

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Chris Shaw

Council Offices, 78 Church Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 5PB - 01606 41510
www.northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk chrisshaw@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk



Northwich
town council

DATE: 4th October 2023

To: The Members of Northwich Town Council

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the at the **Council Chamber, 78 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB** held on **Monday 9th October 2023 at 6.00pm.**

Yours Sincerely

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

AGENDA

1. To receive a presentation from Milton Winpenny on Wild About Stockton Heath.
2. Apologies for absence or absence
3. **Declaration of interest**
Members to declare any interest under the following categories:
 - *Pecuniary interest
 - * Outside bodies interest
 - * Family, friend, or close associate interest
4. **Open Forum**
Members of the public will be allowed to speak at the Open Forum section of this meeting on the understanding that any topics raised will have been forwarded in writing to the Town Clerk at the above address prior to the date of the meeting.
Public Question Time to be a maximum of 10 minutes.
5. **Signing of the Minutes**
5.1 Of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023. Minutes attached.
Members are required to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record
6. **Reports of Committees**
6.1 To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023. Minutes attached.
6.2 To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 19th September 2023. Minutes attached.
7. **Town Mayor's Communication**
List of civic events that the Town Mayor has attended during September 2023 (attached)

8. **Chief Officers Report**
Report attached
9. **Police Update**
To receive a report from Northwich Police
10. **Northwich Skatepark**
To note Report attached.
11. **Old Hall Road Play Area CCTV**
Report attached.
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
12. **To receive a report from Cllr Lee Siddall on Dyslexia Awareness Week.**
Verbal report to be given at the meeting.
13. **CW&C Councillor Updates**
To receive updates from Members
14. **Outside Bodies**
To receive an update from any member attending meetings of outside bodies
15. **Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be Monday 6th November 2023 at 6.00 pm.

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

16. **Preferred Contractors**
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
17. **Event Funding**
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Present:

Cllr Jane Thomas

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Joanne Callaghan

Cllr Julie MacDonald

Cllr Andrew Cooper

Cllr Sam Naylor

Cllr Graham Emmett

Cllr Lee Siddall

Cllr Andy Kent

Cllr Catriona Stewart

Cllr Amy Lockett

Cllr Andy Stott

Also present:

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk

Liza Clansey

Assistant Town Clerk

NTC 23/28 PRESENTATION FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRUNNER & MOND

Richard Hall, Development and Partnership Officer for Cheshire West informed members of the upcoming events to celebrate the 150th year anniversary of Brunner & Mond. This has come about through working with Libraries and coming together to develop projects.

In October there will be various events to celebrate this such as key stage 2 primary school workshops at Weaver Hall Museum funded by Northwich Town Council, Brunner and Mond, their lives and legacy talks funded by Waitrose, Local groups including Friends of Weaver Hall to run a heritage stalls and Catalyst Museum displaying Brunner Mond artefacts at Weaver Hall.

Cllr Sam Naylor said it's such a real shame that we have not had the Brunner Mond statues put in place for this anniversary, Cllr Naylor has been battling for 4 years to get the statues back in Northwich.

NTC 23/29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kate Cernik, Cllr Bob Cernik, Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Catherine Fox, Cllr Alison Gerrard, Cllr Janet Illidge, Cllr Arther Neil, and Cllr Tom Melville. Cllr Patrica Parkes and Cllr Rachel Waterman were not present.

NTC 23/30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

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

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/31 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 23/32 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2023 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Graham Emmett and seconded by Cllr Catriona Stewart, all agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Dept Mayor.

NTC 23/33 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023

Noted by Cllr Lee Siddall

To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 21st August 2023

Noted by Cllr Lee Siddall

To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th July 2023

Noted by Cllr Andy Stott

To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22nd August 2023

Noted by Cllr Andy Stott

NTC 23/34 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Town Mayor Cllr Jane Thomas expressed what an amazing few months she had experienced with all the fantastic that took part in Northwich. She thanked everyone that had been involved arranging the events and working so hard and thanks to the staff.

Mayors Diary, July 2023

Date	Event	Comment
01.07.23	Thank you to Willowgreen owner, Davenham	Amanda ran Willowgreen for over 13 years and the shop had been an integral part of the village and community. She decided to move on to a different challenge this year, but over the years build some wonderful relationships with her customers and supporting many charities, most notably, Down Syndrome Cheshire
06.07.23	Condate Singers 21 st anniversary concert	A wonderful performance of the choir – which celebrated their 21 st anniversary this month. The songs were a selection chosen by the choir of their favorite pieces. It was a wonderful performance, and the pieces were all well-known foot tapping songs. It was difficult not to join in!
07.07.23	Victoria Road Primary School Summer Fayre	A lovely opportunity to see pupils and their parents and support one of our local schools.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

Date	Event	Comment
15.07.23	The Riverboat Festival	One of our big summer events – there were thousands of people in town and our crew did remarkably well – only missing out on the medals by fractions of seconds. I enjoyed meeting all of the stall holders and introducing

		the first race as well as having a VIP lunch with the Rotary, Mike Amesbury, Lady and Sir Redmond (Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire) and Eric and Dianne (Deputy Lord Lieutenant). I went on to release the ducks. A fantastically well organized and attended event. Again, many thanks to the team that supported this – Chris, Cath as well as the crew from NCT.
16.07.23	Krazy Races	Again, an amazing event, which puts Northwich on the map! We have one of the longest courses so the speeds are generally quite good – although one or two carts did find it difficult to generate much speed! Again, a massive thank you to Chris, Cath, Liza, Jan who ran the bar. The intrepid Andrew and Rupert (Rotary) in the cart and Lee and Steff who made wonderful Hoola dancers and Rachel as Mr /Mrs Colada.
23.07.23	Hartford Village Hall	The Village Hall celebrated their centenary and unveiled a new bronze stag to mark the event. The village hall was opened by Lady Jarmay which 100 years ago consisted of two WW1 army huts which were joined and some land. Over the years, it has been developed into a wonderful community space which hosts many different clubs. These clubs were able to showcase their work which was displayed for all to see. I was fortunate to cut the ribbon alongside Hartford resident, Margret who was 4 years old at the time of the opening. The event was also attended by Sam and Trish from NCT / CWAC councilors.
	Art trail – closing event	A wonderful event celebrating local amateur artists. The work was fantastic and following this, I've been invited to attend another event of one of the artists, Tom Hillier in September. It is another fantastic way to get local artists work viewed in the community as well as enhancing shops windows and increasing footfall in the town. There are still outstanding pieces of work available to view in one of the units in Baron's Quay.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

31.07.23	Bridging the Gap/ Prince's Trust	This was a fantastic organization which supports pupils who have struggled with education. It gives young adults skills to support them into work. These are pupils who have found the pandemic particularly difficult. This event was part a presentation and part a celebration of those individuals who have worked through this programme. Sam attended this event with me.
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Mayors Diary, August 2023

Date	Event	Comment
19.08.23	Pina Colada Festival.	What an unforgettable event! A truly unique event to Northwich which helps put us firmly on the map. It was a wonderful day where all partners worked together – the NCT, BID, Barons Quay, Rotary, the Police, Northwich Radio, Toppers etc. etc. as well as some amazing performers. Many thanks to all for making this event truly special and to Tom Barrow for the brains behind the event. The town was full with everyone enjoying themselves and it was wonderful to see that even when the main days events were finished, the town was heaving late into the night. There was no trouble and everyone was smiling. Hopefully this event will continue to go from strength to strength. Thanks to our incredible team yet again, Chris and Cath were on site for many, many hours! And also, thanks to our vibrant Mr. Colada, Lee – who danced around in a very hot costume and also to Fliss Davis (Castle and Winnington CWAC) who looked stunning in her wings. The event was captured by the ever-professional Karl Brookes.
19.08.23	Lostock Care Home	<i>Deputy Mayor Attended</i> - It was a pleasure to join residents, their families and Staff for their open day at Lostock Lodge. We were treated to some wonderful singing and some excellent cakes.

NTC 23/35 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

Church Walk Paddling Pool

The weather has not been favourable for the pool this season with many days being cancelled or poor attendance if we did stay open. The pool will close down for winter after the schools go back, so the last day of opening will be Sunday 17th September.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

Vickersway Park

Again due to poor weather this year attendance in the park has been low, the park shop will stay open every day until 10th September and from this date will then open at weekends only as previous years.

Rose Meadow Play Area

As reported at the last meeting, we have been working with the developer and planning officers at CW&C Council to asset transfer a piece of land on the site to Northwich Town Council which was earmarked for a play area.

This is now in progress, residents of the estate will now be asked if they wish to take part in a consultation on what play equipment they would like to have in there play area. Once the

consultation is complete we will come up with a design, consult again and then start the installation to deliver another play area for our community.

The play area will then be maintained, inspected and managed by Northwich Town Council. It is hoped that this pilot scheme will be successful and we can work with other developers going forward to ensure that play facilities on new builds is what the residents wish to see and have a say in their installation.

Cllr Andrew Cooper and Cllr Catriona Stewart have been delivering leaflets and knocking on people's door regarding the play area. Residents are enthusiastic about the play area and overwhelmed that the Council are dealing with this rather than the builders.

Coast Communications

Last year Cllr Graham Emmett was the NTC representative for Coast Communications. They hold local liaison committee meetings once a year. Coast work mainly in the environment, construction, economy and tourism sectors, their strength lies in their specialist technical knowledge and contracts. They provide practical, turnkey solutions for complex projects. Cllr Julie MacDonald is going to be this year's representative.

