

NTC 20/22 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th August, 2020 Noted by Cllr. Stott.
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th August 2020. Noted by Cllr. Nelson.

NTC 20/23 TOWN MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor attended the following events during August. COVID19 restrictions were adhered to in each case. Both events were held outdoors.

Saturday 15 th	RBL	75 th Anniversary VJ Day wreath laying
Saturday 15 th	Barons Quay	Northwich Heroes

NTC20/24 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

1.0 Northwich Town Centre Recovery

Northwich Town centre recovery continues with most shops now re opened, NTC will continue working with partners to support local businesses where we can.

2.0 Artisan Market

The first market since lockdown took place on Saturday 8th August in Barons Quay due to current COVID19 restrictions. Feedback has been generally positive with most people spoken to on the day happy with the market returning.

The market will again be in Barons Quay on Saturday 12th September until we can return to our original position on Witton Street.

While in the town centre the Mayor and some CW&C members had a walk around the town to speak with businesses to see how their recovery from this pandemic was going and this was welcomed by the businesses. The Mayor commented that he will continue to visit other businesses in the town.

3.0 Anti-social Behaviour and increased Littering

This seems to have subsided within our areas, we have implemented increased cleaning regimes and have been working closely with our local PCSO’s to address the issue in certain areas and this approach seems to be working. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned the recent vandalism seen in the Saxons Lane area.

Verdin Park Play area

Work has now begun on the new play area at Verdin Park and should be completed in around 3 weeks. Once completed TC will arrange a socially distanced photograph with members and representatives from WREN. Cllr. Bowden asked where is the specific area being refurbished, so he may report back to a resident who enquired.

4.0 Verdin Park Gates and Piers

Piers have now been picked up from the storage yard and taken to the Stonemason for repair. Piers will be re installed in around 6 weeks time. Cllr. Naylor stated that the local Guardian had been in touch to ask for details, he sent them our last minutes which contains all details.

Date.....

**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

At this point Cllr. Cooper suggested some thought is given to a suitable tribute in respect of the current Coronavirus pandemic in the town. Something that would acknowledge the works done by key workers, volunteers, other working parties, and including those families who have been affected by having lost a family member to the virus or having suffered in some way during this time. Requests that an item is placed on the Agenda for next month for members to come with their ideas or suggestions. It could be something as simple as a commemorative tree, or something a little more elaborate. Cllr. Bowden thought this an excellent idea and Cllr Naylor had been approached by a resident with thoughts along similar lines. Cllr. Rimmer added that the pandemic is certainly not over yet, but suggested maybe a working group for further discussion of members to implement this. Proposed that the matter is placed on a future Agenda by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Nelson.

Resolved.

NTC20/26 TO APPROVE FINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VICKERSWAY PARK AMENITY CHARGES AMENDMENTS

Report was previously distributed among Members. ATC read out main points. Decision of the Council was requested. Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

NTC20/27 TO APPROVE FINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSURANCE RENEWAL

ATC covered points contained within report previously sent to members. Decision of the Council was requested. This report has already been discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Gerrard. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 20/28 SUMMER PLAYScheme

A full report was previously distributed among members, and ATC picked up the main points. NTC has received a letter from Victoria Road School complimenting the scheme and gave some very positive feedback. This has been a most successful initiative. Cllr. Cooper suggests placing on record our thanks to Edsential for the one to one sessions they carried out and also for additional funding to make this possible. Cllr. Naylor added this is an excellent scheme, similar scheme next summer and to concentrate on other activities, as there are other organisations who aim to keep children occupied over a range of activities.

NTC 20/29 OLD HALL PLAY AREA

TC gave some background to the fact that in 2017 NTC signed a 30 year lease with CW&C to maintain and improve 6 play areas across town. 3 have already been refurbished to a very high standard and have proved very popular with the community.

We look at funding opportunities for all our sites, and are currently refurbishing Verdin Park with a funding Grant from WREN. With the recent spate of ASB at the Old Hall Road site, we consider it is now time to look at refurbishing this site and look at potential funding streams.

NTC have already held meetings with local residents and they are keen to form a 'Friends of Old Hall Road' group to help look after the park, opening and locking up on a daily basis. We will now invite 3 Play manufacturers to submit designs with costs, and discuss these with the Friends Group. Once a design is chosen we can apply for funding and should this prove successful, would hope this to be in place by December, with a starting date for refurbishment of January/February 2021.

Cllr. Rimmer asked if any young people were at the meeting, but these were mainly Parents and Grandparents. Cllr. Cooper recalled meetings held at similar play areas with surveys handed out as to what users would like. High on priority list must be disabled accessible equipment.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/30 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

TC gave update contained in report previously distributed among members. Cheshire West and Chester have just released details of Climate Emergency Fund which we will be applying to. Items we shall be applying for will be:-

- Solar panels to the paddling pool and Cemetery containers
- Additional battery operated machinery.
- Electric vehicle charging points
- Replacing all lighting to LED

Total funding application will be £26,589 and has already been submitted. Cllr. Rimmer asked how long before we know if successful, this should be October, 2020.

NTC 20/31 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2020-21 PAY

Reports and salary scales were previously sent to members. ATC explained that this year the scales have been agreed later than usual. Cllr. Rowlands asked why the Unions initially rejected the offer, but this point is not known to us. Proposed by Cllr. Naylor to accept the pay deal, seconded by Cllr. Nelson. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 20/32 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Stott has been duly elected as Vice Chair of Rudheath and Witton Together.

Cllr. Naylor is involved with the Northwich Regeneration Forum dealing with how to get town centres up and running safely. It is not known at this point when events will be continuing, but focus is on promoting the town. Prospect of an open community space on the site of the old market place following the fire that occurred early this year. Cllr. Rowlands enquired regarding meetings held at Weaver Hall by the Northwich and Winsford Advisory panel. Cllr. Naylor confirmed the next meeting with Localities Officers will take place in October on a date to be decided, but is unsure if these meetings are open to the Public to attend. The District Advisory panel is for elected members. Cllr. Rowlands considers it vital for Council Tax payers to be involved.

Cllr. Cooper along with Cllr. Naylor and Cllrs. Cernik held a meeting with the NHS Trust in relation to the reduced opening times at the VIN. They asked for three conditions - The Trust to be more transparent with the public and the decision making process used. To improve communications with various stakeholders, and to make a commitment to future medical provision in Northwich. The Trust have pledged to so do in an open letter to the local press, also to their commitment for investment in improved health care facilities.

Cllr Naylor added the Trust Members are really keen to invest in Northwich. The VIN is not as accessible as it should be, but have confidence in what was discussed.

Cllr. McNamee attended the Orsted meeting with Cllr. Naylor in August. As things were quiet for the industry during lockdown they used the time to look at ways to deal with the odours and traffic issues. They are about to commence recycling, and a full report by them will be given in the future.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

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.

NTC20/33 STAFFING

NTC20/34 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting (Zoom Virtual) will be held on Monday 5th October 2020 at 6.00pm. Usual details will be sent prior to this meeting.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

Date.....

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**