

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: 5th September 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 11th September 2023 at 6.00pm.**

Yours Sincerely

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. To receive a presentation Richard Hall on the 150th anniversary of Brunner & Mond
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 3rd July 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 19th June 2023. Minutes attached.
 - 6.2 To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023. Minutes attached.
 - 6.3 To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 20th of June 2023. Minutes attached.
 - 6.4 To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 18th of July 2023. Minutes attached.
7. **Town Mayor's Communication**
List of civic events that the Town Mayor has attended during July & August (attached)
8. **Town Clerk's Report**
Report attached

- 9. Northwich Skate Park**
To receive a report on the progress of the project (report attach
- 10. Northwich Events**
To receive a report on summer events and festivals.
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 11. PCSO Update**
To note report from local PCSO's
- 12. Annual Insurance renewal.**
Report attached.
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 13. To Note Northwich Ticket Office Closure Response**
Response attached.
- 14. Northwich Information Centre**
Report attached.
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 15. Give & Gain Initiative**
Report attached.
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 16. To Consider replying to the DLUHC Consultation on Local Plans**
Consultation document attached.
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 17. AGAR amendment to 2021/22 figures**
Report attached.
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 18. CW&C Councillor Updates**
To receive updates from Members
- 19. Outside Bodies**
To receive an update from any member attending meetings of outside bodies
- 20. Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be Monday 4th September 2023 at 6.00pm due to August recess.

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**
Report to be given at the meeting
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 18th JULY 2023

Members Present

Cllr A Stott	Cllr Catherine Fox
Cllr Andy Kent	Cllr Lee Siddall
Cllr Janet Illidge	Cllr Catriona Stewart

Also present Mr Chris Shaw – Town Clerk

PL 22/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, OR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Patricia Parkes, Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Jo Callaghan, Cllr Andrew Cooper

PL 22/53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

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

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

PL 22/54 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

Of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 20th June 2023 and were noted at the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 4th July 2023. Proposed by Cllr Lee Siddall, seconded by Cllr Janet Illidge.

All Agreed

PL 22/55 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Grove Cottage Stanley Grove Northwich CW9 7NP

Proposal: Erection of detached annexe building - (Amendment to planning permission 22/02931/FUL)

No Comment

2. Land At Dyar Terrace Northwich Cheshire

Proposal: Erection of 10 semi detached dwellings - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (materials) and 22 (hedgehog commuting route) of planning permission 22/00344/FUL

No Comment

3. Land Off Dean Street Northwich Cheshire

Proposal: Erection of 6 No 3 bedroom dwellings with associated parking and landscaping works
23/01994/FUL

No Comment

4. River View 12A The Crescent Northwich CW9 8AD

Proposal: T1 - Tree of Heaven - crown lift 2 low limbs over adjacent outbuilding and balance any remaining low limbs
23/01979/CAT

Tree Officer decision

5. The Old Surgery Sheath Street Northwich CW9 5BH

Proposal: Ground floor office suites, with 2 x 2 Bed Apartments and 4 x 1 Bed

Apartments to the upper storeys, with associated parking, refuse and cycle storage.

22/02715/FUL

Members are concerned by lack of parking space and the sharing of office parking space with residential parking.

6. Victoria Infirmary Winnington Street Northwich CW8 1AW

Proposal: Generator housing extension, compound and associated works.

23/01841/FUL

No Comment

PL 22/56 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd August at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.02 pm.

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Date

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Cllr A Stott - Chair

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST 2023

Members Present

Cllr A Stott	Cllr Catherine Fox
Cllr Andy Kent	Cllr Andrew Copper
Cllr Patricia Parkes	Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Jo Callaghan	

Also present Mr Chris Shaw – Town Clerk

PL 22/57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, OR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Lee Siddall, Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Jo Callaghan,

PL 22/58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

PL 22/59 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

Of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th July 2023
Proposed by Cllr Andy Kent, seconded by Cllr Catriona Stewart

All Agreed

PL 22/60 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Oakmere Toyota Manchester Road Northwich CW9 7NA
Proposal: Replace the current Toyota brand signage with the new Toyota illuminated and non-illuminated brand signage

Reference Number: 23/00141/ADV

No Comment

2. Tesco Stores Ltd Manchester Road Northwich CW9 5LY
Proposal: Erection of new click and collect parking and canopy to include 5x new steel bollards and area for trolley holding.

Reference Number: 23/02217/FUL

No Comment

3. Lighterage Yard Chester Way Northwich Cheshire CW9 5JJ
Proposal:
Request to fell the following trees/groups of trees:- T1 and T2 - Buddleia T3 - Ash (immature) T4, T5, T6 - Sycamores (2 x immature, 1 x semi mature) T8 and T9 - Buddleia T10 - Alder (semi-mature) G1 - 10 x silver birch (semi mature), 1 x ash (semi mature), 2 x sycamore (immature), 4 x willow sp (semi mature) T11 - sycamore (mature) T12, T13, T14, T15 - (4 x semi-mature) G2 - 1 x sycamore (semi-mature), 2 x silver birch (semi-mature), 1 x oak (immature), 3 x ash (immature), 4 x willow sp (immature), 1 x rowan (immature) G3 - 1 x alder (immature), 3 x crack willow and 25 x goat willow (immature/semi-mature)
Trees to be CROWN LIFTED: T7 - Sycamore (mature) to provide sufficient clearance to access the manhole underneath the canopy

Reference Number: 23/02375/CAT

No Comment

4. Land To Side of 2 Cranage Lane Northwich Cheshire CW9 7LY
Proposal: Erection of 2 semi-detached dwellings with associated landscaping

Reference Number: 22/03897/FUL

Members asked if trees could be donated to Northwich Town Council to replace the felled trees

5. 52 Kingsley Drive Northwich CW9 8AZ
Proposal: Felling of Sycamore tree

Reference Number: 23/02316/TPO

Members felt the tree should stay and not be felled as Councils had an obligation to increase biodiversity.

6. 3 Carlton Road Northwich CW9 5PR
Proposal: Part two storey part single storey rear extension, part two storey side extension, addition of windows to side

Reference Number: 23/02315/FUL

No Comment

7. Hardwick House 5 Brockhurst Mews Northwich CW9 8SH
Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Reference Number: 23/02085/FUL

No Comment

8. Land Adjacent To Orchard Lodge Off Withington Close Northwich Cheshire
Proposal: Erection of 2 no. two storey residential dwellings with access to include 2 car park spaces and associated landscaping

Reference Number: 23/02399/OUT

Members raised concerns regarding the removal of two parking spaces next to existing bungalow as this would be the only access into the site if this development went ahead.

Original application stated that 2 spaces would be provided.

9. 241 - 243 Manchester Road Northwich CW9 7NE
Proposal: Change of use from commercial to 2 houses and demolition of rear warehouse

Reference Number: 22/03867/FUL

No Comment

PL 22/61 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.22 pm

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Date

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Cllr A Stott - Chair

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 17th JULY 2023 at 6.30 pm

Members Present : Cllr S Naylor
Cllr Ms J Thomas
Cllr Ms C Fox
Cllr Ms R Waterman
Cllr Ms A Gerrard
Cllr Ms K Cernik
Cllr L Siddall
Cllr Ms J MacDonald

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

FIN23/15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms A Gerrard

FIN 23/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were given by Cllr S Naylor in relation to CW&C, Cllr Ms J MacDonald in relation to Northwich Metals.

FIN 23/17 **SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19th June and noted at Full Council meeting on Monday 3rd July 2023 were approved.

Proposed Cllr Ms C Fox, seconded Cllr Ms J Thomas, all agreed

FIN 23/18 **DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET**

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

Proposed Cllr Ms C Fox, seconded Cllr Ms J MacDonald, all agreed

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Date

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Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair

FIN 23/19 BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT

Bacs payments and direct debit figure approved £31,041.95

Proposed by Cllr Ms R Waterman and seconded by Cllr Ms J MacDonald, all agreed

FIN 23/20 BANK PAYMENTS TO BE CHECKED BY FINANCE

Members approved evidence for payments made in May 23 (April 23 invoices)

Sharkeyes Pirates - £400.00
Asbestos Associated UK Limited - £1794.00

Proposed by Cllr Ms J Thomas seconded by Cllr R Waterman, all agreed

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

Lock Tec – £51.48
Cheshire Farm Machinery – £675.83

Proposed by Cllr Ms J MacDonald seconded by Cllr Ms. J Thomas, all agreed

FIN 23/21 COFFEE MACHINE AT CHURCH WALK PADDLING POOL

Over the past year the coffee machine at Church Walk Paddling Pool has been failing and we have had to call out engineers to the machine at a cost to the Council. This machine is old and at the last call out the engineer said he was unable to repair the machine.

Customers really enjoy the choice of a good coffee made with fresh coffee beans and these are good sellers at both Vickersway Park and Church Walk Pool shops.

Just over three years ago we purchased a new machine at Vickersway which was paid for over three years on a lease purchase, this is now paid and still working well.

We obtained three quotations as follows, all offering three-year payment lease purchase, all bean to cup and offering the same variety of Latte, Cappuccino, Mocha, Espresso, Americano, Flat White and Hot Chocolate.

Existing Coffee Supplier – Cheshire Coffee Service - £107.00 per month

Lavazza - £115.00 per month

Vending Sense - £130.00 per month

We ordered and purchased a Coffee Machine from Cheshire Coffee Services, our existing coffee supplier. This was the best price and we know they are reliable and were able to fit the machine within two weeks meaning Church Walk shop was only without fresh coffee for three weeks in total.

Noted by Members

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Date

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**Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair**

FIN 23/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting Monday 21st August 2023 at 6.30pm

PART B

In accordance with the Local Government Act Public Admittance to meetings Act 1960, the following Agenda item is to be considered in the absence of Press and Public.

NTC 23/23 STAFFING

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.10pm

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Date

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**Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair**

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 21st AUGUST 2023 at 6.30 pm

Members Present : Cllr S Naylor
Cllr Ms J Thomas
Cllr Ms C Fox
Cllr Ms K Cernik
Cllr L Siddall
Cllr T Melville

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

FIN23/24 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms A Gerrard, Cllr Ms J MacDonald and Cllr Ms R Waterman

FIN 23/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were given by Cllr S Naylor in relation to CW&C

FIN 23/26 **SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19th July and to noted at Full Council meeting on Monday 11th September 2023.