Past Mayors point System

Cllr Graham Emmett, NTC past Mayor, points system was recorded incorrectly in our Annual Report. This has now been corrected on the Annual Report on the Web site and to be noted in Full Council as corrected.

Total points should read 439 for his Mayoral Year.

NTC 23/36 SKATEPARK

The new skate park build is going really well and the concrete is starting to be poured. The park is really taking shape. We are still looking at another 4 weeks construction before the park will be ready for use. It will be a fantastic addition to the range of facilities Northwich Town Council provides for its residents. NTC give a massive thanks to Wheelscape, FCC Communities, Rudheath & Witton Together, Spacehive and the local skaters for all their support in the planning, fundraising and now construction of this skatepark.

We plan to have a soft opening at the end of September and then an opening Jam in October where there will be a full day of activity on the park.

Cllr Sam Naylor has been monitoring the park each week and said he was amazed how much work is involved and how technical it all is.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/37 NORTHWICH EVENTS

Northwich River Festival

The River Festival took place on Saturday 15th July and proved once again to be a very popular event for the town. A full day's racing took place with CRS Consultants taking the title from Visit Northwich who won last year. A range of activities took place on the day including pirates, mermaids, search & rescue displays, fairground rides and charity stalls.

The duck race again took place and raised much needed funds for local charities, we are already in discussions with the Rotary Club and partners on River Festival 2024.

Northwich Krazy Races

This event took place on Sunday 16th July and was the second year the event was staged after the overwhelming success of last year. Over 20 teams took part racing down Castle Hill and the rain did not dampen the community coming out to support the event with thousands watching from the roadside, along with the racing there were food stalls, bar, fairground and

a range of childrens activities. We are in discussions to bring this event back next year but we will need some big sponsors to ensure that it is once again an overwhelming success.

Pina Colada Festival

In its third year and getting bigger and better everytime. This festival was held on Saturday 19th August. The whole ethos of the festival is to support local busnissess and this is why we do not bring in any additional food or drink vendors from outside. The event is organised by Northwich BID with considerable support from Northwich Town Council and other partners.

Feedback from all the above events has been really positive, Northwich has a full calender of events throughout the year which are mostly free to attend and support local businesses, the communitity are really getting behind these town centre events throughout the year, TC and members thanked the communitity and all partners for continuing to put Northwich on the map.

Cllr Andrew Cooper said they were three fantastic events driving footfall into the town. There were thousands of people attended the Pina Calada event, the town was full. Hotels were booked up, this brought people into pubs and restaurants which was really good to see. The event is original to Northwich.

Cllr Lee Siddall said it is important to acknowledge how hard Adam from the BID has worked on the event and how he has increased footfall for the town. Adam is inspirational and the Town Council work so well in partnership with the BID and we need to continue to do so.

Cllr Lee Siddall wanted to personally thank Adam and said he has been a beacon in lighting up Northwich and given his family so much pleasure and memories. He will be sadly missed now he has moved onto his new role.

Town Mayor Cllr Jane Thomas agreed Adam from the BID has made a big difference to the town and would like to give thanks to him and his team for all his efforts, he will be greatly missed.

Town Mayor Cllr Jane Thomas said the footfall for all these events were huge and yet there was no trouble, this shows what Northwich is all about. The calibration and joy that the people of Northwich bring to the Town is really important to be recognised.

Members all agreed it is important that the events in Northwich continue in the future.

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/38 PCSO UPDATE

PSCOs Nick and Ell gave an update on areas around Northwich causing issues at the moment.

This is mainly close to the Cemetery around Witton, Grozone, Whalley Road, off Menoria Road, Victoria Road, with drug paraphernalia being found and reported on a regular basis. This is the main hotspot at the moment that they are concentrating on.

They are working with NTC and Victoria House trying to collaborate and support to help decrease this ongoing issue. There is a lot of partnership working to try and help this situation. They stressed that if anyone sees any issues, they should report them to 101 or 999.

Moss farm sporting events this year went really well, and they are hoping to do the same again next year. With thanks to NTC for funding.

There has been a team nominated for an award, they will be going to the Christmas awards later this year.

There has been a couple of arrests and prison sentences made.

Cllr Lee Siddle gave his thanks from all the Council for the PSCOs coming in and updating us first hand with their information.

Cllr Andrew Cooper said that in the past we had looked at some ally gating in areas. The PSCOs said areas such as Victoria Road/Greenall Road would massively gain from this – The PCSOs said this would be a really good idea but they would need access to the key 24/7. Tidying these areas would be helpful but residents and businesses are responsible for the rubbish in these areas. Cllr Andrew Cooper said he would try and pick up on the ally gate.

Cllr Julie MacDonald asked if we had seen an increase in homelessness, PSCOs said there is not an increase, however, there is very little accommodation for homeless people in Northwich and some of the people wish to stay in Northwich and choose not to take the accommodation offered to them in other areas such as Chester.

