

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 2022

Present:

Cllr G. Emmett

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr. S. Bennett
Cllr. R. Cernik
Cllr. Mrs. O. Dean
Cllr. Mrs. A. Lockett
Cllr. M. McNamee
Cllr. L. Siddall
Cllr. Ms J. Thomas

Cllr. Mrs. K Cernik
Cllr. A. Cooper
Cllr. B. Holland
Cllr. J. Macdonald
Cllr. T. Melville
Cllr. A. Stott
Cllr. Ms. R. Waterman

Also present: Chris Shaw
Liza Clansey
Theresa Cash

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

NTC 22/64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. Bowden, A. Gerrard, C. Fox, J. Illidge, and S. Naylor. Cllr. G. Edwards did not attend.

NTC 22/65 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. Mrs. K Cernik 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.

NTC 22/66 OPEN FORUM

Mr Kevin Jones, a member of the Flood Prevention Group was welcomed by the Town Mayor. Mr Jones wished to address members in relation to the flooding problems in Northwich. Mr Jones quoted stats the Group have gathered and went into those in great detail. The levels seen exceeded the recommended height. Over-topping is considered the greatest risk. The Group challenged some information provided in a Flooding report. Mentioned several areas they felt most at risk. The Group are disappointed in the response given by CW&C.

Cllr. Cooper responded by saying these were a number of really points, and knows that Northwich is vulnerable to flooding, and according to news reports that throughout the UK there is great risk of flooding this winter. Testing of extra pumping capacity deployment is to take place over the next few days. The Fire Service are coordinating the multi-Agency trial. The long term solution is a hydraulic plan. Canal and River Trust have invested over the Summer and Autumn for more reliable protection.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

Cllr. R Cernik added that reducing the level of the rivers requires CRT to act. The problems with Over-topping are borough wide and reducing levels in all towns need agreement from the Owners. Referred to the Atkins Report which lists historical flooding events. Cllr. Cernik is happy to write to the Secretary of State. He had witnessed the last flooding in town, but the defences prevented the town from worse flooding. It is widely agreed that the town needs a revamped sewage system, this being a nationwide problem. CW&C cannot force United Utilities to act, all needs further investment. Mr Jones was thanked by the Town Mayor.

NTC 22/67 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd October, 2022 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr. Cooper asked that a correction is made to the text on NTC 22/59.

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

NTC 22/68 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022. Noted by Cllr. Thomas.
- 6.2 To note the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Monday 24th October 2022 was noted by Cllr. Stott.

NTC 22/69 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were 11 events attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy during October

Sunday 2 nd October	High Sheriff of Cheshire	Legal Service at Chester Town Hall – Deputy Mayor attended
Saturday 8 th October	CWAC	Ukrainian welcome event – Deputy Mayor attended
Monday 10 th October	For Housing Futures	World Homeless Day – Deputy Mayor attended
Wednesday 12 th October	Danebridge Care Home	Harvest event
Saturday 15 th October	The Vinyl Café	Opening launch
Tuesday 18 th October	NW Ambulance	Community event
Wednesday 26 th October	KMTC	Legally Blonde production
Thursday 27 th October	The Grange	Press launch for Panto
Saturday 29 th October	RBL Riders	Poppy launch
Saturday 29 th October	Middlewich T/C	Afternoon tea with the Mayor – Deputy Mayor attended
Saturday 29 th October	KMTC	Legally Blonde production – Deputy Mayor attended

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

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/70 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

Northwest In Bloom

On Thursday 20th October we attended the In Bloom Awards Ceremony in Bolton with the BID and Changing Lives Together.

I am pleased to say that we came away with 5 golds which was a fantastic achievement for the town, CLT won gold for their work with volunteers at the food hub garden on Manchester Road, Grozone was another winner for its work in the community and we also won gold for Northwich and best large town which was very well deserved following all the hard work that has taken place over the last year. There are too many people and organisations to thank as this is a joint partnership effort throughout the year so a big thanks to all involved with the continued hard work and commitment.

Cllr. Siddall wished to acknowledge the hard work put into this and how much it is appreciated.

Winter Bedding

All the winter bedding is now planted, and barrier planters installed to ensure Northwich looks its best throughout the Winter.

Northwich Town Council Community Orchard

We will be working with CW&C, Grozone and the community to plant a community orchard across from Greenall Road. Further details will be released in the next few weeks, but we will be planting around 80 apple, plum and pear trees in this area, workshops will be held on site along with open days going forward where you will be able to learn to prune fruit trees.

All local schools will be invited to take part in the planting along with the community.

Northwich Warm Hubs

Members have been enquiring about warm hubs for Northwich as the library will not be part of the buildings available. I have spoken to officers from CW&C and they are currently working on additional locations in the town. Town Clerk was able to confirm that Brio Leisure Centre will become a Warm Hub so far. Cllr. Holland advised that CW&C website is not showing correct information regarding Hubs. Cllr. K Cernik will check up on this. Cllr. Waterman also said she would be happy to offer a Warm Hub at the Cheshire Food Hub on Manchester Road. Cllr K Cernik mentioned the Lion Salt Works is part of the Warm Hub plans for Northwich.

Artisan Market

Next market will be Saturday 12th November can members please decide on who will attend. We will be joined by Northwich Police on our stall. We will be in our original place on Witton Street this month.

11.00 am	Cllr. M McNamee
12.00 noon	Cllr. J. Thomas
1.00 pm	Cllr. B. Holland
2.00 pm	Cllr. J. Macdonald

NTC 22/71 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE VACANCY

Cllr. S. Bennett has volunteered to become a member of the Planning and Environment Committee. Cllr. Dean gave her apologies for having to stepdown due to other commitments in Rudheath that she is involved with. Proposed by Cllr. Macdonald, seconded by Cllr. Thomas.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

NTC 22/72 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Northwich Town Council will again organise the Remembrance Parade in partnership with the Royal British Legion and St Helen's Church. This will consist of a parade, with a Church Service in St Helen's Church.

The Parade will leave Crum Hill at 9.50am turning left onto Chester Way and then into Church Road through the Lych Gates. The Church service will start at 10.15am and will be led by Reverend Andrew Ridley.

After the service, the parade will make their way to the cenotaph along Church Road.

Wreath Layers will be directed by NTC staff to stand in front of the cenotaph and wait to be called to lay their wreath.

Following the Act of Remembrance the parade will reform and march back to Chester Way where the Mayor will take the salute. The Parade will then fall out at the back of Brio. Refreshments will be serviced in Brio.

NTC 22/73 CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

The Northwich Christmas Extravaganza will take place on Saturday 26th November and will see a range of activities throughout the town centre. Working in partnership with Northwich BID and Barons Quay we have tried to fill the town with as much activity as possible.

Apple Market Place will have a synthetic ice rink from Saturday 26th November until Monday 28th November, details on how to make online bookings only are on our website and social media.

Father Christmas will be in his grotto outside H&M in Barons Quay where you will be able to visit him from 11.00 am - 5.00 pm.

Balloon artists, circus activities, face painting and live music will take place throughout the day along with fairground rides and food stalls. The day will come to a close with a lantern parade from Waitrose, the light switch on and then a firework finale over the River Weaver. This year we have been working with Tiny Steps the Charity, to create a space for those that require a quieter area and a British Sign Language Interpreter.

If any members wish to help on the day or at the ice rink then please let me know, all help will be greatly appreciated.

NTC 22/74 TREE OF LIGHTS

This year will be held on Friday 2nd December outside our offices. Refreshments will be available for visitors to enjoy. Promotion of this event will begin shortly.

NTC 22/75 NORTHWICH RUGBY CLUB

Unfortunately Cllr. Naylor was not present to give an update following the fire damage that took place 2 weeks ago at the Club. The building is repairable but all trophies and equipment within the building were all lost or unsalvageable. It is estimated that the cost to get the Club up and running again will be £30,000, with the Club having already raised £10,000.

Date.....

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NTC 22/75 NORTHWICH LIBRARY

Cllr. Cooper gave members an update. A specialist contractor has access to the building. Library Services will temporarily move to Weaver Hall Museum and are currently planning the equipment needed for the interior and space they will be sharing with the Museum. A specialist removals company will be moving the books. This project is moving as quickly as possible and all businesses have been kept up to date with progress.

NTC 22/76 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. K Cernik advised she had attended a Planning meeting. Cllr. Bennett asked a question about the decision making, Cllr. Cernik explained how a non-political decision is made based on the Planning law of the U.K. The final decision is made by CWAC Planning Councillors.

Cllr. R Cernik spoke about the state of CW&C finances, with other areas being affected also. In respect of Adult and Children's Social Care, clients are being discharged from hospital and are being placed with 3rd Party Respite care. Regarding Children's Social Care there are an increased number of placements in Northwich. Hopefully making purchases for Children's home in the area which would save money in the long term. A local report has been sent to Government requesting the need of extra significant funding. There are some hard decisions to be taken and every effort being made to take mitigating steps.

Cllr. Siddall asked if Adult and Child Care is to be ringfenced. Cllr. Cernik added there is a central strategy for the most vulnerable. Partnering up with 3rd Party and charity providers. There are statutory travel requirements, special needs after School Clubs to pay for. The general principal is looking after and keeping essential services, resisting Day Care Centre closures.

Cllr. Cooper advised that in the case of major contractors, they will all have an inflationary content built in to any contracts and quotes they give. He wished to thank Cllr. Thomas for helping with the planting of spring bulbs and bringing some of her students along.

Cllr. Holland is happy with the Library updates given, but not happy with the lack of information hubs.

Cllr. K. Cernik has raised this with CW&C Officers.

Cllr. R Cernik added that the problems accessing the Information Centre have been due to staffing problems. It is hoped the Information Centre will be used again and there is no intention to cut services. It is known that 12% of residents have no access to the internet. Staff have been deployed elsewhere. Town Clerk has also raised this matter at various meetings. Cllr. Waterman asked if it were possible to man the Information Centre with volunteers, but due to systems access this would not be possible.

NTC 22/77 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Dean advised that a Café is opening Monday to Thursday at The Venue in Rudheath. Rudheath Christmas Lights switch on will take place on Sunday 4th December at The Venue. Also referred to a Planning proposal in Rudheath to build 46 homes on St. John's play area, which would result in removal of the football pitch. Parish Council have written to both M.P.'s Ester McVey and Mike Amesbury for their support in opposing this. Cllr. K. Cernik aware of shortage of play areas and open spaces in the area, and Cllr. Dean has pointed out specific features regarding residents.

Cllr. Cooper reported that along with Cllrs. Emmett and Holland, they attended a meeting regarding HS2. Highways issues taking up the majority of the meeting. The Operators assured that closures will be kept to a minimum on the A556. Cllr. Holland advised disruption and closures could last for up to 6 years. Cllr. Cooper requested proposals in writing regarding closures. Asked for financial contribution towards possible compensation for job losses, and for improvements to the Mid Cheshire railway line. Operators will provide a written response. In respect of ground stability, they were not ready to discuss, but will arrange a further meeting to discuss in detail.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

Cllr. K Cernik is a member of Northwich Care Community, looking to improve dementia care and to make Northwich a dementia friendly town. Cllr Cernik is attending a further meeting with Age UK and has asked the Town Clerk to join her. Cllrs. Siddall and Thomas also expressed an interest to attend.

NTC 22/78 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12th December, 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Please note the date change from first Monday in December.

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

Date.....

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Cllr. G. Emmett Town Mayor

PART B

In accordance with Local Government Act Public Admittance to Meetings Act 1960, the following agenda items are to be considered in the absence of press and public.

NTC 22/79 STAFFING