Proposed Cllr Ms C Fox, seconded Cllr Ms J Thomas, all agreed

FIN 23/27 **DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET**

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

Proposed Cllr Ms C Fox, seconded Cllr Ms J MacDonald, all agreed

FIN 23/19 **BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT**

Bacs payments and direct debit figure approved £130,692.45

Proposed by Cllr Ms C Fox and seconded by Cllr Ms K Cernik, 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

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

Lock Tec – £51.48
Cheshire Farm Machinery – £675.83

Proposed by Cllr Ms J Thomas seconded by Cllr S Naylor, all agreed

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

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

Proposed by Cllr Ms J MacDonald seconded by Cllr Ms. J Thomas, all agreed

FIN 23/30 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting Monday 18th September 2023 at 6.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.10pm

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Date

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**Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair**

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 3rd July 2023

Present:

Cllr Kate Cernik

Dept Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Joanne Callaghan

Cllr Arthur Neil

Cllr Bob Cernik

Cllr Lee Siddall

Cllr Andrew Cooper

Cllr Catriona Stewart

Cllr Graham Emmett

Cllr Andy Stott

Cllr Janet Illidge

Cllr Rachel Waterman

Cllr Andy Kent

Also present:

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk

Liza Clansey

Assistant Town Clerk

NTC 23/14 LONG SERVICE AWARD

Dept Mayor Cllr Kate Cernik congratulated Employee Simon Ashbrook for his 40 years of service with NTC and commented he must have seen lots of changes over the past 40 years. He was thanked for his dedication, hard work and committed to NTC. Simon thanked other staff members and the Council for their hard work. Cllr Kate Cernik presented Simon with a framed letter signed by the Mayor and engraved crystal whisky glass.

NTC 23/15 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM PEAK CLUSTER

John Egan from Progressive Energy Ltd & Gillian Sinclair from Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant presented the Council with slides and future plans for Peak Cluster. They are a cluster of companies collaborating to deliver at a scale industrial decarbonisation at six sites by 2030. Peak Cluster will capture and transport carbon dioxide emissions to be stored permanently under the seabed.

Peak Cluster cement and lime facilities together produce 40% of the UKs lime and cement. Supporting around 1000 direct jobs, and emit 3 million tonnes of Co2 per year. Account over 23% of emissions in Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant will emit 0.6 million tonnes of CO2 per year.

The optimum decarbonisation options are – shutting down plants or Carbon Capture and Storage or Relocate production.

Cllr Bob Cernik highlighted some of the objections NTC had made regarding the Lostock plant.

John Egan and Gillan answered various questions raised by members and said they would come back to Council again with further updates in the future.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor

NTC 23/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Alison Gerrard, Cllr Amy Lockett, Cllr Olwyn

Dean, Cllr Catherine Fox, Cllr Julie MacDonald, Cllr Sam Naylor, Cllr Patricia Parks, Cllr Jane Thomas. Cllr Tom Melville was not present.

NTC 23/16 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 declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Cllr Arthur Neil declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

NTC 23/17 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

NTC 23/18 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th of June 2023 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record with the following amendments:

Cllr Olwyn Dean and Cllr Patricia Parks declared an interest in matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Proposed by Cllr Graham Emmett and seconded by Cllr Arthur Neil, all agreed.

The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on Friday 23rd of June 2023 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

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

Minutes were signed by the Dept Mayor at the end of the meeting.

NTC 23/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 19th of June 2023

Noted by Cllr Lee Siddall

To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 20th of June 2023

Noted by Cllr Andy Stott

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor

NTC 23/20 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were events attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy during June

2nd June	The Friendly Bench opening, Vickersway Park	Photograph to launch The Friendly Bench
8 th June	Krazy Races Launch, Verdin Park	Photograph to launch the Krazy Races! Exciting times and looking forward to the actual event!
13th June	Grozone, Northwich	Big Green Week event to see all the great environmental and sustainable activities that are happening at The Grozone Northwich.
16th June	Freedom Ceremony, Northwich Town Council	Thank you to all attended. Stunning words from Sam, Andrew and Paul to show our appreciation for a stunning former Councillor and now Freeman of the town. It was a lovely ceremony and many thanks to our amazing staff for putting on a lovely spread to celebrate this achievement.
16 th June	146 Squadron	The Mayor attended this ceremony to show my support and appreciation of these remarkable young cadets. The range of opportunities that these youngsters are awarded is immense thanks to the outstanding dedication of staff volunteers. Northwich 146 consistently scores in the top 5 squadrons county wide – over 950 different sections in the country. The cadets are able to enjoy courses on: Radio communications, Cyber communications, Leadership, music, first aid, swimming, shooting, flying, D of E and complete BTech qualifications They are an amazing group of individuals and if anyone can spare the time to visit and see what they do, you would be extremely impressed! They would be really happy to have other volunteers to support this group.
20 th June	Northwich Skate Park, Northwich	Thank you to those who came!

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor

20th June	Mid Cheshire Scouts AGM, Northwich Cricket Club, Moss Farm	Another amazing group of volunteers who support our children from the age of 4 years. There are currently 1199 scouts in mid-Cheshire; 897 children and 302 adult supporters. There are over 300 more children on waiting lists!
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		They would like more volunteers! These pupils also take part in tasks to develop lifelong skills: orienteering, hiking, rafting BTEch studies, Bake off, camping D of E etc etc. They would really like to volunteer for any activity as it supports their badges for community involvement and also helps develop the Scouts visibility and reputation. Please think of inviting them if you have an activity that you would like them to support!
21st June	Krazy Races Scrutineer Event, Cheshire Roof Repairs, Parkview, Mobberley Rd, Knutsford	Had a lovely time looking at carts and chatting to the organizers and other racers
22nd June	Neuromuscular Centre (NMC), Neuromuscular Centre (NMC), Winsford	Open Day
22nd June	Sir John Deanes College	A wonderful evening celebrating the successes of pupils from a huge range of schools. These pupils are clearly integrating well into their A levels and are showing aptitude in all areas. We were entertained by one of these talented pupils who sang at the start of the evening.
30th June	Daneside Court, Northwich	Open Day
30th June	Daneside Mews, Northwich	Open Day

Cllr Janet Illidge gave an update on Derek Bowdon – Janet has been to see Derek in hospital a couple of times since he was taken in last week. He has had back pain for some time now and the MRI scans show 3 broken discs. The consultants in Leighton will send Derek to Stoke Hospital. Derek misses everyone but he is happy that Northwich is in good hands.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor

NTC 23/21 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

Summer Bedding

All summer bedding, hanging baskets and barriers are now installed throughout the town centre and towns that employ our services to install their flower displays. This year has been very challenging due to the extreme heat but once again our staff have risen to the challenge. Many thanks to them all for their continued commitment to keeping the town and surrounding areas looking full of colour.

Cllr Catriona Stewart commented on how lovely the baskets in town are looking and wondered if we had thought about increasing wildflower areas and areas that can be planted

out with shrubs that are lower maintenance and do not need watering. Cllr Catriona Stewart and Cllr Andy Kent commented on the amount of wildlife the wildflowers encourage and that the public need education on the fact that the wildflowers might not always look as tidy and beautiful as the baskets, but they encourage wild life, bugs and insects to areas which is of great importance and installing signs in the wild flower areas would be helpful in explaining this to people. TC said that the wildflower areas in Witton Cemetery, the Church yard and Verdin are planted out each year but maybe Verdin area could be increased in size if the areas are maintained and looked after.

Cllr Bob Cernik said it might be worth speaking with CW&C about new areas that could be planted with wildflowers.

Cllr Lee Siddall agreed people needed to be educated on how wildflowers provide a place for the wildlife to live.

Cllr Janet Illidge commented on how much she liked the CW&C area on Apple Market and the wildflowers.

Cllr Kate Cernik suggested a sub committee to be set up which could discuss the environmentally friendly and economic cost effective for setting up this project.

Proposed to hold set up a subgroup to discuss wildflower areas. TC to send out an email inviting members who wish to attend.

Proposed Cllr Andrew Cooper, seconded Bob Cernik, all in favour

In Bloom

We will once again be entering the In Bloom competition following on from our Gold last year. This will once again be led by the BID who will submit the portfolio.

Town Centre Flagpole

We have been approached by CW&C Council to installing a flagpole in the town centre that will be managed by NTC, the location would be Barons Quay as this is where we hold any vigils that take place. TC would approach partners for contributions toward cost.

Cllr Lee Siddall suggested speaking with Schools to design a Northwich flat that could be displayed.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor

Cllr Catriona Stewart suggested we display lots of different flags representing different groups.

Cllr Kate Cernik suggested with take this to Amenities to develop a flag policy.

Proposed that we install the flag pole in the suggested area within Barons Quay.

Proposed Cllr Andrew Cooper, seconded Cllr Catriona Stewart, all in favour

Grub Club

The next Grub Club is July 6th and will once again be situated in Barons Quay.

Northwich River Festival

Northwich River Festival will take place on Saturday 15th July and this time will be just over 1 day, the main event will be the dragon boats and Visit Northwich will have a boat in the race as we defend our win from last year.

Northwich Krazy Races

Krazy Races will take place on Sunday 16th July, following on from a successful event last year we are hoping the event will attract thousands of visitors into the town. We will be entering a kart under the Visit Northwich banner to promote the town and its businesses.

TC asked if any members would like to drive the kart or be part of the pit crew for the day helping to promote the town.

TC to email all members to ask if anyone would be interested. Cllr Andrew Cooper was voted to drive the kart... if no one else agrees to do this.

Cllr Arthur Neil left the meeting at 7pm

Give & Gain

TC updated members that the first area to concentrate on will be near Sainsbury/Matalan. TC intends on getting full support from Sainsbury/Matalan to carry on litter picking and maintaining this area once it has been tidied.

New Play area at Rose meadow

TC and Cllr Andrew Cooper have been following Rose Meadow development and have been in discussions with CW&C and the house builder. Part of the planning regulations say they have to construct a play area. This is normally built with very basic play equipment of poor quality and onto grass rather than wet pour and the areas are not maintained. After approaching Bellway homes, they have agreed (after much discussion) to give 90K for NTC to provide and construct a play area and the land to be asset transferred to NTC. We would install the kit, maintain the area, and put in good quality kit.

Cllr Andrew Cooper informed members that the Rose meadow play area will be adjacent to the new woodlands area that will be used by many people which will also mean the play area will be used by many children that are passing through the area rather than just the 200 plus houses that will be resident in the area. It would be unfair for this area to be paid for by the residents to maintain and far better to come out of NTC budget.

Proposed Cllr Andrew Cooper, Seconded by Cllr Graham Emmett, all in favour.

Cllr Joanne Callaghan left the meeting 7.21pm

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor

NTC 23/22 SKATEPARK

There has been a week delay with contractors starting work on the Skatepark due to a member of their staff being rushed to hospital. This is due to start now next week.

Throughout the build the TC will give weekly updates on progress to members and also through our social media platforms.

Once completed we will arrange an opening event, details of this will be worked on as we go through the build and a date will be set to invite the community and partners.