Cllr Sam Naylor said the homeless crisis is cared for by 4Futures who are very proactive in helping all homeless people find accommodation but if people choose not to take the accommodation offered, they cannot be made to. The PCSOs help with things like charging of their mobile phones and checking on them and if they need anything that they can help with.

The Town Clerk and Mayor gave thanks again for the PSCOs coming in to talk to members and for the great working relationship NTC have with the PSCOs.

NTC 23/39 ANNUAL INSURANCE RENEWAL

Each year we review our insurance with our provider Zurich Insurance to ensure we are receiving value for money and the Council is fully covered for all eventualities.

We are now at the end of our 3 year deal with Zurich, when the original policy was agreed by members it included an optional 2 year extension. We receive an exceptional level of service with Zurich. We have a dedicated claims handler that is available to advise if a claim arises. They also cover all the events that we manage and deliver throughout the town at no additional cost with full cover.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

We have added additional items to the policy, our staffing has increased and insurance has increased across all areas.

Members all agreed to extend our current insurance with Zurich for the next 2 years at a cost of £13,396.30 which is an increase of from £12,437.38 last year. (£931.92 increase)

Proposed by Cllr Graham Emmett, seconded by Cllr Joanne Callaghan, all agreed

NTC 23/40 TICKET OFFICE CLOSURE IN NORTHWICH

Members were given a copy of the comprehensive letter of complaint sent to Northern Rail written by Cllr Andrew Cooper and Cllr Andy Kent regarding the closure of the ticket office in Northwich. The letter mentions the partial collapse of the station building, the long term absence of a functioning ticket machines and station staff reduction from 42 hours per week to just 12 hours. It also mentions the scandalous absence of access for the elderly and disabled passengers and those with young children and heavy baggage. We have had a response back to say the letter has been received.

Cllr Andy Kent and Cllr Catriona Stewart attended a meeting last week regarding a Friends of Group for Northwich Station, 18 people attended the meeting which is encouraging to relaunch the group in the not too distant future. One of the issues is not knowing a date the ticket office will be complete as it's already been delayed. We know that the funding for things such as Friends of Groups has been frozen at the moment. Organisations around the town are interested in being involved such as Men in Sheds, Transition Northwich were interested in working with local schools. Cllr Catriona Stewart has contacted the chair of the education partnership in Northwich and they have responded and said they are interested, Cllr Catriona Stewart is going to try and set up a meeting with Sharn and the Chair and the person responsible for the art project in local schools. Cllr Andy Kent said people are fed up with the state of the station. There is a desire for people to improve the station and bring it forward, as we all know this is the gateway to Northwich and people are fed up of it looking like it does. Town Clerk Chris Shaw informed members that there was a meeting last week with Network Rail, they have a tidy up day where they carry out work on the station, they have a lot of people that will be involved in the tidy up and they did mention working with the schools, this needs to be tied up and working together with the friends of group. TC will copy Sarah from Mid Cheshire Rail in to all correspondence.

Cllr Andrew Cooper said as at the end of July there had been a hundred and 80,000 responses to the ticket office closing down in Northwich consultation, this shows the depth and feeling about the proposal. For all of those with limited mobility, visually impaired, a lone traveller, it's quite important. It's fantastic that so many people care about our assets and want to make Northwich an attractive place to visit and be proud of. Cllr Andrew Cooper wrote to Network Rail regarding the work at Wilmslow taking place, he had a reply saying this had been taken long before the incident Northwich station and whilst they do plan on doing some small repairs to the canopy at Northwich, they are not anticipating doing any large repairs. Network Rail and Northern have been supportive about rededicating the booking hall to Honorary Alderman Ron Carey.

Cllr Lee Siddell wanted to thank members for writing the letter. He wanted to express his anger and frustration with how the station has been left.

Cllr Sam Naylor wanted to say he knew Ron Carey well, as did his father, and wanted to thank Cllr Andrew Cooper for all his work relating to this. We are very fortunate to have him.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/41 NORTHWICH INFORMATION CENTRE

Members were informed of the closure of the Information Centre in Weaver Square and relocation into Brio. This is due to the redevelopment of Weaver Square in the future. Cllr Graham Emmett said the building is a terrible mess in Weaver Square and customers would benefit from a new more suitable building. Cllr Andrew Cooper had a meeting with Samantha Hauton-Leigh, she is in charge of customer services, Cllr Andrew Cooper asked members if they had any questions he could answer further to his meeting. Cllr Lee Siddall asked if there would be any additional car parking, Cllr Cooper said he would ask about the parking.

The main use in the Information Center are, blue badges/council tax/care enquires, this is moving into the Memorial Court at Brio. The shop mobility has not yet been allocated a new location. The shop mobility service are trying to ascertain if people get off the bus to go to the mobility shop or do they drive in. This will have an impact on where their new location should be. The other main department at the Information Center is the Registrar service, they are also looking for a new location, with NTC offering a burial service it might be an option to have a desk from our offices and storage of documents at Wyvern House, but there are lots of legal requirements for storing of documents so this needs to be looked into more. Also, the CCTV for Northwich is wired into the existing building on the second floor of the Information Centre so these needs looking into how much work is involved in moving this.

There are private room spaces available at Brio and parking spaces in Brio car park. Some interesting ideas in making the best of use of Brio. Library pop up services in Brio have been very successful.

Cllr Graham Emmett mentioned there used to be a Weavervale Housing trust office in the Information Centre. Cllr Andrew Cooper said when you apply for social housing you register with West Cheshire Homes and then you bid for property which might be with Weavervale, Muir Housing, Sanctuary, 4housing, so although you cant go and look at these at the Information Centre they will help you complete the forms and you can ring the Information Centre for an appointment.

Cllr Sam Naylor said he hopes this is a short term solution as people should have the facility to go to somewhere where they can get a face to face appointment.

Cllr Joanne Callaghan said we do not have a tourist information Centre any more for people to visit like we used to do. Cllr Amy Locket said Visit Northwich covers a lot of this. It was suggested we could have a noticeboard at Brio or the Library could give out this information.

Members were invited to respond to the briefing individually. Council agreed everyone should either write in themselves or speak to Cllr Andrew Cooper for further information.

NTC 23/42 GIVE AND GAIN INITIATIVE

Members resolved at the last Council meeting to form a subcommittee to look into areas of the town that have been neglected and unity. Members met to discuss this.

Meeting Outcome

Members discussed a range of issues within the town and come up with the following points before any works were undertaken on any area.

Date.....

**.....
Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor**

- Identifying ownership of the land
- Contact must be made with land owners and residents
- Land owners to contribute to costs of the clean up
- Land owners and residents must have buy in to the project and committ to maintaining any sites after the clean up has been completed
- Areas will only be cleansed once, we will not re visit an area if it returns to its original state.

CW&C members agreed to use members budget and set up a fund to help with initial clean up where no other funds were available.

Initial Site to Consider

Area of land around Sainsburys, Matalan & Salvation Army will be looked at first and the following was agreed.

- TC to contact all land owners
- Arrange site meeting
- Discuss responsibilities of land owners
- Develop a plan to carry out initial plan and future maintenance

- Set initial clean up to date and invite partners, busnissess, local communitty groups to take part in the clean up
- Set up a monitoring schedule with land owners

Cllr Andrew Cooper commented on area between Sainsbury and Tabley Street, he has spoken with a CW&C officer and she has been in contact with the landowner and they are supposed to be doing a cleanup themselves so TC to check up about this first.

Members approved the above initiative and to proceed with the work (after checking comments from Cllr Cooper)

Proposed Cllr Graham Emmett, seconded by Cllr And Stott, all agreed

NTC 23/43 DLUHC Consultation on Local Plans

NALC has requested that we circulate a briefing document to members. They will be responding to this consultation as many local councils will have an interest in feeding in their own views on how the local plan making process can be reasonably made more efficient without the government seeing to implement wildly unrealistic timeframes. The briefing sets out NALC's current policy positions and the main consultation questions they will be responding to. NALC seeks the views of member councils in response to these questions to help inform their submission to the DLUHC.

There are 42 questions relating to this, members agreed to refer this to Planning Committee.

Proposed Cllr Andrew Stott, seconded by Cllr Andrew Stott, all agreed

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/44 AMENDMENTS TO 2022 AGAR FIGURES

The External Auditors PKF Littlejohn received NTC 2022/23-year end accounts.

Further to discussions with PKF they advised that we should amend last year's figures 2021/22 as follows:

4. Staff costs – due to miss posting of staff coats to the value of £187.00.
9. Assets register – we were advised by CHALC to show assets such as play areas at a value of £1 rather than the cost of the play equipment, this was changed for 2022/23 figures, PKF advised us to also change 21/22 figures to show the correct value.

Members were presented with Section 2 of AGAR showing amendments.

Members approved the amendment.

Proposed Cllr Andy Stott, Seconded Cllr Catriona Stewart, 2 abstained, all other members agreed

NTC 23/45 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Sam Naylor commented on how fantastic the flowers have been in town this year.

Energy Waste Plant - Cllr Sam Naylor, Cllr Graham Emmett and Cllr Olwin Dean visited Lincon Energy for Waste Plant in July. Cllr Sam Naylor commented on how huge the plant was but apparently it will be draft in comparison to the plant on Griffith Road that will be built.

The plant in Lincon has been in operation since 2014, in that time they have received only 9 complaints about the smell.

