applicants be interviewed by a three member panel. Members to set up a three members interview panel, and conduct interviews with all candidates over Zoom in the coming weeks. The panel to give their recommendations at the November Full Council meeting.

Cllr. Rimmer explained the policy we have in place, and asked for volunteers. Proposed to accept the policy by Cllr. Gerrard, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. Cllrs. Rimmer, Naylor and Nelson agreed to form the panel with Cllr. Emmett in reserve. Dates of interviews to be confirmed between panel members. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC20/43 Christmas Extravaganza

A report was previously distributed among members. Unfortunately due to the current COVID-19 restrictions this event will not be taking place this year. Northwich Town Council are currently working with the Northwich BID, Barons Quay and CW&C to come up with some virtual events to support local businesses within the town. We shall still have the lights and trees installed through Town and are currently looking at having Town Bridge to be permanently illuminated for Christmas. It was proposed to accept this course of action by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

Date.....

**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/44 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A report was previously distributed among members. Unfortunately due to the current COVID-19 restrictions this event cannot take place in its current form. Therefore, Northwich Town Council have been in discussions with the Royal British Legion and St. Helen’s Church to still remember all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, but to undertake the event as safely as possible for those attending.

Proposal

Following on from the above meetings and taking guidance from Partners, we have decided on the following plan:

There will be no parade or Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and no refreshments afterwards.

The full service will take place in St Helen’s Church with a limited number of invited guests to take part in the service.

During the service the usual 2 minute silence will be observed and the Mayor will be called upon to lay a wreath on behalf of Northwich Town Council and the people fo Northwich. The names of those organisations will be called out who wish their wreaths to be laid in church.

Following this, all wreaths will be removed to the Cenotaph and any other organisations wishing personally to lay a wreath there, will be asked to stagger their visits throughout the day to do so, in line with social distancing measures.

A list of invited guests and organisations will be decided between NTC, Royal British Legion and St Helen’s Church over the next few weeks, and these will be notified. Organisations will still be able to purchase wreaths through the Royal British Legion and details will be given in our letter.

It is hoped to be able to webcast the Act of Remembrance, giving people who would normally attend the opportunity to view from their homes, and full details for this will be communicated nearer the time.

The Town Mayor will lay a wreath at 11.00 a.m. along with the Royal British Legion, social distancing measures observed at all times. This will be filmed and placed on our website and social media platforms.

A full risk assessment and COVID control measures will be drawn up to ensure the safety of all attending the event. We all realise this is not the way we would wish to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, but feel we have come up with the best solution available to us under these difficult circumstances.

Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Gerrard to accept the recommendations. All in favour.
Approved

NTC 20/45 TREE OF LIGHTS

A report was previously distributed among members. As with Remembrance arrangements, this event will have to be scaled back due to current COVID restrictions. We shall still be placing stars on the holly tree and lighting it up for the Christmas period. As with Remembrance, we shall be looking to webcast this so that people who would normally attend can view from their homes, and hear the names of their loved ones read out. This is not the service we would have liked to deliver, but under the circumstances we are left with no alternative, and keeping everyone safe is our main priority.

Proposed to go with the recommendation was Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour
Approved

Date.....

.....

**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/46 BIKE TO WORK SCHEME

ATC went over the main points in her report previously sent to Members giving full details of the scheme Cllr Cooper commented he has no objections to the scheme, however, his only criticism to the scheme is that the employee does not own the bike at the end of the term, after having paid a monthly sum to the scheme. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. All in favour.
Approved

NTC 20/47 CW&C AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. Naylor reported a number things are still active despite current COVID situation. The Open Space previously discussed for the community, will not now be ready until January or February 2021 This project has to be submitted to Planning. Wanting it to be as easy to maintain and available for as many organisations as possible to take advantage of it. Cllr Naylor has been approached by three organisations who want to do events and activities here, which will on be beneficial to the town.

Mid Cheshire Waterways Strategy – this is progressing well, with activity ideas on River events coming in. Good to see the Canal and River Trust wanting involvement also.

Mid Cheshire Development Board - Businesses in the Mid Cheshire area are showing their positivity in relation to the COVID recovery. Previous investment made by NTC and others such as ‘bundling’ to discourage Travellers has paid off. In relation to Remembrance, there is a local organisation who are desperate to locate a shield donated to Northwich in the 1940’s. Cllr. Naylor gave detailed background to the story behind this, which relates to the sponsorship of HMS Whych, Wants the plaque from the ship sent to Northwich, and would ideally like this to coincide with Remembrance. Cllr Nelson enquired as to the whereabouts of the shield that was displayed at the Cheshire County Council offices in Watling Street since its demolition. This is secured in storage. Cllr. Illidge asked when the statues are coming out of storage. Cllr. Naylor advised that this matter is currently a work in progress with Planning Officers.

Cllr Cooper added that it is concerning that due to COVID outbreak, the number of infections have risen in our Authority. CW&C have decided jointly with neighbouring Cheshire East to write to the Secretary of State to request additional measures. It is likely further restrictions will be introduced over the next few weeks. Also mentioned neighbouring Authorities. who have already introduced additional restrictions.

Cllr. Rimmer enquired about provision of Public toilets in Northwich. Asked the Guardian Reporter to point out that public toilets are available at both BRIO and ASDA, as the majority of people are not aware of this. Cllr. Naylor advised it is possible that future public toilets in the development of Weaver Square will be taken into account. Cllr. Rimmer is concerned particularly for the provision of disabled facilities. Cllr Illidge asked about reinstatement of toilets that were in Barons Quay. ADSA public toilets replaced these. Cllr. Fox added that ASDA is open quite late at night to use their facilities.

Cllr Naylor asked how Councillor’s owned businesses are coping. Cllr Nelson reported that their shop is busy and is recovering well. Cllr. Gerrard reported that she has to restrict the flow of clients. As her salon is quite large it is possible to socially distance, but the transition since lockdown has been tough.

Cllr Rimmer has visited several businesses in town and they reported to him the problems they have with customers not wearing masks, and have suffered abuse and resistance when challenged.

Cllr. Lockett advised that Parkrun HQ hope to resume Parkruns in October. She is not keen to go ahead in Northwich as the course is along narrow paths. Therefore she is looking at 2021 to restart.

Date.....

.....

**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/48 OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

Cllr Rimmer relayed some complaints he has received from some businesses in town regarding parking fines coming a problem to them. He will be contacting CW&C to see if any assistance is possible during this difficult time.

PART B

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

It was proposed by Cllr. Gerrard and seconded by Cllr. Illidge to proceed to Part B.

NTC20/49 STAFFING

NTC20/50 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting (Zoom Virtual) will be held on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 6.00pm. Usual details will be sent prior to this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Date.....

.....

**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**