

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 5TH JULY 2021

Present:

Cllr S Naylor - Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr A Cooper
Cllr. Miss C. Fox
Cllr. Mrs. A. Gerrard
Cllr. L. Siddall

Cllr M. McNamee
Cllr. Ms. J. Thomas
Cllr. A Stott
Cllr. B. Cernik

Also present: Chris Shaw
Liza Clansey
Theresa Cash

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

The Mayor wished to welcome Jessica Farrington, Guardian Reporter, and also mentioned as it was his first time Chairing the meeting as Mayor, considers it to be an honor and privilege, and is here to support and promote our town. Also mentioned today is 73rd Anniversary of the N.H.S. and the fantastic job they have done throughout the pandemic and the successful rolling out of the vaccine process.

NTC 21/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs, S Eastwood. (Leave of absence granted) D. Bowden, K. Cernik, G. Emmett, J. Illidge, G. Edwards, A. Lockett, T Melville, K. Rimmer and M. Rowley

NTC 21/02 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, Victoria Road Primary and Leftwich Primary Schools.
Cllr. B. Cernik declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

NTC 21/03 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/04 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

- 4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May ,2021 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr B. Cernik. Minutes to be signed by the Mayor. All in favour.
- 4.2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 6th May, 2021 to be confirmed and approved as an accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. B. Cernik.
- 4.3 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 28th June, 2021 to be confirmed and approved as an accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. McNamee.

NTC 21/05 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th May, 2021.
Noted by Cllr Stott
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th May, 2021.
Noted by Cllr McNamee
- 5.3 To note Amenities Meeting held on Wednesday 19th May, 2021. Noted by Cllr. Siddall.
- 5.4 To note Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th June, 2021.
Noted by Cllr. Cooper
- 5.5 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Thursday 24th June, 2021. Noted by Cllr. Thomas.

NTC 21/06 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 3 events attended by the Town Mayor during June		
Wednesday 9 th	The Joshua Tree	Visit to new premises
Saturday 19 th	NTC	Opening of new toilets in Northwich
Saturday 26 th	Swetenhams Estate Agents	Re-opening following refurbishment

The Mayor mentioned his visit to The Joshua Tree and also the newly installed temporary Toilets as a first class facility.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

Northwich Toilets

New temporary toilets now within Weaver Square, comprising of 1 male, 1 female and an accessible toilet with ramp and a baby change facility. The toilets are being cleaned throughout the day by NTC 7 days a week. Toilets are open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm each day and there is a contact number for members of the public to call if they notice any issues with these facilities.

This was a joint project between CW&C, Northwich BID and Northwich Town Council and officers have worked to ensure we get the best possible facilities for the town. We have had positive comments since opening them 2 weeks ago and we will continue to ensure that these facilities are kept clean and safe to use throughout the year. Cllr. Cooper offered thanks to our Town Clerk for spearheading this initiative. Joint partnership between NTC, Northwich BID in an effort to respond to public demand in addition to disabled facilities.

Sunflower Growing Competition

NTC with Northwich BID and Barons Quay teamed up to hold a Sunflower growing competition throughout the town centre, planters will be situated in key locations with local children being asked to plant them and see how tall they grow. These will also be included in the In Bloom competition that we enter each year in partnership with Northwich BID.

The tallest sunflower will win vouchers for their school and this will be judged by the Town Mayor in the summer. The planting has taken place on 2nd July with the Town Mayor and children planting, involving Church Walk and Victoria Road Primary schools.

Witton Cemetery

We are currently installing 4 additional bays and benches in Witton Cemetery, these are granite memorial benches which have been purchased by relatives of loved ones that are in the cemetery.

Dane Valley Cemetery

Additional cremation plots and a granite bench have been installed in Dane Valley Cemetery over the past few weeks.

Vickersway Park

Vickersway Park shop has continued to stay open and is now serving toasties, sandwiches and hot dogs which is proving popular with visitors.

Summer Planting

Our staff have been busy over the last 3 weeks planting summer bedding, installing hanging baskets and barrier baskets throughout the town. We have also carried out extensive planting and installations for all our contracts throughout the borough.

We are now watering 4 days a week to keep the plants and baskets looking their best as we look to win gold this year at the 'In Bloom' awards.

Our staff have worked extremely hard to ensure our town looks vibrant and welcoming for our residents and visitors.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

Verdin Park

We are hoping to have a mobile food outlet situated in Verdin Park over the summer holidays offering teas, coffees, and light snacks. We did trial this early in the year which proved popular so we will look at trying again to offer refreshments for visitors to the park.

Cllr. Stott asked about additional litter bins. These will be emptied by the Food Outlet onsite.

Jubilee Fields Winnington Avenue

Following on from the unauthorised encampment on Jubilee Fields NTC worked with local members, residents and CW&C Council to cleanse the field and also install preventative measures to the main entrance in the form of a solid bund. We will carry on working with local members and residents to ensure the field is protected from any further encampments.

Winnington Park

Following concerns from residents and local members regarding the frequency of litter bin emptying on the new park on Winnington Urban Village we have been working with the management company to address these concerns.

NTC will now empty the litter bins on a weekly basis and already this has seen a significant improvement to the site. Cllr. Siddall thanked NTC for their help with this situation. Cllr. Cooper advised that the management company appointed by the Developers should be maintaining the communal space. Unitary authorities have no available budget to take over this work. This should be in the conditions of each development plans to each Town and Parish Councils, but there is currently no legal basis to do this to resolve. There continues to be significant further major developments and Officers need to be pro-active at the planning stage in respect of management charges, in effect residents are being double taxed, firstly with Council tax and management charges. Cllr. Fox added comments to this discussion regarding the collection of substantial management fees and Contractors not carrying out their commitments. Further discussion took place with Cllr. B. Cernik adding his knowledge in these situations. Cllr. Naylor finished by adding it is vital that any Planning Committee identify problems such as these from the outset.

Burnside Way

Burnside Way Play Area is situated in Winnington and was on the list to refurbish once funding became available. Unfortunately the play area has deteriorated over the last 12 months, the decision was taken to close the site until refurbishment can take place..

Members resolved to refurbish this play area at the Extraordinary meeting held on Monday 28th June with equipment being supplied by Play & Leisure. 3D plan were circulated to members and local residents will have the opportunity to see these plans on a leaflet drop, which Councillors will be assisting with.

The site will be increased in size with additional fencing along with swings, multi play unit, sit in roundabout, springer and accessible picnic bench.

Instead of traditional wet pour we will be installing a synthetic carpet which comes with an 8 year guarantee.

Old Hall Road Play Area Leftwich

The refurbishment at Old Hall Road Play Area will now start on the 18th July and will take around 4 weeks to complete weather depending. This refurbishment will be substantial and will be a welcome addition for local residents. The MUGA will be removed but we will be installing goal posts on to the green and a pitch will be marked out throughout the playing season.

Once completed the Town Mayor, members and local residents will be invited to officially open the new play facilities.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

Northwich Artisan Market

As you know the last Artisan market was cancelled due to an increase in local Covid infections, we are now working with the local authority to ensure the July market can go ahead with additional measures in place. Cllr. Naylor thanked the whole team at NTC which is much appreciated. Also mentioned the fantastic facilities available at Vickersway and Verdin Parks.

NTC 21/08 INTERNAL AUDIT

Assistant Clerk gave overview to the AGAR Report, previously distributed to Members. It was proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Thomas to approve 2021 year end Audit from JDH Business Services. All in favour. **RESOLVED**

NTC 21/09 LSEP APPLICATION (Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant)

Cllr. McNamee read out a draft letter composed by himself and Cllr. Emmett to the Secretary of State. This letter will come from Northwich Town Council and Cllr. McNamee gave overview of the background to the letter. Cllr. B Cernik advised that CW&C have responded opposing in the strongest terms. Permission has already been approved for operating hours, but this variation is for extended hours and increase in volume.

Letter was proposed by Cllr. B. Cernik and seconded by Cllr. Gerrard. All in favour. **RESOLVED**

NTC 21/10 WINNINGTON BRIDGE A533 CORRIDOR

Cllrs. B Cernik and Siddall spoke in relation to the conversion of the existing bridge. An outline business case was presented to CW&C last month. Considerations include feasibility, need, value for money etc. Can apply for main transport venture Government funding. Winnington Bridge has support from our local M.P.'s. Preferable scheme is for 2 bridges but need to build up the case for this. Traffic modelling and junction improvements would be part of the business plan. Levelling up fund is not guaranteed and engagement will be with local Parish Councils to which meetings have been attended by both Councillors. All in favour of the bridge. Extra crossings were suggested, concerns with HGV traffic and signage to mitigate problems. An option being to have a swing bridge for cyclists and pedestrians separate from each other, this would help congestion. Application for other funding is available for crossings etc. Cllr. Cooper mentioned much progress has been made over recent years with the matter having been raised over several decades. The Northwich Neighbourhood Plan had suggested replacement. Cllr. Cernik wished to thank and acknowledge the work by Cllr. Brian Clarke and the Local Enterprise Partnership who have been instrumental in the matter.

NTC 21/11 NORTHWICH TRAIN STATION COLLAPSE

Cllr. Cooper advised the safety investigation by the Office for Rail and Road. Inspection roles and safety enforcement actions. Cllr. Cooper together with Mike Amesbury M.P. had a meeting with the Investigating Officers who will use their information to launch a full investigation, as to what happened, learns, any duty holders. There could be several companies for prosecution if enough evidence is found but this will lengthen the timescales. Follow up meeting is planned for progress. Other considerations regarding timescales for rebuilding. MCRP will challenge Network Rail with milestones for the permanent facility for main rebuild. Network Rail have agreed to produce that requested. CW&C have commissioned a study and produced possible options for lifts on the Station and blueprint modifications of costs and design. Grant funding may be available from Department for Transport. Mike Amesbury has brought this matter up in Parliament, and it is hoped this will be looked upon favourably by DFT. Cllr. Fox questioned the Listed Building Consent in respect of rebuild. Certain artefacts have been kept and retained.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/12 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Cllr. B. Cernik gave background to this consultation. Input is still welcome after the closing date. Cllr. Fox proposed a response is sent from Town Clerk and Assistant. seconded by Cllr. B Cernik. **Resolved.**

NTC 21/13 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following recent resignations, there is currently one vacancy each in Belmont and Leftwich Wards.

Both have been advertised and no elections were called, meaning the Council can now Co-opt. Currently reviewing the Co-option policy so recommendation is that this is completed before advertising the Co-options. It was suggested that a working group of Members be set up to review the policy with advice from ChALC and National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and be presented for approval. Vacancies can then be advertised on website, noticeboards and local press. It was agreed that Town Clerk will email Members to set up a group. **Resolved**

NTC 21/14 INTERNET AND EMAIL POLICY

A report prepared by ATC was distributed to Members prior to this meeting. Contents were discussed and ATC gave background. Proposed to accept the Policy by Cllr. Gerrard, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/15 SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES

ATC gave details of this Summers planned activities, dates and where they will take place. Activities will provide fun and free lunch to so many children over the Summer period and we are delighted funding has been accepted. Cllr. B Cernik commented that more than 40 schemes are taking place across the Borough, more than ever before, and is a welcomed initiative.

NTC 21/16 LEFTWICH HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION CONSULTATION

The consultation document was distributed to Members prior to this meeting. Cllr. Cooper advised he has already responded as Ward Councillor, particularly in relation to traffic management. Discussion took place among Members as to reasons for expansion. Cllr. B Cernik went into further details regarding the demographics used to determine need in the future. The consultation was noted.

NTC 21/17 ROTARY CLUB INITIATIVE

Rotary Club Northwich have been looking to refurbish street signs around the town and have completed some which were illustrated to Members. They are hopeful they will have the backing of CW&C to carry on improving the appearance of the signs. Cllr. Cooper has been assisting the Rotary Club, and explained how CW&C prioritise street sign repairs. Proposed by Cllr. Gerrard and seconded by Cllr. Cooper that NTC contributes £200 towards the materials for this project. All in favour.

Approved.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/18 COMMEMORATIVE TREES FOR PAST MAYORS

A statement was read out from Cllr. Illidge who was not present at this meeting with her suggestion that there should be, for each past Town Mayor, a tree planted in recognition of their term in Office. It was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Gerrard to agree with the suggestion. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC 21/19 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. B Cernik mentioned the High Needs Review considering Holiday activity funding in School holidays, Special needs wrap-around care and other ideas that could be achievable in formulating an Action Plan. Tiny Steps and Cheshire Downs Group have had input which might be included. Also formulating a youth strategy. Any input from Councillors or members of the public are welcome. Cllr. Cooper reported about the progress of the Flooding Action group. Speaking of a presentation from EA and UU outlining progress being made, and reaching a permanent solution to prevent further flooding. Encompassing a large area for waste water and drainage system into Water Works at Dock Road. Hydraulic modelling will determine solution. There are interim measures that can be taken. The next meeting will include a presentation from the Canal & River Trust.

NTC 21/20 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Stott advised he no longer represents Rudheath and Witton Together (RWT). Looking for local people, and residents of Witton ideally, to join a new Management Committee to make decisions on how their remaining budget may be spent.

Cllr. Naylor mentioned an update to the Flood Risk. The river needs to be dredged, as it is key to Northwich's success as a river town. The Steam Ship Daniel Adamson has arrived in Northwich, and has attracted much attention.

At this point the Town Mayor also mentioned the passing of ex-Town Councillor Ron Woodier. Mr Woodier had served as Northwich Town Mayor, Vale Royal Mayor and was also an honorary Alderman. Mr Woodier has made a wonderful contribution. A minutes silence was observed by Councillors, and a letter of condolence will be sent to the family on behalf of Northwich Town Council.

NTC 21/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There will be no Full Council Meeting held in August due to recess.

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 6th September, 2021 at 6.00pm..**

Meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

PART B

In accordance with Local Government Act- Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the following Agenda item is to be considered in the absence of Press and Public.

NTC 21/22 Church Walk Paddling Pool