The issue with the Griffith Road plant is location of the new plant and the impact it will have on us. Mike Amesbury MP and Cllr Sam Naylor had a meeting last week with the environmental agency and the continued complaints about the smell. This was a negative meeting and the environment agency said they would do nothing without evidence of complaints, this is after 5 years of complaints. Last month they published the figures, in the last 6 months they have accepted 48 complaints, 9 of which were substantial complaints. Residents need to maintain complaints to the Environment Agency on the website. They are going to review the situation at Christmas.

Cllr Graham Emmett said their plant does 190,000 tonnes a year whereas the new plant will be doing 3 times this amount. Some of the questions that were addressed on their visit were that there will be a new truck park with drivers' facilities, and further toilets at the gate. Cllr Emmett noticed that there was no planning permission applied for this. It was also mentioned about getting refuse collection vehicles in, Cllr Emmett said there is no contract in place for this, he was told things would change. They are still progressing with the 7am to 11pm operation hours/truck hours, horrendous for people living there. The operational side of things in Lincon was impressive and clean to see. Cllr Emmett has seen some people saying on Facebook that the new plant will bring lots of work to the area, however most of the staff recruited come from the navy so it will not be local people employed.

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor**

Cllr Andrew Cooper reported he had been doing lots of casework, lots of people struggling. Cllr Andrew Cooper, Cllr Stewart and Councillor Kent have met with the residents to look at the possibility of forming a Friends of Group just off London Road for a patch of woodlands, there will hopefully be a meeting in a few weeks' time.

Cllr Andrew Cooper updated members regarding the CW&C cap, council warned of the overspend that needs to bring back under control. The number of children in care has gone up significantly since the budget was set. We need fewer children going into care, we desperately need foster people, more social workers, social care needs increasing. Local Government needs to be funded properly. Adult and Social Care is taking more of the Government funding than ever before, which impacts on everything else. Complaints regarding potholes, overgrown hedges, weeds in their gutters and various other complaints cannot be taken care of due to lack of funds. Cllr Cooper said Cllr Naylor and himself are proud to say they have never closed a museum, never closed a children's center, never shut a library, all these cultural services are still going. Moving forward, this is not going to be possible unless we get a long-term sustainable funding settlement at Cheshire West.

Cllr Sam Naylor said we are 600 million pounds lost in funding, 60% of funding, and yet we have taken on more responsibility. 60p in every pound we pay to Council tax goes on looking after children and elderly social care leaving 40p to spend on all other services. There is no easy solution to this.

Cllr Andrew Cooper said we have a choice to keep Northwich protected as possible when we set our budget the begging of the year. Having pride in where we live is important.

Cllr Andrew Cooper updated members on the A556 collapsed road due to a broken drainage pipe. Further excavations and investigations are need. The central reservation needs

removing to investigate further. After repairs have been carried out, the pipe will need to be jetted and a camera survey carried out to ensure there will be no further issues on Penny lane or blockages. Due to the depth of this pipework, the Health and Safety Executive requires a temporary works plan to be put in place to ensure safety in the workplace. This is being arranged as quickly as possible. It is expected the road will remain closed for another week. Cllr Cooper did comment that the work is being completed as soon as it possible.

NTC 23/27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 9th of October 2023

There being no more business, the meeting ended at 19.40 and moved to part B

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

22. Future Northwich Events & Festivals

Future events in Northwich were discussed in detail.

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 6.30 pm

Members Present : Cllr Ms J Thomas
Cllr L Siddall
Cllr T Melville

Also Present : Chris Shaw - Town Clerk
Cath Kirwan – Finance Officer/Town Clerks PA

FIN23/31 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Naylor, Cllr Ms C Fox, Cllr Ms K Cernik, Cllr Ms A Gerrard, Cllr Ms J MacDonald and Cllr Ms R Waterman

FIN 23/32 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were declared

FIN 23/33 **SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st August and noted at Full Council meeting on Monday 11th September 2023.

Proposed Cllr T Melville, seconded Cllr Ms J Thomas, all agreed

FIN 23/34 **DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET**

TC & FO answered various members questions relating to budget headings.

Proposed Cllr Ms J Thomas, seconded Cllr T Melville, all agreed

FIN 23/35 **BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT**

Bacs payments and direct debit figure approved £188,233.15

Proposed Cllr T Melville, seconded Cllr Ms J Thomas, all agreed

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Date

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Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair

FIN 23/28 **BANK PAYMENTS TO BE CHECKED BY FINANCE**

FIN 23/36 BANK PAYMENTS TO BE CHECKED BY FINANCE

Members approved evidence for payments made in July 23 (June 23 invoices)

Salt Town Limited - £2232.08
East Riding Horticulture Ltd - £133.39

Proposed Cllr Ms J Thomas, seconded Cllr T Melville, all agreed

Members picked two suppliers from August payments (July invoices), evidence to be brought to finance meeting in October 2023

Proposed Cllr T Melville, seconded Cllr Ms J Thomas, all agreed

FIN 23/37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting Monday 16th October 2023 at 6.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.15pm

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Date

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**Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair**

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Members Present Cllr Andy Stott
 Cllr Lee Liddall
 Cllr Catherine Fox

Also present Chris Shaw – Town Clerk
 Liza Clansey – Assistant Town Clerk

PL 23/62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Jo Callaghan, Cllr Catriona Stewart, and Cllr Andrew Cooper. Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Patricia Parks were not present.

