

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH APRIL 2021 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present:	Cllr K Rimmer	Town Mayor.
Councillors:	Cllr D Bowden Cllr S Naylor Cllr G Emmett Cllr A Stott Cllr Mrs. J. Illidge Cllr Mrs. K Cernik	Cllr A Cooper Cllr. B. Cernik Cllr M. McNamee Cllr Ms. A Gerrard. Cllr. Mrs. A Lockett .
Also present:	Chris Shaw Liza Clansey Theresa Cash	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk Council Secretary/Mayor's P.A.

NTC 20/126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs, S Eastwood. (Leave of absence granted) Cllrs. J. Thomas., G Edwards, C Fox, H Rowlands, T. Melville and M. Rowley were not present.

NTC 20/127 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. 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
Cllr. A Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.

NTC 20/128 OPEN FORUM

The Town Mayor introduced Anne Tunwell who wished to address Members to highlight the charity work undertaken by Homestart Cheshire. Consisting of 70 volunteers. who visit specific families to assess needs. Mentors go through selection and training process with regular support and supervision. During Covid pandemic have to rely on various means of communication remotely. Have seen increases in Mental Health problems, and Domestic Abuse and calls to Childline. Wants to raise awareness of Homestart across Cheshire in an effort to grow services and recruit volunteers. Want Councils to be aware of their presence. Funding is proving difficult. Cllr B Cernik, is the CW&C Lead for Children and Families and offered to set up meeting with the relevant Officers. Cllr. McNamee asked in relation to current funding - this has been provided by Big Lottery, Children In Need and other smaller charities and Trusts.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

Homestart Referrals come from Health Visitors, Social Services and sometimes self referrals. Cllr. K Cernik advised of the new organisation, Care Communities, and agreed to mention Homestart into next meeting. Homestart also working closely with Foodbanks particularly since Lockdowns. Cllr. Bowden wished to thank them for the important work they do and the benefit to so many people. Agreed it is important for co-ordination with other Agencies. Ms. Tunwell was thanked for her informative presentation.

NTC 20/129 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 1st March, 2021 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

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

NTC 20/130 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16th March 2021. Noted by Cllr Stott

6.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16th March, 2021. Noted by Cllr Emmett.

NTC20/131 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 2 events attended by the Town Mayor during March		
22 nd March	Northwich Rotary Club	98 th Charter Celebration
23 rd March	NTC	National Day of Reflection

NTC20/132 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

ASB & Fly Tipping

Over the last few months Northwich has seen an increase in ASB and fly tipping, last weekend saw items thrown from Verdin Park onto the road below which included a park bench, smashed windscreens, damaged panels at parking meters and plants removed from town centre planters and thrown around the town centre.

Fly tipping and littering is increasing in most areas with NTC and CW&C staff removing more waste than ever from our open spaces, car parks and town centre.

A meeting took place between partners last Thursday and the following recommendations were put in place, and a follow up meeting planned for Friday next.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

Litter Picking

Over the past week there have been significant areas cleansed by NTC, CW&C, volunteers and partners.

- New Warrington Road – NTC in partnership with CW&C cut back the verge and removed over 30 bags of rubbish leaving this area looking pristine as one of the gateways into the town.
- A556 Layby – Volunteers picked several bags of rubbish from this site which was then removed from site by CW&C. Cllr Emmett gave background regarding volunteers who cleared rubbish on this site.
- Moss Farm – Volunteers from the Rugby Club litter picked and removed over 15 bags of rubbish from this site. Cllr Naylor gave background and advised that the Northwich Junior Superstars carried out the litter pick with parents before their training session. Problems with ASB, fly tipping and dog fouling which Multi Agencies will have to solve.

Many thanks to all that gave their time to the litter picking above and previous litter picks, makes a tremendous difference to the town.

National Day of Reflection

On Tuesday 23rd March, the UK held a National Day of Reflection remembering all that have lost their lives and been affected by COVID. In honour of those that lost their lives the Town Bridge and CRS Consultants were illuminated yellow along with other buildings throughout the Country. Our Mayor Cllr Kevin Rimmer reflected on the past year with a speech in front of the bridge which was placed on the CW&C social media platforms.

Vickersway Park

The shop in Vickersway park is now open with all amenities available and in use, COVID measures are still in place and all visitors are asked to follow social distancing when visiting any of our sites. The onsite shop will now be selling toasties when open which is something that visitors have been asking about for some time. Toilets on site are now open with enhanced cleaning in place.

Verdin Park

You can now purchase hot drinks and snacks at Verdin Park while visiting the new play area, this will be for a trial period over the next month. If the ameniety proves popular then we will look to keeping the provision on site throughout the summer.

Town Centre Cleansing

Northwich Town Council will be working with CW&C & Northwich BID to carry out an enhanced clean of the town centre before the shops begin to re open. The cleanse will include jet washing, hedge cutting, litter picking, painting, removal of fly tipping from key areas and mechanical sweeping.

Park Benches

Over the last few months we have been refurbishing all our wooden park benches and this project is nearing completion. Massive thank you to John Sloan who has been repairing and re staining all the benches throughout our parks and open spaces. Mayor's letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Sloan.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

Riverside Path

After contacting C&RT I am told that the Riverside Path on the Weaver (Winsford to Northwich) will be repaired after the damage caused by the flooding, this work will be carried out in April.

NTC20/133 FINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Amenity charges for 2021-22 and Witton and Dane Valley Cemetery charges for 2021-22 will remain unchanged. Proposed by Cllr. Bowden, seconded by Cllr. McNamee. All in favour.

Approved

NTC20/134 WITTON CHURCH COLLAPSED WALL

Report distributed to Members prior to this meeting. TC gave brief additional background. Proposed by Cllr. Gerrard and seconded by Cllr. Illidge to accept Walker's contractors quote to carry out the repairs. All in favour.

Approved

NTC20/135 CHURCH WALK OUTDOOR PADDLING POOL

Report distributed to Members prior to this meeting. TC agreed to report back at next meeting for decision on re-opening. Meanwhile the pool will be subject to routine maintenance. Cllr. Cooper suggested we work in tandem with Congleton Town Council who have a similar facility. Entry process was discussed such as coloured wrist bands for a limited time, and online booking restricted to Northwich residents only

TC suggests the matter is taken to an Amenities sub-committee meeting . Proposed by Cllr.Naylor, seconded by Cllr. Cooper.

Resolved

NTC20/136 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

ATC explained an amendment that needs to be made within the Council's Financial Regulations, as reported to us by our Internal Auditor. Proposed by Cllr. Gerrard, seconded by Cllr. Bowden, to correct the Regulations. All in favour.

Approved

NTC20/137 NORTHWICH CLEAN TEAM

A report was distributed among Members prior to this meeting. Cllr. Naylor considers this a sensible proposition, and suggested that staff at Victoria House would be more than happy to have their clients to help. Cllr. Emmett explained that with the amount of equipment distributed out to volunteers, funds are depleted due to more demand in relation to littering problems, more response from volunteers, need funds for more kit. Lots of individual litter picking groups now. As one large group they would qualify for funding. Proposed by Cllr. Gerrard, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour of recommendations.

Resolved

Date.....

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/138 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Cllr. Mrs Linda Nelson has resigned as Town Councillor due to her moving out of the area to live in Wales. Linda had carried out some good work and much effort for the people of Northwich. She will be missed, but members wish Linda the best of luck for the future. Mayor's letter of thanks will be sent on behalf of the Council.

Cllr. K Rimmer left the meeting at 6.50 p.m.

NTC 20/139 BRATTS NORTHWICH

Bratts are closing their store in Northwich established 160 years.

Much discussion among Members took place with Cllr. Illidge saying she was devastated and wondered if there was anything NTC could do to reverse the Owners decision. Members agreed the store will be missed in the town. Cllr. Naylor advised this is not as a result of the recent flooding in Northwich, or due to the effects of COVID lockdowns. The existing store in Nantwich is to remain open. Concerns with the future of the building. It was agreed that Cllr. Illidge will compose a letter as an attempt to persuade the Owners to reconsider and reverse their decision. Proposed by Cllr. Illidge, seconded by Cllr K. Cernik.

Resolved

NTC 20/140 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. Naylor advised that himself and Cllr. Cooper will participate in the newly formed CW&C Flood Risk Action Group. Is also determined to mount campaign against the Incinerator at Lostock.

Existing railhead on site should be used in preference to road transport.

Cllr. K.Cernik also advised of Councillors being allocated to Care Communities throughout the Borough. Big changes ahead in Management of the NHS and could impact services locally.

NTC 20/141 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllrs. Emmett and McNamee attended the latest Orsted Liaison Committee meeting. Consultant gave presentation about waste disposal. An Environmental Impact Study focus on air quality. Traffic will make air quality illegal. If LSEP get the go ahead to bring in traffic, there is little space for parking provision given the sizes of vehicles. NTC need to have input into the E.I.S. Cllr. McNamee added that 3 other Parish Councils are involved, namely Rudheath, Lostock Gralam and Lach Dennis who have written to the Secretary of State. NTC should support this as not in anyone's interest. Cllr. Naylor added that this whole situation at Lostock Gralam is crying out for a petition to use the railhead onsite. Cllr. Gerrard advised that Rudheath Parish Council hold their Planning Meeting later this week and will keep NTC updated on the outcome.

NTC 20/142 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting (Zoom Virtual) will be held on **Tuesday 4th May, 2021** at 6.00pm. Usual details will be sent prior to this meeting. (Please note the date follows Bank Holiday.) Meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

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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.

Rudheath Cemetery contract charges for 2021-2022

Outside Contracts Rate 2021-2022

Staff Appraisals

Date.....

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**