

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present:

Councillors:	Cllr D Bowden	Cllr A Cooper
	Cllr S Naylor	Cllr. B. Cernik
	Cllr G Emmett	Cllr M. McNamee
	Cllr. C. Fox	Cllr.T Melville
	Cllr Mrs. J. Illidge	Cllr. Mrs. A Lockett
	Cllr Mrs. K Cernik	Cllr. L. Siddall
	Cllr. G Emmett	

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

Due to the absence of the Town Mayor Cllr. K Rimmer, it was proposed by Cllr Illidge and seconded by Cllr. Naylor, that Cllr. A Cooper be acting Chair for this meeting. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC 20/143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs, S Eastwood. (Leave of absence granted) J. Thomas, A Stott, A Gerrard and K. Rimmer. Cllrs. G Edwards, and M. Rowley were not present.

NTC 20/144 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
Cllr. K Cernik declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr. B.Cernik declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council

NTC 20/145 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers

NTC 20/146 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th April,2021 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr K. Cernik, seconded by Cllr B. Cernik. Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.
All in favour.

Date.....

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Cllr. A. Cooper – Acting Chair

NTC 20/147 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th April 2021.
Noted by Cllr Cooper
- 6.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th April, 2021.
Noted by Cllr Naylor.

NTC20/148 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There was 1 event attended by the Town Mayor during April

Sunday 11 th April	CWAC/Chester Cathedral	Service of Thanksgiving in memory of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh

NTC20/149 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

ASB & Fly Tipping

Following on from recent meeting with partners including CW&C, Northwich BID and Police, there had been a decrease in ASB and Fly tipping in the town. Police Officers have increased patrols in the area and partners have increased litter picking in the town centre. However, over the last week, trees have been snapped within the new Applemarket open space and another similar incident in Hartford,

Verdin Park

The final indents on the gate piers at Verdin park have now been installed and the project now complete.

Town Centre Cleansing

NTC, BID and CW&C have carried out enhanced cleansing within the town centre which will continue over the next few months to ensure Northwich looks its best for community and visitors. Particular attention has been given to the areas around Matalan and the Salvation Army, with the railings at Crown Street having been painted.

Old Hall Play Area

Awaiting final funding agreement from WREN for the refurbishment. Once received, play equipment will be ordered and a date set for the commencement of the project.

Date.....

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Cllr. A. Cooper – Acting Chair

COVID-19 Memorial

Previously discussed regarding installing a memorial stone for those who have lost their lives and also to honour key workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the current pandemic. Rudheath and Witton Together (RWT) also wish to place a memorial stone within Northwich and we have been approached to partner RWT for this project. Initial meeting suggested Vickersway Park as a suitable location as it is regularly visited by residents and is a safe and secure location. This is subject to change and will be discussed at further meetings. Town Clerk suggested if members set up a small sub-group to meet with RWT to choose location and design.

Cllr Cooper asked if the Memorial could be introduced somewhere in town centre, with Pocket Park being a suitable site. Discussions then took place as to what the Memorial could look like and a 'friendly bench' was also suggested as an addition to the site by Cllr. K Cernik. It was agreed that Town Clerk obtain costs and design to be considered further at next meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Naylor, seconded by Cllr. Illidge for this course of action. All in favour.

Resolved

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Training

Link is now available to undertake the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower training and has been sent to all members if they wish to take part. All NTC staff will complete training so awareness of hidden disabilities within the community and recognise the significance of the sunflower. NTC have supported this initiative together with Northwich BID, Barons Quay and the Rotary Clubs to ensure Northwich is a Sunflower Friendly Town. This scheme will be rolled out across businesses throughout the town and lanyards will be available as required. Planned schools competition to plant seeds and maintain by children, and the scheme will be publicised on Northwich Radio.

NTC20/150 CHURCH WALK PADDLING POOL

This is a popular amenity positioned in the centre of Northwich and is well used by local residents and visitors from further afield. During the pandemic the Pool has remained closed but with restrictions being slowly lifted we now need to consider the re-opening of this facility for the summer. Discussions have taken place in the past in respect of the need to manage numbers in the pool at any one time, as it can become extremely busy during the summer months. Increased numbers put extreme pressure on staff that work within the shop and maintain the site. Parking problems are a big issue for local residents as visitors look for spaces as close to the park as possible. NTC are working closely with other paddling pool providers in the area to discuss their arrangements and what they propose to implement during the summer, sharing ideas and best practice.

Proposals to consider could include:-

- Reduce capacity to 100 at any one time
- Timed sessions for visitors
- Morning and Afternoon sessions
- Priority given to Northwich residents
- Ticketed sessions booked in advance
- Site will require enhanced cleaning regime
- Additional staff
- Increased COVID secure measures
- Extended or reduced opening times

All the above need to be carefully considered to keep staff and visitors safe at all times while enjoying this facility. Town Clerk recommends this is discussed with Amenities Committee including a site visit beforehand, with a proposal brought to June's Full Council meeting.

Maintenance is now being carried out on the pool and pump room to ensure this is ready to open when a decision is made.

Date.....

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Cllr. A. Cooper – Acting Chair**

Discussion then took place among members as to the profitability of the shop during the time open. The shop makes a profit but when other costs such as staff and management (which are considerable) are taken into account, just about breaks even. These costs will increase. Possible entry fee will also have to be among points discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Naylor, seconded by Cllr. K Cernik for an Amenities Committee meeting to take place to consider running costs. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC20/151 CASUAL VACANCY

Town Clerk to confirm with CW&C that no election was called.

NTC20/152 SECOND INTERIM REPORT

Report distributed among members prior to this meeting. ATC confirmed the issues raised have been dealt with and recommendations raised will be implemented before the next Audit. Cllr B Cernik asked various questions surrounding the mechanism used and frequency of Audits, Internal Auditor is in regular contact with ATC. Any implementations necessary are discussed during Finance Committee meetings.

Cllr Graham Emmett joined the meeting at this point at 6.35 p.m.

NTC 20/153 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. Naylor mentioned the PCC Elections taking place this week. He is involved in town centre matters. Also attended meeting at Lostock in relation to the Incinerator and gave brief details of presentation given. Other authorities are involved. Cllr Bowden made an observation that Council wants to refuse waste imported from larger areas such as London, and need to be proactive with response when this happens. Concerns about the line taken by anti-incinerator group. Cllr. Naylor reiterated points he made and said that if waste was accepted from other areas, this could cut road transport use as it would utilise the rail links which is being considered.

Cllr. Illidge enquired about the John Brunner statue. Cllr Naylor attended recent meeting with the Heritage Group to ask for progress which has taken this project up to 3 years. Discussions took place as to ongoing issues.

Cllr. K Cernik brought up the subject of planning at Winnington Urban Village, as concerned residents have been in touch, issue such as review going on regarding Bus Stops.

In respect of Care Communities, this is becoming dynamic. Road map produced focus on three areas, general family fitness, social isolation and mental health. NTC has a role to promote, and participate.

Cllr Illidge asked about a parcel of land for development, originally earmarked for a Public House. Cllr. Fox gave background as to how decision for housing is taken. Discussed possible change of use from industrial to residential. Cllr. B Cernik mentioned material concerns specifically to Winnington Urban Village and advised this is covered in the CW&C Local Plan. Northwich Neighbourhood Plan was written before the concept of Winnington Urban Village.

Date.....

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Cllr. A. Cooper – Acting Chair

Cllr B Cernik also mentioned Children and Families have a statutory function, Wider range of activities for disabled children, across the borough, and much needed respite care is being provided and rolled out now.

Cllr Cooper advised the outdoor space at Applemarket Place is now open. A proposal to utilise staff toilets in the Market not possible as no disability access. Looking at other options, toilets on hire using existing utility connection now possible and will be available for use within next few weeks, which is a great result. Cllr. K Cernik added that would be beneficial to have changing room facility also and this is being taken forward.

Cllr Bowden acknowledged the contribution to NTC that the CW&C Councillors are making with all the information they bring to us.

NTC 20/154 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllrs McNamee and Emmett attended the latest Orsted meeting. 2 neighbouring Parish Councils have written letters of opposition to the Secretary of State, and proposes that NTC also send a letter which Cllr McNamee has offered to draft, which he will bring to next meeting. Cllr. Naylor advised the pre-application for capacity has been made and have the opportunity of objecting when the full application is submitted. NTC will object. Cllr Cooper added that if a draft letter is produced other members may want to add further comments.

Resolved

Cllr. Cooper offered congratulations to the Mid Cheshire Rail Partnership who have received Government Accreditation.

Cllr. Lockett advised regarding the Parkrun. Headquarters have contacted CWAC and Landowners with a view to recommence Parkrun if current restrictions are lifted. Town Clerk advised regarding the Junior Parkrun and the possible implications with HSE. Parkrun delegates/volunteers would be responsible for carrying out Risk Assessments.

NTC 20/155 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 7th June 2021 at 6.00pm**. Details will be sent prior to this meeting.

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

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Cllr. A. Cooper – Acting Chair