PL 23/63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

Cllr Catherine Fox declared an interest in planning application (1) 262 London Road, Northwich and application (6) Land off Cookes Lane, Rudheath

PL 23/64 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning and Environment committee meeting held on Tuesday 22nd August 2023 and noted at the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Catherine Fox and seconded by Cllr Andy Stott, all agreed.

PL 23/65 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 262 London Road Northwich CW9 8AJ

1x Mature Magnolia - Request for 0.5m reduction to maintain healthy shape. 1x Semi mature Ash - Request to crown lift from garage approximately 5m to stop any chance of damage to garage.

Reference Number: **23/02624/CAT**

Refer to tree officer

2. 1 Hollybank Close Northwich CW8 4GS

1x Holly - Request to crown thin and shape to maintain healthy shape. 1x Lime - Request to fell to ground level due to close proximity to house and visible damage to ground. If felling the tree is not approved, then request to reduce the tree by 2m and crown thin.

Reference Number: **23/02623/TPO**

Refer to tree officer

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Date

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Cllr A Stott – Chair

3. 41 Greenbank Lane Northwich CW8 1JP

Proposal: **First floor side extension**

Reference Number: **23/02457/FUL**

No comment, this was previously approved

4. Land Off Station Road and Leicester Street Northwich Cheshire

Installation of 3 no. electrical vehicle charging points with associated feeder pillar and substation to facilitate EV charging spaces and associated landscaping works.

Reference Number: **23/02555/FUL**

No comment

5. Waverley Cottage Brockhurst Way Northwich CW9 8AL

Double storey front extension

Reference Number: **23/02617/FUL**

No comment

6. Land Off Cookes Lane Rudheath Northwich

Variation of Condition 1 (vary commencement date of Phase 1) and Condition 3 (vary completion date of Phase 3) of 22/02867/S73 (Proposed partial removal of furnace bottom ash (FBA) bunding comprising of two bunds of lime bed 4 and the temporary manufacture of clinker blocks (utilising the extracted FBA) and associate works, including removal of lime (calcium carbonate) from lime bed 4 to lime bed 5, provision of a concrete working platform, temporary access routes, drainage, erection of hoarding's and landscape restoration - Variation of conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 42, 43, and 46, removal of ecological Conditions 34, 35 and 36 and replace with single condition and removal of Conditions 10, 12, 13, 34, 35, 38, 40 and 41 of planning permission 18/04735/FUL) at Land off Cookes Lane, Rudheath, Northwich

Reference Number: **23/02550/S73**

Objection to removal of ecological conditions, protecting habitat on site

PL 23/66 DLUHC CONSULTATION ON LOCAL PLANS

NALC has requested the circulation of the DLUHC consultation on local plans to members. NALC will be responding to this consultation as many local councils will have an interest in feeding in their own views on how the local plan making process can be reasonably made more efficient without the government seeing to implement wildly unrealistic timeframes. The briefing sets out NALC's current policy positions and the main consultation questions they will be responding to. NALC seeks the views of member councils in response to these questions to help inform their submission to the DLUHC.

After discussion, members agreed that Cllr Catherine Fox would submit members views by the deadline of this Friday as she has the most experience in this area.

Proposed by Cllr Andy Stott and seconded by Cllr Lee Siddall, all agreed.

PL 23/67 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 18.57 pm.

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Date

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Cllr A Stott - Chair

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 9th October 2023

Agenda Item : 7

Prepared By : Cllr Jane Thomas/Cath Kirwan

Subject : Town Mayors Communications



September has been a wonderful month where there have been a number of events which I have had the pleasure of attending

03/09/23	Butterfly Trail We started this month with a Mayoral event – a butterfly trail and BBQ at Vickersway park. The event was quite well attended, but as the weather was unexpectedly hot, there were less children attended than we anticipated. A small sum was raised which will go towards celebrating those who have been affected by breast cancer. Many thanks to Toppers who provided wonderful prizes and to Chris and Cath who supported me at the event.
10/09/23	Parkinson Walk. There are over 153000 people in the UK living with Parkinsons. This is a degenerative condition which presents in many different ways. I was invited to support the walkers in Marbury Park for this national events and was privileged to meet many people who worked with / lived with and were affected by this disease.
15/09/23	The Northwich Beer Festival. I was invited to join the start of this weekend of festivities and sample a non-alcoholic beverage. It was thriving and it is another event which puts Northwich firmly on the map! Many thanks to Rotary for running it.
16/09/23	Warrington Police Museum Open Day. Peter Hampson, the curator of the museum gave me a tour of the station. It is a really excellent event and worth a visit. It is another example of the police working with local communities to break down barriers. If you are in Warrington, it is certainly worth a visit.
16/09/23	Northwich Rowing Club Presentation Evening. The rowing club is another example of a successful group of inclusive individuals who are helping put Northwich on the map. I was joined by Chris Atherton, Principal of Sir John Deans to award prizes to members. It was a wonderful evening which celebrated success of many individuals and groups.
22/09/23	Opening of the Sheeran Skate Park. What a privilege to be able to open this skatepark! It looks incredible and was enjoyed by many on the day and is going to be an asset for the community in the future. A huge thank you to Chris who worked extremely hard to see this vision to fruition, both to generating the funding, working with the community and supporting and incredibly hard-working team from

	Wheelscape who worked long hours to get it open. It is also important to mention Ross and Shaun from the Skatepark community who tirelessly campaigned for this to happen.
22/09/23	The Butterfly Breast Cancer Awards. I was invited to attend the first awards ceremony celebrating those who lived with or where affected by this awful disease. Sarah Pickles who launched these awards spoke about how this disease transforms people which is why the butterfly is the logo. It shows growth and change. It was a deeply moving evening and a privilege to join these wonderful guests.
23/09/23	Opening of the Northwich Rugby Clubhouse. It was a privilege to join the #teamofthetown for the opening of the clubhouse. The transformation of the meeting room was incredible – especially when it has only been 11 months since the arson happened. It is wonderful to see this community working together. I was honoured to present many awards, but especially the Cap to the new life presidents, Chairman Colin Johnson and our wonderful freeman of the town, Derek Bowden.
23/09/23	Macmillan's Coffee Morning and Art Gallery. I was thrilled to be able to revisit some of the incredible artists that I had met during the Art Trail in August and have an afternoon tea with them. The art was yet again, incredible and if you are looking for some exceptional Christmas presents, these pieces would be really worth considering. Tom and Carey Hillier will be in Blakemere in November and Carol Dooley, Lorraine Blundell and Susan Treeton are showing their work in town. The artists raised over £400 for Macmillans. An incredible achievement

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 9th October 2023

Agenda Item : 8

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Chief Officers Report



Church Walk Paddling Pool

The pool is now closed for the season and we will begin the annual shut down of the site, 2 of the pumps developed faults at the end of the season and these will need to be looked at and repaired or replaced.

Rose Meadow Play Area

This initiative is progressing, and the landscape architect is in receipt of the consultation responses. They will now come up with a design and this will be presented to the residents and the house builder for approval.

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

Preparations are underway for this years Remembrance Parade, as in previous years we will march from Crumb Hill to St Helens Church for a service before the Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and parade back to Brio for refreshments.

Further details will be sent to all members this week.

Christmas Extravaganza

The Christmas Extravaganza will take place on Saturday 25th November and will again see a whole list of activities throughout the town including the very popular ice rink. Again, further details will be sent out this week regarding the range of activities that will be showcased throughout the day.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 9th October 2023

Agenda Item : 9

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Northwich Skatepark



Following a 10 week build programme Northwich Skatepark is now fully open for our community to use. Users have been extremely positive following the opening of the facility with many posting pictures on social media expressing their delight in the new park.

CCTV is now installed on the park to reduce ASB on the site and local police officers are engaging with users to build up relationships going forward to ensure the facility is well looked after and respected by all.

Many thanks to all who funded the project including FCC Communities, Rudheath & Witton Together, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Spacehive and Northwich Town Council.

The team from Wheelscape worked so hard throughout the build especially at the end to ensure the facility opened on time, the weather was against us at the end but they worked long days and weekends to finally deliver the project.

The local skating community were inspirational in pushing this project and we thank them for being so patient while we raised the funds to deliver the scheme.

We hope that this facility will give many years of enjoyment to our community as we look at our next project for residents.

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 9th October 2023

Agenda Item : 11

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : CCTV Old Hall Road Play Area



Background

Old hall Road Play Area was totally referbished in 2022 following consultation with residents. The facility is a firm favourite with the local comunitty and is in constatnt use throughout the year.

Unfortunally over the last few months we have seen an increase in ASB on the site with some slight damage to equipment. Local PCSO has been informed and is making regular visits to the site but following the suscees of the recently installed CCTV in Verdin & the skatepark consideration should be given to installin the same equipment at this site.

Proposal

CO to look at options for installaction of CCTC and bring costs back to Amenities Committee for consideration.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer