

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER, 2022

Present:

Cllr G. Emmett

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr. Mrs. A. Lockett

Cllr. L. Siddall

Cllr. B. Holland

Cllr. Ms. A. Gerrard

Cllr. S. Bennett

Cllr. Miss C. Fox

Cllr. M. McNamee

Cllr. A. Cooper

Cllr. S. Naylor

Cllr. Mrs K. Cernik

Cllr. Mrs. J. Illidge

Cllr. Ms J Macdonald

Cllr. Ms. R. Waterman

Cllr. Ms. J. Thomas

Cllr. A. Stott

Also present: Chris Shaw

Liza Clansey

Theresa Cash

Town Clerk

Assistant Town Clerk

Council Secretary/Mayor's P.A.

NTC 22/50 CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

The speaker did not attend.

NTC 22/51 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. Bowden, O. Dean, and R. Cernik. Cllrs. G. Edwards and T. Melville did not attend.

NTC 22/52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

- Pecuniary Interest
- Outside Bodies Interest
- Family, Friend or Close Associate interest

Cllr. A. Cooper declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Cllr. S. Naylor 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. Ms A Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.

NTC 22/53 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/54 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th September, 2022 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record

Proposed by Cllr. C. Fox seconded by Cllr J. Macdonald . Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.
All in favour.

NTC 22/55 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 20th September, 2022. Noted by Cllr. Fox.
- 6.2 To note the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022 was noted by Cllr. Stott.

NTC 22/56 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 9 events attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy during September

Thursday 8 th September	Home Instead Northwich and Knutsford	15 th Anniversary
Friday 9 th September	NTC	Signing of the Condolence Book
Sunday 11 th September	High Sheriff of Cheshire & Lord Mayor of Chester	County Proclamation of H.M. King Charles 3rd
Sunday 11 th September	NTC	Proclamation to people of Northwich
16 th September	Rotary Club Northwich	Northwich Beer and Drinks Festival
Sunday 18 th September	LL of Cheshire Chester Cathedral	Service of Thanksgiving for life of the Queen Deputy Mayor attended
Sunday 18 th September	NTC	Vigil for the late H.M. Queen Elizabeth Deputy Mayor attended
Tuesday 20 th September	Cheshire West Voluntary Arts Network	Community and Voluntary Arts Awards 2022 Deputy Mayor attended
Wednesday 21 st September	Weaver Valley Rotary Club	Dementia Awareness Session Deputy Mayor attended

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

Cllr. Thomas added that regarding the Dementia Awareness session she would like to promote this in Northwich.

Cllr. Naylor wished to thank NTC staff and others for reacting so quickly and putting the appropriate plans into place following the death of H.M. The Queen.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

Operation London Bridge

On Thursday 8th September Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sadly passed away while in Scotland. Following her death Operation London Bridge was implemented across the country, local authorities have been planning for this for some time and Northwich Town Council played an important role ensuring that the community of Northwich had the opportunity to mourn the Queens passing.

Our responsibilities were as follows –

- Lowering and raising of all flags in Northwich
- Organising the book of condolence
- Organising the Proclamation
- Organising the 1 minute silence
- Arranging the flower garden at Brio and ensuring the safety of the community attending any of the events above.

We worked alongside many partners throughout this sad time including CW&C Council, BRIO and Northwich BID who all worked exceptionally hard under difficult circumstances.

The Town Clerk expressed his personal thanks to all of them for their commitment and professionalism.

AED Install

Following a request from Castle Private Club to install a new AED to be 24 hour accessible for the community funds have now been raised to make this happen. The funding has come from Castle Private, NTC, Northwich Rotary and Cllrs. Kate & Bob Cernik. This will be the 22nd AED that has been installed within Northwich which is managed and maintained by NTC. The AED will be added to the circuit run by the British Heart Foundation which hold the database for all AED devices in the UK.

Ukraine Welcome Events

On Saturday 8th October to run alongside the Artisan market there will be an event on Apple Market Place to welcome the Ukrainian community to Northwich. There will be live music, Ukrainian food and local organisations attending giving support and advice throughout the day. The event will start at 10.00 am and run until 2.00 pm, a similar event has also taken place in Chester.

Annual Play Inspection

It is this time of year when we undertake our annual play inspection of all our play areas, this is done by an independent inspector and is a legal requirement. Any faults on our equipment will be repaired ASAP.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor**

Northwest In Bloom

Following on from recent judging we will find out in November if we have been successful in winning Gold this year at the awards.

Artisan Market

Next market will be Saturday 8th October Members will attend as below, Northwich Police will be present on our stand.

11.00 am Cllr. S. Naylor

12.00 noon Cllrs. C. Fox and R. Waterman

1.00 pm Cllr. J. Thomas

2.00 pm Cllr. K. Cernik

NTC 22/58 NORTHWICH FRAMEWORK MEETING

Report distributed to members attached to Agenda outlining the purpose of this meeting. Members are requested to attend this important meeting at NTC offices on Monday 10th October. This provides an opportunity to have input into the future regeneration of the town centre.

NTC 22/59 FLOODING

A comprehensive report was given by Cllr. Naylor. He is involved together with Cllr. Cooper as the previous flooding has spanned both their Wards. Since 2000 there has been regular flooding in Northwich due to climate change. £5m investment has been made on flood defences in 2014/15 and they have worked. Cheshire West and Chester Council manage the flood risk and NTC along with Environment Agency, United Utilities and Canal and Rivers Trust work closely with them. There is no guarantee that flooding will not happen again. Northwich BID also are trying to get messages across to businesses regarding this. NTC seem to get unjust criticism on the matter and perhaps are not fully aware of what goes on in the background. A Flooding Report will go before Cabinet this week and will try and put right the problems identified. Already have spent a large amount of money on pumping equipment and there are other alternatives. This coming winter will see EA/UU/CWAC install additional pumping systems. NTC has a lot of responsibilities in this area. Presentations attended by Cllrs. Naylor and Cooper by Emergency Teams have measures in place for possible evacuations. It has to be accepted that flooding cannot be prevented but there are resources available and everything possible to do our best to protect Northwich. Flood Risk Action Groups meet regularly and every issue in a petition presented have been addressed. Wish is for Businesses to have confidence to know this matter is taken very seriously.

6.30 p.m. Cllr. Cooper arrived at the meeting.

Cllr. Siddall asked questions regarding plans to protect the town centre and wants to reassure residents who have enquired with him. He asked about pumps having been removed from sites, and the difference between these and replacement pumps and the strategy having taken so long. Cllr Naylor advised that additional pumping having more capacity has cost £250k and is more efficient. Additional pumping at Barons Quay and other sites. Is confident that with more capacity, efficiency and less cost measures in place to exceed last year. Cllr Siddall further asked as to the capacity of pumps. Cllr. Cooper confirmed pumps at Barons Quay, Lock Road and other sites will remain all winter. Cllr. Cooper advised the statistics from UU what is needed to pump water. Original plan to use mobile pumps for increased flexibility with the advantage they can be redeployed to relieve pressure, based on EA assessments and forecasted river level. Explained the process used.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

FLOODING CONT'D

UU advised concerns at moving pumps to sites and installing, they prefer fixed pumps. CWAC and EA have a series of smaller and easily transportable pumps. A live trial will be taking place this month to test mobile pumps and will take any learns from this. Lots of progress made in many areas and will be in a decent position this winter. Further explained the drainage combined system for Northwich. A key issue is for a hydraulic model being built for Bull Ring businesses. Cllr. Fox suggests that lots of technical detail needs to be circulated and digest the information. Cllr. K Cernik acknowledged that Cllrs. Naylor and Cooper have put in an enormous amount of work into what is a very complex problem dealing with unknowns. Great deal of effort from all Agencies getting a huge result and we should offer ongoing support to these Agencies. Cllr. Fox commented on the issue of time spent in these discussions but admitted it is very difficult to get all Agencies (CWAC/EA/UU) together and considers the project to be a 'sticking plaster' exercise, recognising the major gap in investment for the town centre, and asks is there any long term solution to this? Cllr. Naylor said possible mis-management in the past but now all changed with a real desire to a better future. He is convinced that will limited resources and investment will get CWAC/UU/EA/CRT to produce documented plans. Cllr. Emmett suggested concluding this matter for now. Cllr. McNamee thanked both Councillors for the background and information provided. Cllr. Naylor is satisfied that everything done, has been done.

Resolved

NTC 22/60 CO-OPTIONS

In previous Full Council minutes, it has been noted that when we have Co – Opted members on to the Council that their names have not been included in the minutes of that meeting.

To rectify this, members were asked to propose that we accept the following amendments to previous minutes and approve that all Co – Opted members names are included in the minutes.

All other documentation has been submitted to CW&C Council following Co – Options and includes the following.

- Signed declaration
- Notice of Interests

Council to approve the following amendments

That the following Co – Opted Councillors names be added to the minutes

- Kate Cernik
- Robert Cernik
- Gavin Erlam
- Samuel Bennett
- Julie Macdonald
- Olwyn Dean
- Brian Holland
- Rachel Waterman
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Proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Gerrard. All in favour.

Approved.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/61 CW&C UPDATES

Cllr K Cernik advised her discussions with Senior Managers in relation to Victoria Infirmary Northwich (VIN). £14.5m is to be invested for a VIN surgery facility, but unsure date of commencement. This will prove a huge asset to the town and is very positive.

Cllr. Illidge asked if any services would be discontinued? No, but diagnostic facilities and additional services will be offered by NHS.

Cllr. Naylor added his comments regarding disabled access. VIN is a tremendous facility in Northwich but a pity if not available to disabled persons.

Cllr. K Cernik also advised of a new Covid surge and that ICU patients are generally non-vaccinated for Covid, encourages everyone to get their Covid vaccinations when invited.

Cllr. Holland enquired if any update concerning the Library, and it's proposed completion. Cllr. Cooper advised there are two strands to this matter, the renovation outside is ongoing and the interior cannot be accessed at this time. A specialist survey is to be carried out later this month. Cllr Holland expressed his concerns that the role the Library plays, as an information Hub is now taken away and not replaced. Cllr. Cooper added there had been thoughts on moving into Barons Quay temporarily into one of the vacant units. The Town Clerk agreed to raise this matter in a meeting he is attending with Northwich BID and others shortly.

Cllr. Cooper spoke about the Dane Valley development and advised funding is available for tree planting and this is likely to happen in December following a small legal variation to be done. Cllr. Bennett asked about building on flood plains. Cllr. Cooper explained the background to this and high risk areas etc, as he had significant involvement at the consultee stage. Cllr Bennett is aware that trees have been cut down but not replaced. Cllr Cooper advised him to look at the conditions regarding trees within the plans.

Cllr Cooper also advised of the daffodil bulb planting project to take place again this year. 3000 bulbs to plant.

NTC 22/62 OUTSIDE BODIES UPDATES

Cllr. Lockett advised the 1st NHS games with lots of volunteers were hosted in Northwich, and it is hoped will continue. There has been a new route found for Junior Parkrun in Carey Park with a risk assessment having been carried out with no issues.

Cllr. Emmett mentioned the Transition Northwich event taking place at Hope 52, Witton Street from 10.00 am to 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 8th October. Lots of information available.

NTC 22/63 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 7th November, 2022 at 6.00 pm.
Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor