

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

Present:

Cllr G. Emmett - Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr. S. Naylor	Cllr. D. Bowden	Cllr. R. (Bob) Cernik
Cllr. L. Siddall	Cllr. Mrs. J. Illidge	Cllr. Mrs K. Cernik
Cllr. Ms. J Thomas	Cllr. M. McNamee	Cllr. Mrs O. Dean
Cllr. A. Cooper	Cllr. T. Melville	Cllr. B. Holland
Cllr. Ms A. Gerrard	Cllr. Ms G. Edwards	Cllr. Ms J Macdonald
Cllr. S. Bennett	Cllr. Ms. R Waterman	Cllr. Miss C. Fox

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

NTC 22/15 PRESENTATION OF GRANT CHEQUE

The Town Mayor presented Northwich Community Support with a Grants cheque.
Representatives attending gave an update on how well the Food Hubs are working, and going from strength to strength. The Grants award will go towards the cost of a refrigerated van.

NTC 22/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. A Lockett. Cllr. A Stott did not attend.

NTC 22/17 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. R. Cernik declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.
Cllr. Mrs. K Cernik declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.
Cllr. Miss G Edwards declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.
Cllr. Mrs. O Dean declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council
Cllr. Ms A Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council
Cllr. A Cooper declared an interest in any matters relating to Transport for the North (TfN)

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/18 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 22/19 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6th June, 2022 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record

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

NTC 22/20 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 20th June, 2022. Noted by Cllr. Fox.
- 6.2 To note the Extraordinary Committee meeting held on Monday 27th June, 2022 was noted by Cllr. Thomas..
- 6.3 The Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 27th June, 2022 was noted by Cllr. Illidge.

NTC 22/21 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 8 events attended by the Town Mayor during June.		
Thursday 2 nd June	HM Lord Lieutenant of Chester	Thanksgiving service for HM The Queen's Jubilee
Thursday 2 nd June	NTC	Queen's Jubilee beacon lighting at Verdin Park
Friday 3 rd June	Lostock Lodge Care Home	Jubilee Garden Party
Saturday 4 th June	NTC	Verdin Park Music Festival.
Tuesday 14 th June	NTC	Scrutiny for Krazy Races
Tuesday 14 th June	High Sheriff of Cheshire	Garden Party
Friday 17 th June	146 Sqdn. ATC	Awards Presentation evening Deputy Mayor attended
Sunday 26 th June	NTC	Krazy Races event

Updates were given by both Town Mayor and Deputy on the events they attended.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/22 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

Crossing Points in Northwich

At the last Full Council meeting Cllr Siddall gave a verbal report on various crossing points in Northwich. Following on from the report TC has contacted Highways who will be carrying out a safety audit.

Youth Provision

The youth provision initiative in Northwich is still taking place, unfortunately the first disco was cancelled due to low numbers but we will now increase our marketing and push this more in the schools and other outlets. The following activities are still to take place over the coming months.

- Police discos at the Plaza
- Party in The Park (Verdin Park)
- Vickersway Park activity days throughout the summer holidays
- Brio Leisure activities
- Odeon cinema nights

All this activity is being funded and organised by NTC, R&WT, Northwich Police, Northwich BID, EdSential and Barons Quay.

Church Walk Paddling Pool

Unfortunately the pool has had to undergo some emergency repairs in the last few weeks to the surface, this was carried out over 2 days and the pool is now back up and running, this repair was carried out by our own staff to reduce downtime on the pool. We have also had to order a new point for the mushroom due to this developing a fault, this is on order and will be installed as soon as we take delivery.

Northwich Events

There is now a comprehensive what's on guide for all Northwich Events which can be found on the link below.

<https://visitnorthwich.co.uk/northwich-2022-events/>

There is also a booklet that has been produced which is currently being delivered to households and can be picked up in various businesses throughout the town while stocks last. Thanks to Adam Gerrard, Northwich BID who compiled the booklet.

Cllr Cooper added this is a much needed booklet and should be helpful to support struggling businesses.

Cllr Bowden wished to acknowledge the hard work and commitment shown by NTC, CW&C and the BID involved in the staging and organising of events.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

Northwich River Festival

The Northwich River Festival takes place on Sat 9th and Sun 10th July. NTC are supporting with staff on the day along with event equipment. After discussions with Northwich BID we thought we could support further with a joint NTC/BID Dragon Boat entry.

Cost would £220 per organisation and we would ask members/staff/businesses to crew the boat.

Proposed by Cllr. Siddall and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

Approved

Artisan Market

Next market will be Saturday 9th July Members attending as follows:-

11.00 am Cllr. Naylor

12.00 noon Cllr. Fox

1.00 pm Cllr. Emmett

2.00 pm Cllrs. R & K Cernik

NTC 22/23 FINANCE – TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COLUMBARIA COSTS

Report was distributed previously to members. Increased costs to NTC were discussed and agreed at last Finance Meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Gerrard, seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 22/24 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING REPORT – AGAR

Report was distributed previously to members for information only, including the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Members present at the Extraordinary Meeting approved the AGAR.

Approved.

NTC 22/25 YEAR END AUDIT APPROVED AT EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Report containing year end Internal Audit was distributed to members for information only. This was approved at the Extraordinary Meeting held 27th June, 2022.

Approved

NTC 22/26 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT

Report containing the interim Internal Audit was distributed to members for information only. This was approved at the Extraordinary Meeting held 27th June, 2022.

Approved

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/27 HS2 PETITIONING

Cllr. Cooper gave background processes and procedures. HS2 Bill is to be heard by a Government Select Committee. CW&C are setting out a comprehensive objection and NTC has opportunity to add to this. Cllr. Holland mentioned that he has spoken to HS2 Ltd regarding a community response. He also handed out maps illustrating the effect on Northwich as a town. Disruption could last for up to 10 years. Cllr Holland also added that we have up to 2 years as a Council to objecting to HS2 up to or before Royal assent. Cllr. Cooper explained that the Select Committee does not negate the Bill but NTC need to set out mitigations. Cllr. Naylor added that decision should be made democratically, we strongly object to the impact HS2 will have on our town with business community severely suffering.

Cllr. Cooper suggested that NTC form a sub-committee to deal with this matter. Discussions continued, and it was further suggested that Cllr. Melville should be part of the sub-committee along with other members. Therefore, Cllr. Cooper proposed to form a sub-committee seconded by Cllr. Illidge. Cllr. Naylor added that NTC should take decision based on current proposal. Town Mayor suggests that the committee formed should meet, and an Extraordinary Meeting be arranged, and bring any proposals back to Full Council. A vote then took place with 100% of members present being in favour of this course of action. Sub-Committee will consist of Cllrs. Melville, Cooper, Bennett, Holland, Gerrard and Naylor. Other members may join if desired.

Cllr. R. Cernik quoted part of the HS2 Hybrid Bill and the conditions of a petition. Cllr. Holland understood we have 2 years to petition.

Cllr. Naylor proposed a Motion that objectives should be stated in principal to HS2 Ltd that we do not support the rail link. Seconded by Cllr. Holland. Cllr. K Cernik supports connectivity. Cllr. Fox commented the Levelling Up should be used to address connectivity and not spend on HS2 proposal. There is no funding for investment into Crossrail, so could not support any compromises.

At this point Cllr. Cooper again declared an interest in TfN and abstained from the vote.

A further vote took place on the Motion. Cllrs Illidge, Bowden, Holland, Gerrard, Macdonald, Emmett, McNamee, Naylor, Waterman and Dean voted in favour. Cllrs. Cooper, R & K Cernik, Fox, Siddall and Melville abstained. No Councillors voted Against. Motion carried.

Resolved

NTC 22/28 NORTHWICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A report was provided to Members prior to this meeting. Cllr. Cooper gave background to the current NNP which was approved for use in 2018. Good practice to monitor the effectiveness of the existing Plan, and changes may need to be made. Does not want to see NNP challenged and further steps need to be considered in particular to Planning Inspectorate. Cllr. Fox suggested this matter is delegated to the Planning and Environment Committee, and further commented in respect of opportunities of Section 106 funding, focussed on important issues regarding development and sustainability aligned with CW&C. Many unknown changes to the Planning Bill. Town Mayor suggests a permanent Task Group be formed with recommendations reported to the October Full Council meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Dean. All in favour.

Resolved.

NTC 22/29 KRAZY RACES

A full report was distributed among members prior to this meeting. In partnership with Sarah Belcher Events and after a two year wait due to the pandemic, Krazy Races came to Northwich and what a fantastic event it was with the town flocking to the event. The event has been very well received with many positive comments on the day and on social media.

Date.....

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NTC 22/29 KRAZY RACES cont'd

The event could not have taken place without the continued support of our partners and volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the day from keeping the site safe to litter picking and directing cars on the car park.

A big thank you to all NTC staff, Adam Gerrard from Northwich BID, Ian Tordoff from CW&C Events Team, NOW Northwich volunteers, Rotarians, NTC Members who were all on site throughout the day.

Cllr. Naylor commented what a great event and huge success with numbers attending. Disappointed that local businesses did not participate as much as they could but need to encourage future support, and for community participation. Cllr. Thomas expressed the need to explore local businesses to provide food etc. at the event rather than use companies from outside the area. Also to encourage the Artisan Market Craft stall holders to participate.

NTC 22/30 DROP CROSSINGS IN NORTHWICH

Cllr. Dean has had complaints regarding drop kerbs for Mobility Scooter users, Has contacted CW&C regarding this and apparently there is no funding available. Quoted extracts from the Department for Transport Mobility Guidelines illustrating rules and guidelines. Explained some of the problems experienced by mobility scooter users. Cllr. K. Cernik advised there is a Disability Officer available and are good on these matters. Cllr. Cooper agreed this is a big issue and NTC Planning Committee should be mindful to look for opportunities and improvements to prospective large developments in this area. Cllr. Bennett commented that parking on roads in Winnington Village complex sometimes obscures these crossings created for this purpose.

NTC 22/31 SOOT HILL COLLAPSE UPDATE

Report was distributed to Members prior to this meeting for information only. Noted.

NTC 22/32 WOMEN IN SPORT

Cllr. Siddall put forward a proposal that NTC links up with others to support local sports groups as he feels there is not enough investment into Women's sports. Cllr. Naylor commented that Vale Royal Sports Partnership have full day activities to encourage girls playing football. Cllr. Siddall is open to suggestions as to what NTC could do next year to look for others to work in partnership with. Cllr. Waterman would support this very much. Cllr. R Cernik added that Brio Leisure have lots of programmes. Cllr. Cooper proposes this matter be referred to the next Amenities Committee Meeting, seconded by Cllr. Siddall.

Resolved

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/33 CW&C UPDATES

Cllr. K Cernik advised that the Commission for Care has now been replaced by Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care for Health and Social Care. Radical changes due to ongoing problems with the N.H.S. and Hospitals where the system of care appears to be 'broken' .

Cllr. R Cernik advised of the Holiday Activity Fund update. Regarding School holiday activities, Cheshire West Voluntary Action co-ordinate these schemes in conjunction with Food Banks. NTC have already got set up with activities during the summer holidays.

Cllr. Naylor mentioned the Disabled Awareness Day event happening at Memorial Court on 25th August. Also advised of a Task Force Group of which he is a member for the Anderton Boatlift upgrade. Success of the Anderton Boatlift is to dredge a section of the River to Town Bridge which would encourage boat trips to Northwich.

Cllr. Edwards referring to the latest set of figures shows the population of the Borough has risen by 8.4% .

NTC 22/34 OUTSIDE BODIES UPDATES

There were no reports.

NTC 22/35 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 5th September, 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor