

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4TH APRIL, 2022

Present:

Cllr S Naylor - Town Mayor

Councillors:	Cllr. D. Bowden	Cllr. M. McNamee
	Cllr. G. Emmett	Cllr. Miss C. Fox
	Cllr. R. Cernik	Cllr. Mrs K Cernik
	Cllr. Ms. G. Edwards	Cllr. L. Siddall
	Cllr. A Cooper	Cllr. Ms. J Thomas
	Cllr. A. Stott	

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

NTC 21/147 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. A Gerrard, J. Illidge, A. Lockett, and T. Melville.

NTC 21/148 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. R. 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. G. Edwards	declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr. C. Fox.	declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council

NTC 21/149 OPEN FORUM

Representative from Cheshire Police Northwich gave update on current crime figures over the last month. ASB Patrols increased. Working with schools and partnership groups. Cllr. K Cernik asked if figures are consistent. Cllr. R Cernik asked if incidents of hate crimes in the area have increased. Advised by speaker that more incidents are being reported. The Town Mayor thanked the P.C. for the update.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/150 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 14th March, 2022 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

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

NTC 21/151 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee who held a virtual discussion on Wednesday 23rd March 2022. Noted by Cllr Stott.
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Thursday 24th March, 2022. Noted by Cllr. Siddall.

NTC 21/152 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 8 event attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy during March		
Friday 4th March	NTC	Town Centre Vigil for Ukraine
Friday 11th March	NTC	Tree Planting for Queens Platinum anniversary
Friday 11th March	Congleton Town Council	Mayor's Civic Dinner and Ball – Deputy Mayor attended
Monday 21st March	Northwich Rotary Club	99th Charter Dinner
Wednesday 23rd March	NTC	Mayors Charity night at The Indian
Friday 24th March	The Grange Senior School	Little House of Horrors – The Musical production
Saturday 26th March	New Era Boxing Club	Guinness World Record attempt
Sunday 27th March	Rotary Club Northwich	Swimathon

The Town Mayor gave update on all events he attended. Worthy of note was the overwhelming response to the Ukrainian appeal. £650 was raised for the Mayor's Charity at The Indian.

NTC 21/153 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

Wildflower Areas

Wildflower planting took place on Friday 1st April at Witton Cemetery , St Helens Church Yard and Verdin Park. Local Primary schools took part in the planting assisted by the Town Mayor.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

St Helen's Churchyard Improvements.

Over the last few months we have been working with St Helen's Church to make improvements to the church grounds, volunteers have been busy cutting back overgrown areas during the weekends and NTC staff have been removing the brash. Following on from this we have cultivated the banked area and this will be put to seed and maintained by NTC staff.

We are also supporting the St Helen's Heritage Trail which the church volunteers have been working on for some time and will see a walk starting at the Church going to Carey/Marbury Park and returning to the Church.

Vickersway Park

The new pergola will be installed shortly and as discussed at previous meetings will be fabricated from steel to give longevity.

The shop opened on Saturday 2nd April for the Summer season and will as usual be selling ice cream, snacks, toasties, hotdogs, and hot and cold drinks. All the parks games will be open as usual which include crazy golf, tennis, bowls, putting and table tennis.

Verdin Park

Works will begin on improvements to Verdin Park in the next few months which include works to steps, hedging boards and surfacing.

We will also be looking to have a small catering unit once again at weekends serving food and hot and cold drinks.

For the Queens Jubilee we will be installing a beacon on the bank at Verdin Park which will be lit on the 2nd June which will coincide with the beacon lighting at St Helens Church.

Contract Works/Grass Cutting

The teams have now started grass cutting all parks, cemeteries and contracts, all NTC areas are looking well maintained and this is a credit to all our staff that undertake the works.

Emergency Access at Carey/Marbury Park

We have been working with CW&C Council to look at access to Carey/Marbury Parks following concerns raised around emergency access. CW&C now have a procedure in place working with Northwest Ambulance so that emergency vehicles can gain access and get closer to any incident reported.

Thanks to Cllrs Locket and Naylor, and David James at Marbury for their work on this.

Northwich Artisan Market

The Northwich Artisan market will once again take place on the second Saturday of the month which will be the 9th April. Main market will be in Witton Street and the food will be situated in Barons Square, we will again have our Councillor surgery.

Easter Holidays Sport Activities

Multiflex has been successful with their Easter Holiday sport activities, they will be delivering free sports and packed lunches to children in our area as follows:

Victoria Road – 60 places Witton Church Walk – 20 places Charles Darwin – 50 places Rudheath – 50 places Kingsmead – 20 places Weaverham – 30 places. 230 places over 4 days. Multiflex thanks NTC for their continued support.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

NTC 21/154 EVENTS UPDATE

All partners have worked hard over the last few years to bring fantastic events to Northwich and from the list below proves that Northwich is a great place to visit and enjoy the events on offer.

Event	State	Date	Lead Partner	Location
Artisan Market February	Complete	Saturday 12 February 2022	The Market Company	Town Wide
Artisan Market March	Complete	Saturday 12 March 2022	The Market Company	Town Wide
Down Syndrome Support Community	Confirmed	Monday 21 March 2022	Barons Quay	Barons Quay
Vegan Market	Confirmed	Saturday 02 April 2022	Vegan Market Co	Apple Market Place
Artisan Market April	Confirmed	Saturday 09 April 2022	The Market Company	Town Wide
Now Northwich	Confirmed	Saturday 30 April 2022	Cheshire Dance	Town Wide
Artisan Market May	Confirmed	Saturday 14 May 2022	The Market Company	Town Side
BQ Community Day	Proposed	Saturday 28 May 2022	Barons Quay	Barons Quay
Beacon Lighting – Verdin Park	Confirmed	Thursday 02 June 2022	Northwich Town Council	Verdin Park
Verdin Park Musical Festival	Confirmed	Saturday 04 June 2022	Northwich Town Council	Verdin Park
Artisan Market June	Confirmed	Saturday 11 June 2022	The Market Company	Town Wide
BQ Community Day	Proposed	Saturday 25 June 2022	Barons Quay	Barons Quay
Krazy Races	Confirmed	Sunday 26 June 2022	Northwich Town Council	Verdin Park
Northwich Festival of Arts	Confirmed	Friday 01 July 2022	Northwich BID	Town Wide
Northwich Scooter Rally	Proposed	Sunday 03 July 2022	Northwich Scooter Club	Apple Market Place
Artisan Market July	Confirmed	Sunday 09 July 2022	The Market Company	Weaver Square
River Festival (Sat)	Confirmed	Sunday 09 July 2022	Rotary Club of Northwich	Weaver Square
River Festival (Sun)	Confirmed	Sunday 10 July 2022	Rotary Club of Northwich	Weaver Square
Annual Diversion (Fri)	Confirmed	Friday 15 July 2022	Salt Town Ltd	River Park
Annual Diversion (Sat)	Confirmed	Saturday 16 July 2022	Salt Town Ltd	River Park
Rotary Party in the Park	Confirmed	Saturday 17 July 2022	Rotary Club of Northwich	River Park
Potential Musical Event	Proposed	Saturday 23 July 2022	TBC	Apple Market Place
BQ Community Day	Proposed	Saturday 30 July 2022	Barons Quay	Barons Quay
Heaven 17	Confirmed	Friday 12 August 2022	Radio Northwich	The Plaza
Artisan Market August	Confirmed	Saturday 13 August 2022	The Market Company	Town Side
Pina Colada Festival	Confirmed	Saturday 20 August	Northwich BID	Town Wide
BQ Community Day	Proposed	Saturday 27 August	Barons Quay	Barons Quay

Continued below

Now Festival Saturday 30th April 2022

<https://www.nownorthwich.co.uk/>

Beacon Lighting Thursday 2nd June 2022

To celebrate the Queens Jubilee we will be lighting a Beacon at Verdin Park and also on top of St Helen's Church along with other activities which will be confirmed in due course.

Verdin Park Music Festival Saturday 4th June 2022

Preparations are well under way for this event which will see local artists perform in Verdin Park and a firework display at the end to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. This year's event will also have a designated bar selling local beers, variety of food available and some children's entertainment.

Alcohol will not be allowed to be brought into the site this year and bag checks will take place upon entry.

The event is still free for all the family, with further details to follow.

Krazy Races Saturday 26th June 2022

<https://www.krazyraces.co.uk/northwich-krazy-races/>

For the first time Krazy Races will be coming to Northwich where there will be an event village, pit area, fairground, live music and much more.

Northwich Festival of the Arts

<https://visitnorthwich.co.uk/northwich-festival-of-art-22/>

A month-long programme celebrating local talent throughout the town centre.

Northwich River Festival Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th July 2022

<https://northwichriverfestival.org.uk/>

Another popular and well attended event in the town centre that takes place on the River Weaver.

Annual Diversion Friday 15th Saturday 16th July 2022

<https://northernrevive.co.uk/annual-diversion/>

Rare Vitamin Records is proud to present the first 'Annual Diversion' a one day out-door music event in Northwich, Cheshire. Celebrating the best in new and alternative music featuring The Lovely Eggs, Headsticks, The Pagans SOH, The Kings Pistol, Kicked In The Teeth plus many more.

Pina Colada Festival Saturday 20th August 2022

<https://pinacoladafest.co.uk/>

Following the success of last year we will be back with a bigger and better event for 2022, with the promotion from Claudia Winkleman on Radio 2 this is going to be a massive event on the Northwich Calendar.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

The Town Mayor gave background to all Events hosted with very positive reactions. More events in the pipeline. Proposed Disability Awareness Weekend as an approach has been made to NTC for help.

In reference to the Easter Holiday activities (21/153) Cllr. Naylor asked regarding the funding. Cllr. R Cernik explained background to the funding available with NTC 50/50 with CW&C. Good reports from previous events, with an over 12's disco proposed.

NTC 21/155 CHURCH WALK PADDLING POOL

Background

Discussions were held this year regarding the possibility of looking to charge for the use of the paddling pool when the facility opens in May. This was mainly due to running costs also over half the users of the pool come from outside the area and do not pay directly into the facility.

Preparations are under way to ensure the pool will be ready for opening in May, with the surface being cleaned and repainted..

The booking system that was used last year will be used again this year with 2 sessions per day 10.00 am – 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm. Possible only to book one session per week which gives others a chance to book sessions and we would kindly ask that people don't try and get around the system and book additional sessions as this only stops other users from booking.

Ice-creams, hot dogs, hot drinks and cold drinks will again be available from our small shop and we would encourage users to support this facility.

Proposal

Options for pool are listed below

- Option 1 - Charge £1 per person to all visitors to the pool, this will be non-refundable and payment will be taken at the time of booking.
- Option 2 – Only charge visitors that do not live in the Northwich Parish, this will be complicated and difficult to administer.
- Option 3 – Due to an overall increase in the cost of living to residents, defer any decision this year and look again next year when we have full costs of one years opening using the booking system.

Lengthy discussions took place among Members as to the options outlined.

Cllr. Cooper commented that due to the rising cost of living generally, he would be happy to agree to Option 3. Enquired if the booking system could have a facility added for voluntary donations.

Cllr. Siddall agreed the booking system works well, the downside is people not showing up for their booking. Also suggested a 'phone app for future use, allowing businesses to advertise for subscription fee.

Cllr. K Cernik agreed this is an interesting idea but could exclude some people. Cllr. Fox suggests access through schools, and has concerns in overcomplicating. Easier to identify with existing system to obtain stats as last year. Will need to revisit costs after this year, consider those, but not looking to make a profit. Cllr. McNamee agreed with Option 3. Cllr. R Cernik added he would favour Option 3, 'phone app good idea but would come at a high cost. Suggests giving vouchers to schools, this to be explored.

Date.....

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Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor

Town Mayor gave a background to the history of the Pool which his family has enjoyed for many years. It is a well run, clean facility. Would also favour Option 3. The current climate has created a severe financial hit to many families.

It was proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. McNamee to choose Option 3. All in favour.

Approved

It was further proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Siddall to have voluntary contributions added to the booking facility. All in favour.

Resolved

NTC 21/155 CW&C MEMBERS UPDATES

Cllrs Cooper and Naylor received a briefing from Sir John Deane's College that their Pool will not be reopening post Covid. SJD Governing Body had made the decision. It was agreed among Members that a response from NTC should be sent asking if any other possible alternative. Further information received is that the equipment is old and due to the costs of investment makes it not a viable proposition to reopen. The pool has previously been used for local Primary schools for swimming lessons, with both Leisure Centres in Northwich and Winsford fully booked. Some schools have had to resort to using pop-up pools. NTC need to support Vale Royal Sports Partnership who are also involved in trying to keep the pool open. Cllr. R Cernik commented that this social responsibility has been neglected by SJD and Grants options should be explored to fund improvements needed. Cllr. Cooper added that projected costs to keep the pool open could run into a 6 figure sum. Town Mayor will ensure this matter is taken up with our M.P. Mike Amesbury and explore every opportunity to keep this open for schools. It was proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Emmett that a letter from NTC is sent to the Board of Governors at SJD. All in favour.

Resolved

Cllr. K. Cernik gave an update on the future of the Victoria Infirmary. Funding has been secured for a number of new initiatives, which have now started. New facilities will be used from end of May. Strong possibility that large scale investment is in the pipeline for high volume, low cost procedures. There is a solid future for the Hospital. Strain will be taken off A & E with modern treatment rooms, and investment in car parking.

Cllr. K Cernik also advised that she has made several efforts contacting Savills to find the reason why the Community Centre at Winnington has not been open. No response received. Cllr. Cernik will speak to our M.P. Mike Amesbury, and suggests a letter is sent to Savills asking the reasons why.

Councillor Derek Bowden left the meeting 7.28 p.m.

NTC 21/156 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Naylor had meeting with TATA regarding the Brunner Mond statues and was promised progress within a year. Cllr. Cooper spoke about Trains and plans to rebuild Railway station, MCRP working with CW&C but can't give timescales. Cllr. Naylor mentioned the award received for Greenbank Station who were Highly Commended in the recent Cheshire Best Kept Stations awards evening. Well done to them.

NTC 21/157 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 9th May, 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

Date.....

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**Cllr. S. Naylor
Town Mayor**