

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 2022

Present:

Cllr S Naylor - Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs K Cernik
Cllr. A Cooper
Cllr. Ms. A. Gerrard
Cllr. Ms. J. Thomas

Cllr. G. Emmett
Cllr. Mrs J. Illidge
Cllr. L. Siddall
Cllr. M. McNamee
Cllr. A. Stott

Also present: Chris Shaw
Liza Clansey
Theresa Cash

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

NTC 21/106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S Eastwood. (Leave of absence granted), A. Lockett, D. Bowden, R. Cernik and C. Fox. Cllrs. G. Edwards and T Melville did not attend.

NTC 21/107 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. A. Cooper 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 21/108 OPEN FORUM

MOP addressed Members in respect of infestation of rats in Winnington, which appears to have increased with the new build developments. Cllr. Cernik advised that the Rodent Officer at CW&C is aware of the problem as a Public Health issue and are doing their best to solve the problem. Town Mayor Cllr. Sam Naylor suggests that NTC formally write to Barratts (House Developers), and also to M. P. Mike Amesbury to highlight the issue and hopefully resolve. The Town Mayor thanked the speaker.

Representative from Transition Northwich then spoke about the positive start they have had to 2022. The Secret Garden gained recognition from RHS. Building on their continued success. The project they wish volunteers to work on next will be the collection of the town's winter bedding plants, revive if possible and distribute to schools. Dane Valley Orchard now accessible and planted an edible hedge. At a recent Green Awards ceremony TN won an award. Advised Members of other ideas in the pipeline. The Mayor congratulated them on their ongoing success and thanked for the update.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/109 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 10th January, 2022 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr. Emmett seconded by Cllr. McNamee. Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.
All in favour.

NTC 21/110 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee who held a virtual discussion on Tuesday 18th January 2022. Noted by Cllr Stott.
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Thursday 20th January, 2022. Noted by Cllr. McNamee.

NTC 21/111 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 2 events attended by the Town Mayor during January		
Thursday 27 th January	NTC	Photoshoot at 3 sites for defibs.
Friday 28 th January	Community ReAwards	ReAwards evening

The Mayor updated members on all events attended.

NTC 21/112 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

AED's

3 sites were officially opened, where defibrillators have been installed. Barcode Barbers, Manchester Road, A Plan Insurance on Witton Street and Northwich Rowing Club. The Mayor was joined by Mike Amesbury M.P., Cllr. Andrew Cooper, Adam Gerrard (BID) and representatives from those organisations who were thanked for their contributions and support.

Northwich Skate Park

Consultation is now complete and all responses will be looked at to see if requests made can be fitted into the site at Vickersway Park. Installers will be visiting shortly to calculate costs.

Reflection Area/Community Friendship Benches

Jointly funded by NTC, and working in partnership with RWT, there will be a quiet area created within Vickersway Park where visitors can sit and reflect. There will be two benches provided and a new ground surface. A small garden will also be installed in the middle of the benches to complete the design.

NTC are also working in partnership Northwich Care Community to install an area outside the pavilion in Vickersway where visitors can sit and chat in a busier area of the Park. Future plans will include the same at Church Walk Paddling Pool, Verdin Park and the Town Centre.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC shall be having further decorative Lion cubs placed in additional areas within the town, and involving local schools in the design. The existing Lions are much loved by young and old alike. Once done this will produce a town trail which will include the benches so that families and individuals can complete the trails and also use the benches.

Tree Survey

Currently obtaining costs to carry out a tree survey on all sites. Once costs approved following the survey and assess what needs carrying out by our contractor. Survey is important to ensure all our trees are safe and managed.

Wildflower Area

NTC will be working in partnership with St. Helen's Church and local schools to install various wildflower areas in Northwich this year. Locations to include, Witton Cemetery, St Helen's Churchyard, Verdin Park and Old Hall Road play area.

Hanging Baskets

Additional 8 wrap around baskets will be installed in the town centre this coming summer to increase the displays. Joint funding by NTC and Northwich BID.

The Artisan Market will be taking place in town on 12th February. Councillors manning the NTC stand will be as follows:-

11-12 Cllr. Naylor

12-1 Cllr. McNamee

1-2 Cllrs. Siddall, Thomas and Illidge.

NTC 21/113 PRECEPT 2022-2023

We precept Cheshire West and Chester for £541,778.00. Cllr. Cooper gave credit to the Town Clerk and staff delivering a zero increase, as it is clear the level of value given, the continued investment in Play areas, and several events organised. Plans for investment in the Skate Park are in progress. The Town Mayor reiterated this and mentioned the great partnership between NTC and BID. Well done. Cllr. Thomas asked if a Press Release will be forthcoming to highlight the zero increase. Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/114 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2022-2023

Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. All in favour.

Approved

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/115 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 2022-2023

Proposed by Cllr. Siddall, seconded by Cllr. McNamee. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/116 FIXED ASSET REGISTER 2022-2023

Proposed by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/117 INTERNAL AUDIT JANUARY 2022

Proposed by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/118 FINANCIAL DECISIONS TO BE APPROVED FOR SIGNING OFF REPORTS

ATC gave background as to problems faced during lockdown in relation to signing documents. A full explanatory report was distributed to Members prior to this meeting. Proposed to accept by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. McNamee. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/119 DAMAGED/FALLEN HEADSTONES IN WITTON CEMETERY

TC gave background following a report distributed to Members prior to this meeting. Cllr. Cooper had concerns as to the quality of work to be undertaken. TC assured Members that all work would be carried out with registered Stonemasons who are members of BRAMM or NAMM – the recognised statutory bodies governing this trade. Proposed by Cllr. Gerrard, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/120 VICKERSWAY PARK PERGOLA

TC gave background following a report distributed to Members prior to this meeting. The report contained details of three quotes received for the repair of the pergola which has given way and collapsed, making the structure dangerous. Materials to be used were discussed for the replacement and refurbishment. D & R Pipe Fabrication Ltd will be awarded the contract having quoted the best price and having done work for us before they are the preferred contractor. Proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Emmett. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/121 NORTHWICH RAILWAY STATION ACCESSIBILITY

TC gave background following a letter received from Cheshire West Council requesting a contribution from NTC of £1500 to Northern Trains towards the cost of accessibility at the station. The total cost will be £4300 with Northern Trains able to contribute £1000. CW&C are confident that Northern Trains will secure further funding to make up the shortfall. Cllr. Cooper commented that building on CW&C's work done last year trying to get the access sorted, we would be well advised to make what is a small contribution. Town Mayor agreed that this would be NTC doing the right thing for residents. Proposed to make the contribution by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour.

Approved

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/122 LSEP UPDATE

Cllr. Emmett gave an assessment of the current situation, following a detailed report distributed among Members prior to this meeting. Correspondence has been received from the Infrastructure Partners from Copenhagen. The contents of the letter was noted.

NTC 21/123 ENVIRONMENTAL SUB COMMITTEE

Following previous requests from Members to meet with local environmental groups for updates and consider joint projects. Proposal is to set up a sub-committee of 3 Members to meet 4 times a year with local environmental groups. Any recommendations to be brought to Full Council. Cllrs. Thomas, K Cernik and Illidge, with Cllrs. McNamee and Siddall as reserves, volunteered for the sub-committee. Proposed by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. McNamee.

Resolved

NTC 21/124 EVENTS CALENDAR

Calendar of up coming events were distributed among members. Noted.

NTC 21/125 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Revised Code of Conduct was requested to be adopted. Proposed to adopt by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 21/126 NOTICE OF VACANCY

Current vacancy advertised. Noted.

NTC 21/127 OUTSIDE BODIES

No updates given.

NTC 21/128 CW&C MEMBERS UPDATES

Cllr. K Cernik gave updates. Meetings with Access Officer, in relation to access for disabled. PCSO's meeting with Youth Workers. Issues such as ASB in town, trying to find ways to engage with Youths at Youth Centre. The problems in getting appropriate facilities and management due to low budget funds. Ongoing work to contact organisations that can help. Possibly Holiday schemes, and any ideas, Members were asked to get in touch. Discussions took place regarding ASB evidenced in town.

The Mayor's Charity fundraiser will be held on 23rd March at The Indian Restaurant in Castle Street. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

NTC 21/129 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 7th March 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

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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 21/130 VERDIN PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022