

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER, 2020 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present: Cllr. K. Rimmer Town Mayor

Councillors: Cllr. D . Bowden Cllr. Mrs. L. Nelson
Cllr. A . Cooper Cllr. Miss G Edwards
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 Cllr. Ms H. Rowlands
Cllr. T Melville joined the meeting at 6.10 p.m. and left at 6.20 p.m.
Cllr. M. McNamee joined the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

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

NTC 20/51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Gerrard. Cllrs. Eastwood, and Rowley did not attend.

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NTC 20/52 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. 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,

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NTC 20/53 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers

NTC 20/54 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

- 4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5TH October, 2020 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. Minutes to be signed by the Mayor. All in favour.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC 20/55 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th October, 2020
Noted by Cllr. Stott.
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th October
2020. Noted by Cllr. Nelson.

NTC 20/56 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

Wednesday 21 st	NTC	Official opening of refurbished Play area at Verdin Park
Saturday 24 th	RBL Riders	Poppy Appeal launch and wreath laying

NTC20/57 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1.0 Remembrance

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the Government lockdown, we had to unfortunately cancel our plans to hold the Service of Remembrance in St. Helen's Church. The Town Mayor, Deputy Lord Lieutenant and our M.P. laid wreaths previously purchased from us at the Cenotaph at 9.00 a.m. on Sunday. The two minutes silence was observed at the time. Video footage is available on our website. The Mayor will also lay a wreath at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 11th November at the Cenotaph. Residents still assembled around the Cenotaph at 11.00 a.m. but not in large numbers. NTC has placed over 100 large poppies on lampposts throughout the town and were also placed on behalf of Victoria Road Residents Committee at their request.

2.0 Town Bridge and St Helen's Church lighting

We also arranged for Town Bridge to be illuminated for Remembrance and a large . Cllr. Nelson mentioned the very positive response poppy was directed via laser light onto St Helen's Church, which will stay for the rest of the week, when it will be replaced by a star for Christmas. Town Bridge will also be illuminated in Christmas colours. Cllr Naylor commented that he had over 1000 positive responses to the pictures placed on Northwich Life. Wished to thank NTC for the pristine condition of the Cenotaph.

3.0 COVID-19 Lockdown

We continue to work with our partners to support the local community and businesses where we can. We are working closely with CW&C, Northwich BID and Brans Quay to come up with ideas to support the Town Centre during Christmas.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

4.0 Christmas Lights and Trees

All Christmas lights will be placed in the town next week and will include the installation of 4 Christmas Trees in the town centre.

5.0 St Luke's Hospice

This year we have been supporting St. Luke's with their Christmas Tree and lights. Working in partnership and shared costs with Middlewich Town Council, Winsford Town Council and D & R Fabrications we shall be supplying the tree socket, a 25ft Christmas tree and full installation of lights.

4.0 Verdin Park Play Area

The new play area at Verdin Park is now fully completed and open. Very favourable and positive comments received from the community. The Play area was officially opened by the Town mayor and representatives of the Play Manufacturer. Three new picnic benches constructed of steel will be installed over the coming weeks.

5.0 Verdin Park Gates and Piers

Gates will be repaired and installed before Christmas.

6.0 Vickersway Park Kiosk

The kiosk located within the Park will be closed over the winter period. Cllr Bowden commented he had observed a good number of people enjoying the park.

7.0 Artisan Market

Due to current lockdown restrictions the Artisan Market will not take place in November. A Christmas market is still being planned for December subject to Government guidelines after 2nd December when the present lockdown comes to an end.

NTC20/58 ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR WEBSITE

ATC explained the background to a report already distributed among Councillors prior to this meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Fox to accept the conditions. All in favour.

Resolved

Date.....

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/59 CW&C AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr.Naylor attended the Pandemic Strategy meeting, the North West Regeneration Forum and the Waterways Strategy meeting. He is currently working with Cllr. Edwards to look for alternative premises to rehouse Mid Cheshire Community Sheds, (previously known as Men In Sheds).

Cllr. Edwards also mentioned that the issue regarding closure of Sandiway Surgery is going to the Scrutiny Committee which is being postponed until February 2021.

Cllr.Cooper gave an informative update on the launch of the CW&C Budget Consultation, explaining how the Council has to make drastic and significant savings between 2021-25 which will see a reduction in budget of £23.6m.. The financial shortfall could be in excess of £80m. CWA&C's total budget is £800m. It is not known what the permanent impact could be as a result of this. A Green Paper on Adult Social Care has been delayed. A graph illustrated the funding gaps. The Consultation document has been sent to Councillors and it is suggested that it is studied. Cllr .Naylor added that services not up to standard have seen cuts. Also mentioned that in 2010 CW&C employed 8000 staff, due to job cuts this is now reduced to 3000.

Cllr. Bowden enquired if there is any access to data from other authorities for comparison. Cllr. Cooper advised there is none available at present. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned a further 180 job cuts within CW&C. Need to come up with alternative funding as it is vital to protect Adult Social and Child Care with ever increasing costs. Once services are lost it is difficult if not impossible to regain. Cllr Cooper concluded by stating that NTC will shortly be setting their budget for the next year when hopefully they can choose to lessen the burden on Council Tax Payers and enhance services. Cllr. Emmett asked if it is possible for NTC to take over responsibilities for certain services and increase our precept. Town Clerk advised that we could move services from CW&C but no additional monies are attached to this. Cllr. Cooper added that Services not protected such as Childcare/Vulnerable adults, other services are more likely to be cut within the context of what CW&C proposals are.

NTC 20/60 OUTSIDE BODIES

No specific updates. Cllr. Rimmer advised that the local PCSO for Greenbank and surrounding areas has now moved on to pastures new. PCSO's play a very important role within the community, and it seems a pity that these Officers only seem to stay approx. 2 years in the area, as they make a massive difference to community life.

NTC20/61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting (Zoom Virtual) will be held on Monday 7th December 2020 at 6.00pm. Usual details will be sent prior to this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

Date.....

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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.

Staffing Policy

Co-option Policy

Co-option Applications

Christmas Staff Holidays.

It was proposed by Cllr. Rimmer and seconded by Cllr. Cooper to proceed to Part B.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor