

p NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024

Present:

Cllr Jane Thomas

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Joanne Callaghan

Cllr Lee Siddall

Cllr Catriona Stewart

Cllr Janet Illidge

Cllr Bob Cernik

Cllr Andrew Cooper

Cllr Rachel Waterman

Cllr Andy Kent

Cllr Andy Stott

Cllr Kate Cernik

Cllr Julie MacDonald

Cllr Graham Emnett

Also present:

Chris Shaw

Cath Kirwan

Chief Officer

Deputy Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer

NTC 23/91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amy Lockett, Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Tom Melville, Cllr Patrica Parkes, Cllr Sam Naylor

NTC 23/92 GRANTS CHEQUE AWARD

Grant Cheque awarded to Northwich Chess Club which has 70 members in the club and is a non-profit club, for ages 5-18 years old. Will be using the Grant to invest in books, chess games and advertising.

Cllr Coopers asked about outdoor chess games and if they would support Northwich Town Council in the set up in the parks.

NTC 23/93 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.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/94 OPEN FORUM

Sophie Flicking – Changing Faces

Members received a presentation from Sophie Flicking from Changing Faces regarding bullying. Sophie has a condition which is a rare facial disfiguration. Whilst Sophie was at school, she was singled out for being different and was subjected to bullying and being left out of friendship groups. Sophie has also experienced bullying from the general public. In 2022 there were 585 suicides due to disfiguration. Insults and name calling are the main form of bullying and 56% of this is in the form of texting. Samaritans, Changing Faces, CWaC, Papyrus, and Radio Northwich have all supported Sophie. Sophie would like to see an anti-bullying strategy in place.

Town Mayor Cllr Jane Thomas thanked Sophie for sharing her story. Cllr Bob Cernik mentioned several schemes that CWaC would support Sophie and we should have zero tolerance of bullying. Cllr Lee Siddall expressed how there should be no bullying and the more people that hear Sophies voice will help her campaign. Cllr Catriona Stewart asked if the Police have been supportive and suggested going into schools to share her experiences.

Tina Boag-Munroe – Morrisons Community Champion

Members received a presentation from Tina Boag-Munroe who works for Morrisons as a Community Champion and would like to support Northwich with refreshments/fresh products for the community and volunteers who help in Northwich. Cllr Ms Kate Cernik mentioned that they would like to make Northwich a dementia friendly town and suggested if this is something that Morrisons could support and raise awareness, and a contribution for refreshments for the coffee mornings.

Members thanked Tina for her presentation.

NTC 23/95 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr R Cernik and seconded by Cllr Ms K Cernik all agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 23/96 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 18th December 2023
Noted by Cllr Lee Siddall

To note Grants Committee meeting held on 28th November 2023
Noted by Cllr Andy Stott

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/97 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – 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>

NTC 23/98 CHIEF OFFICER 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.

Members discussed the possibility of updating Christmas lights.

Proposal

Chief Officer to produce a report for the Amenities Committee

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 algae 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.

Cllr Kate Cernik thanked Northwich Town Council for working on the Events

NTC 23/99 POLICE UPDATE

Police not in attendance.

DCO/RFO to set a meeting up with David Levins from Cheshire Police on future police support in Northwich.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/100 TO APPROVE 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	£105,006.90

Full Council to approve Finance Committee recommendations and resolve to accept the quote of £105,006.90 from Groundwork & Leisure Services.

Proposed by Cllr G Emmett and seconded by Cllr A Stott

All Agreed

NTC 23/101 TO NOTE NTC RESPONSE TO THE CHESHIRE FIRE CONSULTATION

Town Mayor had sent a response in December to Cheshire Fire Service

Noted

NTC 23/101 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Andrew Cooper updated members on the flood defenses in Northwich and Phase One had gone according to plan. Cllr Andrew Cooper asked the Environmental Agency why they were late in delivering Phase One and is awaiting a response. All partners have worked well together.

Proposal

Letter to thanks to be sent to all partners involved in the installation of the flood defenses and associated services on the day.

Proposed by Cllr Catriona Stewart and seconded Cllr Julie McDonald, all agreed

A funding application has been made to UKPS to improve areas in Leftwich

After an inspection on River Weaver footpath near The Crescent the footpath has now been closed due to repairs needing to be completed.

NTC 23/102 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Kate Cernik updated members on her recent Care Community meeting and community space. Cllr Graham Emmett updated members on Navigation Boat Yard as it hasn't been sold yet but does have interest in it.

Cllr Andy Kent updated members on Northwich Train Station there and there will be a safety briefing for volunteers who wish to join the Friends of Northwich Railway Station on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 10.30am

Cllr Lee Siddall updated members on Angling Clubs who will be getting involved with Groundworks with testing kits to see how healthy our river is. Tests will be done each month.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor

NTC 23/103 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 5th February 2024 at 6pm

There being no more business, the meeting ended at 7.37 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.

Members received a verbal report and draft copy of the revised NTC Employee Handbook.

Proposed by Cllr Graham Emmett and seconded Cllr Julie McDonald

All agreed

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor