

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4th OCTOBER 2021

Present:

Cllr S Naylor - Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr. D. Bowden
Cllr. Mrs K Cernik
Cllr. R. Cernik
Cllr. A Cooper
Cllr. Ms G Edwards

Cllr. G. Emmett
Cllr. Miss C Fox
Cllr. Mrs A Gerrard
Cllr. L. Siddall
Cllr. A Stott
Cllr. J Thomas

Also present: Chris Shaw
Liza Clansey
Theresa Cash

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
Council Secretary/Mayor's P.A.

NTC 21/40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs, S Eastwood. (Leave of absence granted) A Lockett, M. McNamee, T Melville J Illidge and K. Rimmer.

NTC 21/41 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. 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. G Edwards 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 Stott declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath and Witton Together.

NTC 21/42 OPEN FORUM

A representative from Transition Northwich was welcomed by the Mayor. They advised they are the only group locally to raise awareness in relation to Climate Change. The most concerning issue at present are the 2 Incinerator plants in Lostock. Asking Councillors how they can support in their Wards to establish Northwich as a Green Town. Regarding the 2 Incinerators, there is a small timescale to stop the further expansion and TN are worried and saddened for the town. Town Mayor agreed there should be very strong opposition against this, and gave a brief background to the origins of the Plan from 2012 when central Government approved the Incinerator to go ahead. Very strong opposition at the time. The main reason for this was to power TATA plants. Further increased output was agreed by Government, assurances at the time was for no increase in HGV movements but now there is an increase in tonnage, therefore a strong fight must now be against the increase in operating hours and traffic movement.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

There is up to 6 months to make objections and suggests a working group to fight the variations now required. Should bear in mind the up coming COP26 event happening in Glasgow. Cllr. Emmett advised that he has talked to TN and have managed a meeting with Ian Crummack who is an expert on renewable energy. This meeting will take place at Witton Albion on 18th October and all are invited. Cllr. Emmett has asked CW&C for a copy of the original 2008 Plans, but these are not forthcoming.

NTC cannot object until plans are submitted to CW&C, who will be opposing. Plans may fail due to cross-party objections to waste plants. Cllr Siddall suggests forming a small group with TN to find workable solutions.

TN asked NTC about their waste strategy around the town. Described how waste may be recycled efficiently and economically with more up to date receptacles. Also mentioned recent event in town to mark Green Week. Wished to thank Northwich BID and LEGO who are investing heavily in green offshore renewables. Other initiatives happening. Cllr Siddall thanked BID and NTC for their involvement in the Big Green Day.

Cllr K Cernik mentioned the 'Live Well in Cheshire' initiative for those living in social isolation.

Town Mayor thanked the speaker.

NTC 21/43 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

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

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

NTC 21/44 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21st September, 2021. Noted by Cllr Bowden

5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16th September, 2021. These minutes were not available and are deferred to next meeting.

NTC 21/45 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 7 events attended by the Town Mayor during September

Friday 10 th	Radio Northwich	VIP Evening
Thursday 16 th	High Sheriff of Cheshire	Gathering of Cheshire Mayors at Arley Hall
Friday 17 th	Northwich Rotary Club	Beer & Drinks Festival Memorial Court
Saturday 18 th	Joshua Tree	Re-opening
Monday 20 th	NTC	Old Hall Play Area Opening
Thursday 23 rd	Puddle Ducks	Opening of new business
Friday 24 th	CW&C Northwich Work Zone	Northwich Job Fair

The Mayor updated members on all events attended.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

Burnside Way Play Area

Refurbishment of Burnside Way Play Area will start at the end of October and will be a 3-week project. All new play equipment has been manufactured and is ready to collect. The contractor who is installing will be undertaking all the works so no hold up is anticipated.

Vickersway Park & Verdin Path Repairs

Some paths at Vickersway & Verdin Parks have some tree root damage and are becoming a trip hazard, I have instructed a contractor to make repairs, so the paths are made safe.

We have also received some section 106 monies to be used as match funding towards the phase 2 of the play area refurbishment and improvements to the park. I will compile a list with costs and present to the amenities committee for consideration.

Artisan Market

During the Covid pandemic the Artisan was situated within Barons Quay due to restrictions that were in place at the time. In September the decision was made to return to Witton Street with the food being moved to the new open space for the first time. Following the event, the Market Company carried out a survey with all traders and the vast majority were happy for the market to carry on in Witton Street.

The market will be better advertised this month, especially the food area and we will once again erect the canopy, our branded gazebos and will have live acoustic sets at the market site.

We will also be having a stall, can members please indicate if they would like to fill the following slots

10.00 – 11.00	Cllr. A. Stott
11.00 – 12.00	Cllr. S Naylor
12.00 – 1.00	Cllr. G Emmett
1.00 – 2.00	Cllr. G Emmett
2.00 – 3.00	Cllr. G Emmett

Outside Contract Works

All our grass cutting will be coming to an end shortly and we will be looking at planting winter bedding and installing winter baskets to various areas.

Sunflowers Planting

Following on from the sunflower planting in the town centre by the 5 local schools the Town Mayor judged the planters and decided that they were all amazing and they will each receive a £100 book voucher.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/47 NORTHWICH COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Cllr. Siddall gave background to this Group and requested that NTC support going forward. Town Mayor suggests that the Leader attends the next Full Council Meeting for NTC to consider proposals. Event mentioned at the Plaza Cinema – 4 nights of Music – in an effort to secure funding for the upcoming Northwich Music Scene.

NTC 21/48 AGAR

Town Clerk gave background to the Financial Report distributed to Members prior to this meeting. Request that the External Audit Report be approved. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/49 OLD HALL ROAD PLAY AREA OPENING

On Monday 20th September our Town Mayor Cllr Sam Naylor officially opened Old Hall Road Play Area alongside Cllr Andrew Cooper and Cllr Graham Emmett. Also invited were representatives from Play & Leisure and Sutcliffe Play who supplied the Play equipment for the site. The Friends of Group attended along with local residents and the school to enjoy free hotdogs, drinks and goody bags supplied by our play manufacturers. We estimate over 100 people attended the opening, and since opened, the new play area has proved extremely popular. We are also looking at installing some additional ground level play panels to make the site even more accessible for all. The project did present some challenges while being installed but we overcame these eventually and Leftwich now has a fantastic play area for the whole community. Cllr Cooper remarked that play equipment installed is amazing and it was wonderful to see so many people turning up. Huge thanks to Town Clerk and staff at NTC. Play area previously had poor equipment and was 'tired'. Now more accessible equipment for all. Cllr Emmett asked regarding any additional equipment. The area has a large number of wheelchair users, mainly children. It is hoped to install sensory panels at the site. Cllr Bowden asked if any form of monitoring or supervision - a Friends of Group has been formed. Many thanks to Cllr Cooper for his support throughout this project.

NTC 21/50 NORTHWICH SKATE PARK

A report containing details of proposals for the Skate Park at Vickersway was distributed to members prior to this meeting. Cllr Siddall commented it is important to offer this facility in Northwich. Cllr Cooper fully in support but feels the time scale is too short to secure funding as NTC have many projects in the pipeline. Could application for funding be left to next Spring? Town Clerk is happy to submit application before December as the project could then be completed for mid 2022. Cllr. Stott added that RWT is keen to invest and would like this in place within 12-18 months. Proposed by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. Siddall. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC 21/51 RESIGNATION CLLR. MITCH ROWLEY

Received resignation from Cllr. Rowley. Would like to thank him for his useful contributions during his short time as a Councillor.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/52 HIGHWAYS

Correspondence distributed among members prior to this meeting regarding the proposed 'no left turn' onto High Street/Weaver Way from A559 Watling Street. Signage was discussed. Contents were noted and is welcomed by NTC. Cllr. Cooper added an Official Emergency Permit has been issued for Chester Way/Percy Street for a possible 9 day closure.

NTC 21/53 CIVIC SUNDAY

Will take place on Sunday 17th October. Service at St Helen's Church at 1.00 p.m. Refreshments available and also the opportunity of taking a 'Trip to the Tower', weather permitting. Invitations already sent and responses should be made by 11th October.

NTC 21/54 CO-OPTION

Cllr. Stott was challenged to review current policy. Sub group met and the proposed application form was distributed among members with advice on the wording given by ChALC. Town Clerk is to set up a meeting for interested parties to explain what the Council does. Cllr K Cernik suggests advertising this on social media platforms. Town Mayor commented it is important to have the right gender balance in relation to disabilities, age etc. Town Clerk and Cllr. Stott agreed to set up and finalise the policy.

Resolved

NTC 21/55 CHESHIRE WEST AND COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr K Cernik mentioned waiting lists in NHS and plans to develop access to diagnostics to alleviate. Innovation to promote Health and Well Being in Northwich. She will ask a representative to come and present to members. Cllr. B Cernik discussed decisions of Cabinet greed Commission on Adult Social Care. An All Party commission to raise Central Government awareness over U.K. Startwell – aim to give children the best start in life extending this for a further 2 years for children in the Borough. Also mentioned the number of Nursery places in the Borough. Dog control, CW&C ban trail hunting on Council owned land.

Cllrs Cooper and Naylor attended a Flooding Action Group meeting. Tremendous amount of work between CW&C and EA since January to prepare for winter and long term solutions. Explained the pressurised sewage system in Northwich. CW&C will be issuing tender in the next few weeks to commission hydraulic modelling for future (computerised system). Central Government will be asked to fund the long term solution. Preparation work now being done with U.U. for temporary solution in the short term. Other meetings coming up include Victoria Infirmary and C.A.B. plans for Northwich. Cllr. Siddall mentioned dredging of the River Weaver and further discussion took place on this subject.

NTC 21/56 OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports given.

NTC 21/57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 1st November, 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor