

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Chris Shaw

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Northwich
town council

DATE: 28th December 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 8th January 2024 at 6.00pm.**

Yours Sincerely

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

AGENDA

1. To receive a presentation from Sophie Fickling who is campaigning to stop bullying towards those that have visible differences.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. To present Grants Cheque

4. Declaration of interest

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

*Pecuniary interest

*Outside bodies interest

*Family, friend, or close associate interest

5. 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.

6. Signing of the Minutes

5.1 Of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023. Minutes attached.

[Members are required to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record](#)

7. Reports of Committees

7.1 To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 18th December 2023. Minutes attached.

[Members to note the minutes.](#)

7.2 To note Grants Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2023

[Members to note the minutes.](#)

8. Town Mayor's Communication

List of Civic Events that the Town Mayor has attended during November 2023 (attached)

[Members to note the report.](#)

9. Chief Officers Report

Report attached

[Members to note the report.](#)

10. Police Update

To receive a report from Northwich Police

11. To approve Finance Committee recommendations

Report attached.

[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)

12. To note NTC response to the Cheshire Fire Consultation

Response attached.

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 5th February 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. To approve updates to NTC Employee Handbook.

Report attached

[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2023

Present:

Cllr Jane Thomas

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Joanne Callaghan

Cllr Sam Naylor

Cllr Lee Siddall

Cllr Catriona Stewart

Cllr Janet Illidge

Cllr Bob Cernik

Cllr Andrew Cooper

Cllr Rachel Waterman

Cllr Patrica Parkes

Cllr Andy Kent

Cllr Andy Stott

Cllr Kate Cernik

Cllr Julie MacDonald

Cllr Tom Melville

Also present:

Chris Shaw

Cath Kirwan

Chief Officer

Deputy Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer

Members congratulated Cllr Andrew Cooper on selection to becoming the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Mid Cheshire

NTC 23/80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amy Lockett, Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Graham Emmett, Cllr Arthur Neil, Cllr Alison Gerrard

NTC 23/81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

Cllr Ms Patricia Parkes and Cllr Sam Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

NTC 23/82 OPEN FORUM

Members received a presentation from Matt Bostock, he has been a Cheshire Fire and Rescue Firefighter for 12 years. He informed members that he believes that there will be 55 possible redundancies and 75 posts lost throughout Cheshire, employees are concerned regarding their employment. The new proposal will mean 4 less fire engines throughout Cheshire. Recruitment is a lengthy process, it takes a considerable amount of time to recruit fire fighters and this is why we are short. Firefighters have only had one consultation since the proposal and information on social media is incorrect. Northwich could be left with no cover should a major incident happen and no community engagement will happen under the new proposal. Matt informed members it is more expensive to run an on-call Fire Engine. FB Union is now working with its members and it is hoped they will now be listened to, Matt is concerned that 70% of fires happen at night and Northwich will be left with insufficient cover They are hoping after 12 months that a new proposal will come out and have started a Facebook page with a petition

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

Members thanked Mr Bostock for his time and information received.

Resolved

Members to form a subgroup to discuss the proposals and respond to the consultation.

Proposed by Cllr Andy Kent and seconded by Cllr Joanne Callaghan. All agreed.

NTC 23/83 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Andy Stott and seconded by Cllr Rachel Waterman all agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Deputy Mayor.

NTC 23/84 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023
Noted by Cllr Rachel Waterman

To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21st November 2023
Noted by Cllr Andy Stott

NTC 23/84 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – November 2023

4 th November	Firefest, Verdin Park, Northwich
8 th November	Cloughwood School, Northwich
11 th November	Remembrance, Cenotaph
11 th November	The Wedding Singer produced by Zodiac at The Grange Theatre
12 th November	Remembrance Sunday
15 th November	Bloom Presentation
16 th November	Sir John Deanes College
25 th November	Opening of new B&M Store
25 th November	Christmas Extravaganza
29 th November	Opening of La Turka Restaurant, Northwich
30 th November	St. Lukes, Christmas Tree Light switch on

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/85 CHIEF OFFICER REPORT

Northwich Christmas Extravaganza

On Saturday 25th November Northwich staged the Christmas Extravaganza in the town centre, Northwich Town Council working in partnership with Northwich BID provide a range of activities across the town which included an ice rink, games, crazy golf and funfair.

The day ended with the ever-popular lantern parade from Waitrose which this year saw the inclusion of large puppets which was a big hit with visitors. The actual light switch on in Barons Square saw the biggest crowd ever and this was followed by fireworks display on Riverside Park.

I would like to thank everybody that helped make this one of the biggest light switch on staged in Cheshire and which is virtually free to attend and take part.

Remembrance

The Northwich community once again came out and remembered those that have fallen by attending the annual remembrance parade at Northwich Cenotaph. The event was well attended once again despite some heavy rain on the parade.

Outside Contracts (Xmas Trees/Lights)

We have now installed all our Xmas Trees and Xmas lights across the borough which increases year on year.

Winter Works

Our staff are now carrying out winter works on all our sites ensuring they are looking there best for the Spring.

Rose Meadow Play Area

Tenders have now been sent to approved contractors to quote for the supply and installation of Rose Meadow Play Area.

Tree of Lights

We are holding two Mayoral events during December including the popular Tree of Lights ceremony in Witton Cemetery.

NTC 23/86 POLICE UPDATE

Pc Ell Estcourt and Sgt. John Hancock attended the meeting gave members the following update.

18 people have been charged with drugs

15 for burglary and theft

3 for behaviour orders

A knife sweep was carried out in local areas and knives were safely disposed of

4 drug warrants issued and 2 arrests made.

Christmas Extravaganza – no issues

Operation Jingle town centre – Police presence to prevent shoplifting.

Christmas Awards - 60 children to be awarded for various achievements throughout the year.

Next Co-hesion group – 22nd January at New Images, Nixon Drive Winsford

Anti-Social behaviour has reduced.

The Town Council Mayor thanked the Police for their support and work in the community.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/87 DRAFT STRATEGY

Members to approve draft strategy. Amendments to be made regarding the strategy

Proposed by Cllr Andy Stott and seconded by Cllr Sam Naylor. All agreed

NTC 23/88 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Andrew Cooper updated members - Clifton Drive is open for applications to take on Community Asset.

Rose Meadow play area - Bellway to amend S106 agreement and CWAC have used an external legal team for this process.

Cllr Andrew Cooper has received an email from UKSPF projects for the next funding ground, Northwich and Leftwich have been underused and under allocated funding and is keen to apply for this funding to improve disabled access in Leftwich Meadows.

Cllr Patricia Parkes left 6.56pm

Cllr Sam Naylor updated members – parking charges to be going up in the town centre from 20p to 50p.

NTC 23/89 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Andy Kent updated members on the Northwich Train Station and progress is happening. Cllr Andrew Cooper and Cllr Sam Naylor have had an accessibility report on the Train Station and has asked MP to ask a parliamentary question to when the station would be finished the response was that the Station building exterior is planned for January 24. This is approx. 6 months behind. Accessibility Funding is 9 months behind.

Cllr Catherine Fox left 7.17pm

Chief Officer will be working on the budget over the next few weeks which will be presented to the Finance Committee for a recommendation and approval at Full Council in February.

NTC 23/90 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 8th January 2023

There being no more business, the meeting ended at 7.25pm.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18th DECEMBER 2023 at 6.30pm

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

Also Present : Cath Kirwan – Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

FIN23/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms A Gerrard.

FIN 23/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were given by Cllr Ms R Waterman to Changing Lives Together, Cllr S Naylor to Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cllr Ms J Macdonald to Northwich Metals.