NTC 23/23 VERDIN PARK

The Verdin Park Music Festival took place over 3 days from 9th to 11th June. There has been very positive feedback from people attending.

We had increasing costs for medical, security and infrastructure and we looked at ways to save money and generate income. Income was generated by running our own bar and charging food outlets and the fairground to come onto site. This proved extremely successful and was obviously helped by the fantastic weather we had over the weekend even though

the Saturday night was interrupted by the threatening thunder and lightning which thankfully missed us.

The total cost to stage the event was £23,856 and we generated an income of £18,917 meaning the cost to the Council to stage this 3-day free event for our residents was £4939.

The TC thanked all our suppliers, traders, artists but more importantly our staff volunteers and Cllrs who worked so hard over the 3 days, without them this event could not be possible. We have already been asked if the event will take place next year, we have been approached by partners asking if they can be involved with the event.

TC said if the event is to take place next year, we can look at sponsorship opportunities with local businesses. TC said we have an ideal opportunity to make this 3-day event one of the biggest free music festivals in the area so Chris would like to explore how the next event will look and report back to Council with a proposal.

Many of the Councillors said it was a really good event.

Proposed Andrew Kent, Seconded Graham Emmett that TC explores next years event and reports back to Council

NTC 23/24 EMR

Our earmarked reserves (listed below) were approved previously but we need to approve each year as requested by our auditor.

• Teen Wheels	2,000.00	Funding received
• Verdin Park CCTV	4,000.00	Funding received
• Paddling Pool	30,000.00	From budget
• Cemetery Chapel	30,000.00	From budget
• Verdin Park Woodland Trail	9,850.00	Funding received
• Skatepark	20,000.00	From budget
• Verdin Park Improvements	54,000.00	Section 106
• Vickersway Park Pavilion	40,000.00	From budget
• Cemetery Path improvements	35,000.00	From budget

Date.....

.....

Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor

Cllr Andrew Cooper proposed these figures be approved, Cllr Lee Siddal seconded these, all in favour

NTC 23/25 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Andrew Cooper updated members on HS2 bill and litigation. CW&C submitted a petition against the bill, as did NTC regarding the effect on schools, landscape, and highways. Last week HS2 agreed that 25 mitigations would be agreed and secured and written into the bill by the secretary of estate. Cllr Lee Siddall asked when our petition will be looked at, Cllr Andrew Cooper said some of our issues have been addressed in the CW&C petition, our petition is a separate issue and will be addressed later.

Cllr Kate Cernik thanked Cllr Andrew Cooper and Cllr Graham Emmett for their time and work put into this and for keeping members updated.

NTC 23/26 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Lee Siddall commented on how good the scooter rally event had been in town last weekend, well attended and great for the town and businesses.

Cllr Andrew Kent updated members on the Mid Cheshire Line, he said punctuality has improved and they are doing their best with what they have due to the cut down of services. The Northwich Station rebuild has been delayed and should be complete by August, they will then start to look at the interior of the building.

Speed reductions were put in place on the lines, there is no sign of this being increased again or when they will be looking into this in the future. The bushes that were causing the problem and the need for the speed reduction have now all been removed.

The South platform action was due to be decided in May, this has now been put back until October.

Cheshire best kept station is going ahead, hopefully, in the future Northwich will improve and be considered.

NTC 23/27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 4th September 2023 (no meeting in August due to recess).

There being no more business, the meeting ended at 19.51.

Date.....

**.....
Cllr Kate Cernik Dept Town Mayor**

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 7

Prepared By : Cllr Jane Thomas/Cath Kirwan

Subject : Town Mayors Communications



What an incredible summer, yet again. Despite the weather, there have been such a lot of wonderful entertainment opportunities put on by Northwich Town Council in conjunction with BID, Rotary and other organizations! These have been really appreciated by the people of Northwich and our visitors and we have helped keep footfall high, supporting local business and keeping Northwich on the map as one of the best towns in the UK!

Can I please thank our staff at Northwich Town Council for all their hard work and record our thanks to the other organizations. Sadly, we are bidding farewell to one of our most dedicated worker – Adam Gerrard, who is going on to enjoy a much-deserved promotion. I’m sure we will still see him on the bigger events, but his replacement will certainly have big boots to fill – and I don’t just mean literally!

I’d also like to formally welcome our newest recruit to Northwich Town Council – Paul Davis. He is a welcome addition to our team and has started life with us full of enthusiasm and ideas.

There were events attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy during June and July

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	Condote 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 favourite 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.

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.
28.07.23	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.
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.

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.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 8

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Town Clerks Report



Church Walk Paddling Pool

The weather has not been favourable for the pool this season with many days being cancelled of poor attendance if we did stay open. I intend to close the pool down for the winter after the schools go back, so the last day of opening will be Sunday 10th September.

Vickersway Park

Again due to poor weather this year attendance in the park has been low, shop to stay open 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 installaction to deliver another play area for our community.

The play are will then be maintained, inspected and managed by Northwich Town Council.

It is hope 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 there installation.

Coast Communications

Last year Graham Emmett was the NTC representative for Coast Communications. They hold local liasion committee meetings once a year. Coast work mainly in the enviroment, construction, economy and tourisum sectors, their strengh lies in their specialist technical knowledge and contracts. They provide practial, turnkey solutions for complex projects. Would any NTC Council members like to be this years 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.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 9

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Northwich Skate Park



Update

The new skate park build is going really well and we are now seeing the concrete starting to be poured and the park really taking shape. We are still looking at another 4 weeks construction before the park will be ready for use but I am sure you will agree that it is beginning to look fantastic and will be another addition to the range of facilities that Northwich Town Council provides its residents with.