FIN 23/57 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16th November and noted at Full Council meeting on Monday 4th December 2023.

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

FIN 23/58 DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET

ACO/RFO answered various members questions relating to budget headings.

Proposed Cllr Ms J Macdonald, seconded Cllr Ms R Waterman, all agreed

FIN 23/59 BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT

Bacs payments and direct debit figure approved £87,263.71.

Proposed Cllr Ms K Cernik, seconded Cllr Ms C Fox, all agreed

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Date

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**Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair**

FIN 23/60 BANK PAYMENTS TO BE CHECKED BY FINANCE

Members approved evidence for payments made in October 23 (September 23 invoices)

Changing Lives Together - £325.00
Zurich Insurance - £156.27

Proposed Cllr Ms C Fox, seconded Cllr Ms R Waterman, all agreed

Members picked two suppliers from November payments (October invoices), evidence to be brought to finance meeting in January 2024.

Amerbol - £2093.64
Cheshire Self Drive - £2040.38

Proposed Cllr S Naylor, seconded Cllr Ms R Waterman, all agreed

FIN 23/61 ROSE MEADOW PLAY AREA (ADDITIONAL ITEM)

Members were provided with a report and the costs associated with the supply and install of Rose Meadow Play Area in Leftwich.

Supplier	Total Cost
Play & Leisure	£125,510
Sutcliffe Play	£162,323.13
Groundwork & Leisure Services	£105,06.90

Based on this information it was recommended the Committee resolve to accept the lowest tender which was from Groundwork & Leisure Services for **£105,06.90** and recommend to full Council for approval

Proposed Cllr Ms C Fox, seconded Cllr Ms R Waterman, all agreed.

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Date

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**Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair**

FIN 23/62 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting Monday 15th January at 6.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.00pm

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Date

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**Cllr Lee Siddall
Chair**

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GRANTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2023

Members Present

Cllr Julie Macdonald
Cllr Kate Cernik
Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Jane Thomas
Cllr Robert Cernik
Cllr Rachel Waterman
Cllr Janet Illidge

Also Present Liza Clansey - Cemetery Registrar & Wellbeing Manager

GC 23/01 TO APPOINT A CHAIR

Cllr Robert Cernik was appointed Chair.
Proposed by Cllr Janet Illidge, seconded by Cllr Catriona Stewart.

Cllr Janet Illidge was appointed Vice Chair.
Proposed by Cllr Kate Cernik, seconded by Cllr Julie Macdonald, all agreed.

GC 23/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence was received from Cllr Amy Locket. Cllr Tom Melville and Patricia Parks were not present.

GC 23/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rachel Waterman declared an interest in Toppers of Northwich as they meet in the same building Rachel works in.

GC 23/04 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Grants Committee held on Thursday 21st July 2022 and noted at the Town Council meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Jane Thomas, seconded by Cllr Robert Cernik, all agreed.

The Minutes of the Grant Committee held on Wednesday 25th of January 2023 and noted at the Town Council meeting on Monday 6th February 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Jane Thomas, no one else was present at this meeting, all agreed to accept these minutes as a true and accurate record.

GC 23/05 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

8 requests were submitted. Members discussed each on their individual merits before making their decisions.

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Date

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Chair

It was resolved to recommend that the following donations be made.

Leftwich Community Primary School £500.00 – payment made
St Winfrids Scout Group £600.00 – once further funding has been met
Rudheath Bowling Club £500.00 – once further funding has been met
Northwich Junior Chess Club £750.00 – to present at January meeting

The following 4 applications were declined due to not meeting the necessary criteria.

Friends of Leftwich Primary School
The Aaron Dixon Memorial Fund
Toppers of Northwich
Moterwell Cheshire

Members suggested marketing the Grants Fund to make more charities aware that there is money available to apply for.

GC 23/06 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Date of next meeting conformed for Tuesday 13th February 2024 5.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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Date

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Chair

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th January 2024

Agenda Item : 8

Prepared By : Cllr Jane Thomas/Cath Kirwan

Subject : Town Mayors Communications



There were events attended by the Town Mayor during December 2023

8 th December	Redwalls Nursing Home <i>Deputy Mayor Attended</i>
8 th December	Tree of Lights – This was a very special event which celebrated and remembered those who we miss at Christmas.
14 th December	Starbucks opening <i>Deputy Mayor Attended</i>
16 th December	Police Awards. Mayor and Deputy Attended. A Fantastic event which NTC supports, recognizing the youth that have made a positive contribution. There was a huge range of abilities, ages and successes and it was important to celebrate each and every one.
20 th December	Opening Boots Opticians – A huge revamp of the Northwich store. Chris (Store Manager) was so positive about Northwich. It is testament to them and to our town that we are able to show equal footfall to much larger towns. I'm sure that they will continue to do very well in the future.
21 st December	St Helen's Community Lunch – A wonderful celebration and gathering for all those who attend groups at the church. It was such a pleasure speaking to different people. There was a wonderful lunch and games. It was a real Christmas treat.
21 st December	Sir John Deans Christmas Carol Service <i>Deputy Mayor Attended</i>

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th January 2024

Agenda Item : 9

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Chief Officers Report



Outside Contracts (Xmas Trees/Lights)

All Xmas lights and trees will be removed by the 10th January. All Xmas trees are chipped and recycled through our contractor.

NTC Play Areas

We are in the process of purchasing a portable Jet Wash to cleanse all our play equipment on all our sites as we continue to see an increase in moss and alge growth due to the damp winters we are having.

Events

We will now begin to confirm our events diary for 2024 with local partners, as discussed previously we will continue to make our events bigger and better than ever with some enhancements to current events.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th January 2024

Agenda Item : 11

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Finance Committee Recommendations



Rose Meadow Play Area

Members were given a report with cost for the supply & install of Rose Meadow play area in Leftwich. Following on from discussions and looking at the costs members resolved to accept the quote from Groundwork & Leisure Services to carry out the works.

Supplier	Total Cost
Play & Leisure	£125,510
Sutcliffe Play	£162,323.13
Groundwork & Leisure Services	£105,06.90

Full Council to approve Finance Committee recommendations and resolve to accept the quote of £105,06.90 from Groundwork & Leisure Services.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer



The Council Offices
78 Church Road
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 5PB
Tel: 01606 41510

Email: Janethomas@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

19th December 2023

Email: consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk
Cheshire Fire Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the presentation from both Cheshire Fire and Rescue, Deputy Chief Officer, Lee Shears and Matt Bostock, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Firefighter and also by reading the data within the reports, we would like to raise the following concerns.

Residents and council members have serious concerns about the reduction in service, particularly during the night and weekends when most fatalities occur. Having another engine 20 minutes away is more likely to result in loss of life.

The loss of the second fire engine is likely increase the likelihood of fires causing more damage as there may be delays in waiting for the second engine to arrive. This will result in an increased likelihood of more severe damage to properties and disruption to businesses and travel as the scale of the damage will be greater.

It appears that the second engine is not manned due to ongoing recruitment freeze.

The changes are going to result in redundancies and the loss experienced, dedicated, trained firefighters who are only able to work on an on-call basis due to having other work commitments.

We are unable to offer our full support for the proposed changes, especially the withdrawal of the second engine in Northwich and the reduction in availability of services at nights and on weekends. We would hope that this aspect of the restructuring could be reconsidered.

As you will be aware Northwich has suffered from several major events in the last few years, which have heightened concerns for residents and local businesses.

- Roberts Bakery
- Winnington Hill (Sunday 17th December)
- Market (at night)
- In addition the work completed during the floods.

As locally elected representatives we hope that you can fully address the posts that we have raised

Yours sincerely

Cllr Jane Thomas