Maasive thanks to Wheelscape, FCC Communities, Rudheath & Witton Together, Spacehive and the local skaters for all there support in the planning, fundraising and now construction of this skatepark.

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

I will confirm dates in the next few weeks







Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 10

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : 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 days racing took place with CRS Consultants taking the title from Visit Northwich who won last year. A range of activites 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 dapen the communitty coming out to support the event with thousands watching from the roadside.along with the racing there was 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 busnisses 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 communitty are really getting behind these town centre events throughout the year so I would like to thank the communitty and all partners for continuing to put Northwich on the map.

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 12

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Annual Insurance



Background

Each year we review our annual 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 but 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.

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

Considering the above I recommend that we 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)

LTA Term*	Price proposed for this year (including all applicable taxes)
2 year extension of existing agreement	£13,369.3
3 Year	£14,359.2

Decision

Council to agree extending the current cover with Zurich Insurance for a further 2 years as per our original policy.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 13

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Northwich Ticket Office Response



Background

Following on from receiving notification that Northwich ticket office could potentially close members voted unanimously to respond to the consultation which is set out below and was sent to Northern Rail on the 26th July 2023.

With thanks to Cllr Andy Kent and Cllr Andrew Cooper who wrote the response on behalf of the Council.

To date we have only received receipt that our response has been received.

Response

Dear Sir/Madam,

Northern Rail Consultation July 2023: Changing How we support customers at our stations.

Northwich Station

I am writing on behalf of Northwich Town Council to express the Council's dismay at the proposal to close down Northwich station's ticket office and introduce a new role of "Journey Maker" at the station. We are of course aware these proposals are part of a national intent to shut down the vast majority of ticket offices across the country. We are also acutely conscious of the current, much delayed building project to replace the former ticket office following the partial collapse of the station building, the long term absence of functioning ticket machines and station staff, and the general dilapidation of remaining structures, platforms and the station surrounds.

We have considered Northern Rail's consultation document and note not only the ticket office closure plan but also the drastic reduction in staff presence at the station from current levels- from 43 and a half hours per week (Monday to Saturday) to just 12 hours per week over the same period. It is simply not credible to present this as anything other than the most token of gestures in terms of genuine customer support, and we cannot see how the Journey Maker role as described in the document can be delivered in the time available and given the competing demands staff will face. This is particularly so given the frankly scandalous absence of access and egress for many customers from the Chester bound platform for elderly and disabled passengers, as well as those with young children and/or heavy baggage. That the advice remains for passengers unable to use the footbridge to continue their journey to Greenbank station, cross the line and catch a northbound service is not simply impractical but

offensive. In short, a greater disincentive for many passengers to travel by train to and from Northwich can hardly be imagined.

We note that Northern's own data states that one in six passengers on their Network have continued to purchase tickets from ticket offices, significantly exceeding the national average. This is a substantial number of customers, many of whom will be uncomfortable with or unable to use mobile ticketing, especially if partially sighted or without internet or mobile phone access. At Northwich station the ticket machine screens are too high for anyone wheelchair bound to use. The low platform height, only partially mitigated by a Harrington bump on each platform also create difficulties for many passengers boarding or alighting from trains.

Additionally, ticket office staff are frequently the easiest or only way to access journey and ticket type advice, whilst their presence provides reassurance, support and interventions in the event of anti-social behaviour, or unforeseen incidents or accidents. (The building collapse at our station is one, albeit striking example!)

In the light of the comments above, the sudden announcement of the closures and the unusually short time allowed for this consultation, alongside the much publicised central government pressure on the rail industry to cut costs, we fear that the consultation is little or no more than a tick box exercise. We would be pleased to be proved wrong in this, but our experience over many years with our station and the Mid Cheshire line services more generally leaves little room for optimism that what we are facing now is yet another chapter in a saga of neglect.

We firmly believe that rail is and must remain an essential part of our local transport infrastructure, even more so given the climate emergency and the necessary drive for net zero. Northwich is town with a growing population amid significant new housebuilding over the last two decades or so, and further developments underway and planned. The town sits in what is (or should be) easy to manageable commuting distance of Chester, Liverpool and Greater Manchester. The roads are very congested on these routes, and bus services increasingly sparse. We desperately need to see Network Rail investment on our line to allow for the increased, two trains an hour, one "express" service stops including Northwich, which the former Northern franchise promised in 2017. HS2 also enhances the case for the reopening of passenger services to Middlewich, thence to Sandbach and Crewe if the economic potential of the new line is to provide any benefit to Northwich and more widely across Mid Cheshire.

Some of the points made in this response go beyond the proposals in the consultation but in the Council's view they connect; there is a lack of any ambition, a plan only to make our station even less welcoming than it is now. Should the closure go ahead we urge you to look at extending the hours of the Journey Maker role to at least those that apply currently to normal ticket office opening hours, which would allow for a more meaningful delivery of the aspects of the role described. This is especially important at Northwich station given the various issues restricting accessibility detailed above. We also ask that there be urgent discussions with local stakeholders about the best potential rail and community use of the ticket office building once completed, including with the Town Council.

Finally, as a Town Council, we are represented at the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership and are in ongoing contact with the Community Rail Officer exploring the potential for establishing a Friends Group for Northwich station, something we see as much needed, and our interest is indicative of the importance we place on the railway for our town.

I look forward to receiving a considered and constructive response to this letter.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 15

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Give & Gain Initiative



Background

At the last full Council meeting members resolved to form a Sub Committee to look into areas of the town that were neglected and untidy. Members met and discussed how we would tackle this growing issue in the town.

Meeting

Members attended

Cllr Sam Naylor, Cllr Lee Sidall, Cllr Jo Callaghan, Cllr Arthur Neil

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.

- 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.

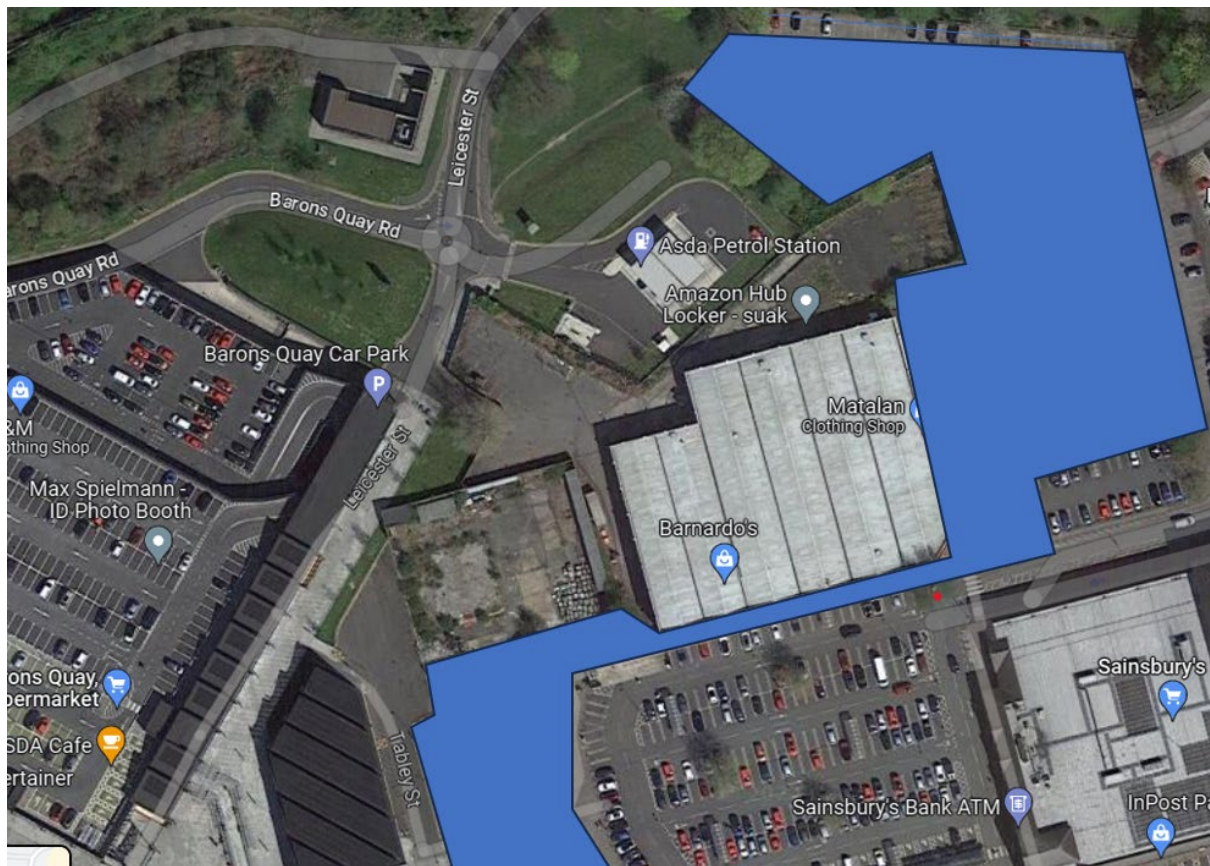
CW&C members agreed to use members budget and set up a fund to help with initial clean up where no other funds were available.

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.

Proposed initial Clean up Area



Members to resolve to approve the above recommendation and proceed with the above initiative as a pilot for future Give & Gain initiatives.

Decision of the Council is requested

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 14

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Northwich Information Centre



Background

Members were informed of the closure of the Information Centre in Weaver Square and relocation into Brio. Members were invited to respond to the briefing individually but do the Council also wish to respond with comments regarding the relocation.

This is due to the redevelopment of Weaver Square in the future.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 4th September 2023

Agenda Item : 16

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : DLUHC Consultation on Local Plans



Background

NALC has requested that we circulate the attached briefing to you. 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.

Please email any responses to this consultation **directly** to chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk by 17.00 on 22nd September 2023.

Members to decide if they wish to respond to the consultation.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Town Clerk.

25 AUGUST 2023

PC2-23 | LOCAL PLANS

Summary

Local plans are generally produced by local planning authorities (LPAs) but local (parish and town) councils have a huge interest in them and such plans are directly linked to neighbourhood plans which many local councils produce. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have issued a consultation seeking views on proposals to implement the parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which relate to plan-making, to make plans simpler, faster to prepare and more accessible.

The main consultation document can be downloaded [here](#) . The consultation closes at DLUHC on 18 October, 2023.

Context

The consultation seeks insight on:

- how local plans (and minerals and waste plans) can be made simpler to understand and use.
- how local plans (and minerals and waste plans) can be positively shaped by the views of communities about how their area should evolve.

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 seeking to implement wildly unrealistic timeframes, also ensuring that the golden thread between timescales required to update and make local plans and those required to make and update neighbourhood plans, is retained undamaged.

NALC's current policy positions

- The government has said it wants to see local planning authorities reviewing their local plans every five years. NALC will be arguing very strongly that this is an impractical requirement that places impossible pressures on LPAs and on neighbourhood planning groups whose plans are aligned to the local plans. A review every 10 years would be demanding enough. The emphasis should be on the quality and the soundness of the

plans and not on the speed with which it might be possible to produce them.

- NALC will support a planning system which incorporates a significant role for local councils. It will not support any diminution of local councils' statutory right to comment on planning issues at all stages of their evolution, whether they be development planning matters or spatial planning policies.
- NALC will support a soundly based planning system which represents the most reliable tool for the sustainable allocation of land, and which represents the three pillars of sustainability equally, i.e., social, economic, and environmental factors.
- NALC is arguing for the complete removal of the whole concept of National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) which will have the effect of unjustly trumping any local or neighbourhood plan.

Consultation Questions

The main consultation questions NALC will be responding to in this consultation are as below and NALC seeks the views of county associations and member councils in response to these questions to help inform its own submission to DLUHC:

Chapter 1: Plan content

Question 1: Do you agree with the core principles for plan content? Do you think there are other principles that could be included?

Question 2: Do you agree that plans should contain a vision, and with our proposed principles preparing the vision? Do you think there are other principles that could be included?

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed framework for local development management policies?

Question 4: Would templates make it easier for local planning authorities to prepare local plans? Which parts of the local plan would benefit from consistency?

Question 5: Do you think templates for new style minerals and waste plans would need to differ from local plans? If so, how?

Chapter 2: The new 30-month plan timeframe

Question 6: Do you agree with the proposal to set out in policy that planning authorities should adopt their plan, at the latest, 30 months after the plan preparation process begins?

Question 7: Do you agree that a Project Initiation Document will help define the scope of the plan and be a useful tool throughout the plan making process?

Chapter 3: Digital plans

Question 8: What information produced during plan-making do you think would most benefit from data standardisation, and/or being openly published?

Question 9: Do you recognise and agree that these are some of the challenges faced as part of plan preparation which could benefit from digitalisation? Are there any others you would like to add and tell us about?

Question 10: Do you agree with the opportunities identified? Can you tell us about other examples of digital innovation or best practice that should also be considered?

Question 11: What innovations or changes would you like to see prioritised to deliver efficiencies in how plans are prepared and used, both now and in the future?

Chapter 5: Evidence and the tests of soundness

Question 14: Do you think this direction of travel for national policy and guidance set out in this chapter would provide more clarity on what evidence is expected? Are there other changes you would like to see?

Question 15: Do you support the standardisation of evidence requirements for certain topics? What evidence topics do you think would be particularly important or beneficial to standardise and/or have more readily available baseline data?

Question 16: Do you support the freezing of data or evidence at certain points of the process? If so which approach(es) do you favour?

Chapter 7: Plan examination

Question 22: Do you agree with our proposals to speed up plan examinations? Are there additional changes that we should be considering to enable faster examinations?

Question 23: Do you agree that six months is an adequate time for the pause period, and with the government's expectations around how this would operate?

Chapter 8: Community engagement and consultation

Question 24: Do you agree with our proposal that planning authorities should set out their overall approach to engagement as part of their Project Initiation Document? What should this contain?

Question 25: Do you support our proposal to require planning authorities to notify relevant persons and/or bodies and invite participation, prior to commencement of the 30-month process?

Question 26: Should early participation inform the Project Initiation Document? What sorts of approaches might help to facilitate positive early participation in plan-preparation?

Question 27: Do you agree with our proposal to define more clearly what the role and purpose of the two mandatory consultation windows should be?

Question 28: Do you agree with our proposal to use templates to guide the form in which representations are submitted?

Chapter 9: Requirement to assist with certain plan-making

Question 29: Do you have any comments on the proposed list of prescribed public bodies?

Question 30: Do you agree with the proposed approach? If not, please comment on whether the alternative approach or another approach is preferable and why.

Chapter 13: Community Land Auctions

Question 39: Do you have any views on how we envisage the Community Land Auctions process would operate?

Question 40: To what extent should financial considerations be taken into account by local planning authorities in Community Land Auction pilots, when deciding to allocate sites in the local plan, and how should this be balanced against other factors?

Chapter 14: Approach to roll out and transition

Question 41: Which of these options should be implemented, and why? Are there any alternative options that we should be considering?

Chapter 15: Saving existing plans and planning documents

Question 42: Do you agree with our proposals for saving existing plans and planning documents? If not, why?

Your evidence

Please email your responses to this consultation to chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk by 17.00 on 22 September 2023. County associations are asked to forward this briefing onto all member councils in their area.

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Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 11th September 2023

Agenda Item : 17

Prepared By : Liza Clansey

Subject : Amendment to last year's 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 costs 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.

See attached Section 2 of AGAR showing amendments.

Decision of the Council is requested

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	381,236	505,251	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	525,776	541,778	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	699,685	690,656	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	471,390 471,203	550,307	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	630,056 630,243	650,429	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	505,251	536,949	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	496,669	484,116	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	1,301,107 546,264	546,264	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved