

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Chief Officer: Chris Shaw

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Northwich
town council

DATE: 2nd April 2024

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 April at 6.00pm.**

Yours Sincerely

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

AGENDA

1. Grant Cheque Presentation

Organisations to receive recently awarded grants and to give a brief overview on how the funding will be spent.

2. Northwich Plaza Update

Steering group members to give an update on plans for the Northwich Plaza.

3. Apologies for Absence

Members to approve 6 months leave of absence for Cllr Amy Lockett.

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 Chief Officer 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

6.1. Of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 4th of March 2024. 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 18th March 2024. Minutes attached.

Members to note the minutes.

7.2 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 25th March 2024. Minutes attached.

Members to note minutes.

7.3 To note Grants Committee meeting held on 12th March 2024. Minutes attached.

Members to note minutes.

- 8. Town Mayor's Communication**
List of Civic Events that the Town Mayor has attended during March 2024 (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
[Members to note the report.](#)
- 11. Badgers**
To receive a report regarding badgers in Witton Cemetery (attached)
[Decision of the Council requested.](#)
- 12. Verdin Park Music Festival**
To receive an update on the festival (attached)
[Members to note report.](#)
- 13. Belmont Road Play Area Refurbishment**
To receive an update on the consultation and plans (attached)
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 14. Church Walk Play Area Refurbishment**
To receive an update on the consultation and plans (attached)
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 15. Vickersway Park Sensory Play Area**
To receive an update on the consultation and plans (attached)
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 16. Rudheath & Witton Together**
To note end of the project
- 17. Asset Register 2024/25**
To review and approve asset register (To Follow)
[Decision of the Council is requested.](#)
- 18. Outside Bodies**
To receive an update from any member attending meetings of outside bodies
- 19. Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be the AGM (Mayor Making) on Monday 20th May at 7.00 pm.

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4th MARCH 2024

Present:

Cllr Jane Thomas

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Joanne Callaghan
Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Julie MacDonald
Cllr Andrew Cooper
Cllr Kate Cernik
Cllr Olwyn Dean
Cllr Catherine Fox

Cllr Andy Kent
Cllr Andy Stott
Cllr Bob Cernik
Cllr Janet Illidge
Cllr Alison Gerrard
Cllr Sam Naylor
Cllr Lee Siddall

Also present:

Chris Shaw
Cath Kirwan

Chief Officer
Deputy Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer

NTC 23/121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amy Lockett, Cllr Graham Emmett, Cllr Arthur Neil, Cllr Patricia Parkes, Cllr Rachel Waterman and Councillor Tom Melville.

NTC 23/122 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, Cllr Sam Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council. Cllr Olwyn Dean and Cllr Alison Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council

NTC 23/123 OPEN FORUM

Nobody in attendance

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor

NTC 23/124 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th January 2024 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Andy Stott and seconded by Cllr Lee Siddall

All agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 23/125 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024. Noted by Cllr Lee Siddall

6.2 To note the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024
Noted by Cllr Janet Illidge

As the minutes of the 20th February planning meeting were not approved at the Committee meeting due to members being absent it was approved at the Full Council meeting on 4th March 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Janet Illidge and seconded by Cllr Lee Siddall

All agreed.

NTC 23/126 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – February 2024

21 st February 2023	The Town Mayors Indian, Castle A successful and enjoyable evening had by all that attended. We raised £410.00 for the Town Mayors Charity. The Indian at Castle provided a lovely meal for everyone and made us all feel very welcome. <i>Mayor would like to pass on her thanks for Liza Clansey for organising the event.</i>
23 rd February 2023	Rudheath and Witton Together Celebration To celebrate the ten-year culmination of the work that they have received funding for. <i>Town Mayor thanked Rudheath and Witton for their fantastic work.</i>

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor

NTC 23/127 CHIEF OFFICER REPORT

Cllr Andrew Cooper thanked Northwich Town Council staff for their hardwork improving footpaths in Leftwich which was funded by Cllr Coopers Members Budget

Cllr Jane Thomas thanked CW&C members for their members budget contribution to various projects.

NTC 23/128 AMENITY AND CEMETERY FEES 24-25

Members approved the Finance Committee recommendations to accept 2024/25 Amenity & Cemetery fees.

Northwich Town Council Bereavement Service fees are considerably lower than neighbouring Burial Authorities but with increases in costs from our suppliers, contractors and own staff we have no alternative but to increase costs.

Members approved a 10% increase across all our fees which will cover the cost of increases applied to us.

Proposed by Cllr Lee Siddall seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald

All agreed.

NTC 23/129 WINTER SALT BOXES

Members discussed the feasibility of installing winter salt boxes to various locations throughout Northwich.

Cllr Andrew Cooper explained to members that residents are wanting more areas (roads) to be gritted and suggested a working group be formed.

Members proposed a working group be formed.

Proposed by Cllr Lee Siddall and seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald

All agreed.

NTC 23/130 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Members noted response from the Police & Crime Commissioner Panel. It was proposed that three NTC members will attend the panel on the 15th March 2024 and will report back to Council.

All members expressed concern regarding the PCC Panel response and welcome the opportunity for NTC members to address the panel.

Proposed by Cllr Catherine Fox and seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald

All agreed.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor

NTC 23/131 POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Nichola Devey gave an update on various issues around the town.

YOUTH ASB

Slight increase in reported Incidents of ASB around the town which are being addressed by local officers.

CAREY PARK – HOMELESS

We are currently dealing with 3 homeless people in Carey Park, partner organisations are also giving support. We are undertaking regular visits and have advised them to keep the area clean and free from litter.

VICTORIA HOUSE

Residents around Victoria House are reporting increased activity around the area, a direct email has been set up to report any incidents and we are working with Forfutures to address any residents concerns.

Vehicle ASB on Cumberland Street / Barons Quay

Reports are still being made about Anti-social driving / behaviour at the above locations. The reports are being made in the late evening early hours of the morning. SECT 59 is (vehicle ASB) have now been produced and dropped off at Barons Quay which have now been installed along with Matalan and Cumberland carparks.

We will be increasing patrols and also arranging a site visit with our Designing out Crime Officer and Crime prevention Officer

Business crime week is coming up 11th March

We will be visiting local businesses with partners to offer advice and support.

Members thanked Nichola for her report and the continued work she does around the town.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor

NTC 23/132 106 IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Members were presented with the Finance Committee recommendations for the following work.

Councillor Olwyn Dean declared an interest so did not vote.

Winnington Allotments

Scope of works – remove existing fencing, replace with 1.8 taurus, install new double gate, remove all debris including compost pile, install new tap.

Crown lift of trees to be carried out by our approved tree contractor at a cost of **£780**.

Groundwork & Leisure	£15,386
Landscape Centre	£44,650
Northwich Town Council	£21,555

Groundwork & Leisure to carry out the works at a cost of £15,386 plus vat

Queensgate Allotments

Install additional fencing and new carpark area.

Groundwork & Leisure	£24,855
Groundinc	£26,895
Northwich Town Council	£26,420

Groundwork & Leisure to carry out the works at a cost of £24,885 plus vat

Vickersway Allotments

Install additional fencing, new car park and gates.

Groundwork & Leisure	£20,700
Landscape Centre	No Quote Received
Northwich Town Council	£23,670

Groundwork & Leisure to carry out the works at a cost of £20,700 plus vat

Proposed by Councillor Lee Sidall seconded by Councillor Jo Callaghan that the works be approved.

All Agreed

Date.....

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**Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor**

NTC 23/133 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Andrew Cooper updated members with funding received from UKPS which will be spent on the gates, a radar key and footpath improvements and also dropping kerb in Leftwich. The path will be improved for Dane Valley and a bench will be installed. Also, additional funding has been received to help out with Science projects and various activities in the area with Grozone which will pay for additional staff.

Cllr Sam Naylor updated members on the budget meeting from CWaC. Car parking to be increased by 30p and green bins cost will increase. Pot holes are still bad in the area.

NTC 23/134 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Lee Siddall was pleased to inform members about the Citizen Science Project which tests the local waters and has been working in partnership with them. Lee attended a meeting and asked members

to let him know if they can become involved. Better Rivers Community Fund which is funded by United Utilities has awarded a grant for £1075 for boxes which can test the water in the area. Information can be updated on the app and you can compare the water in different areas.

Cllr Andy Kent updated members on the Northwich Train Station and is likely to have a Friends of Group set up by the end of April. Network Rail have apologised for not meeting the deadline again. £3000 has been received for artwork from Wales. Cllr Andy Kent would like Tesco to tidy the petrol station and asked the Chief Officer to speak with the manager in doing this as they will be litter picking in the area this weekend. Cllr Julie McDonald mentioned the dead birds in the ceiling and netting and new netting should be replaced.

Cllr Olwyn Dean has offered litter pickers to any groups that may need them and are welcome to use The Venue at Rudheath

Cllr Kate Cernik attended a Community Partnership meeting who will be managed by Cheshire West Voluntary Action and will be deciding their priorities for the coming year and mental health and dementia will be a priority. Cllr Kate Cernik had a useful talk with Weaver Vale Housing Trust who want to provide a budget for existing people in a group and asked members if they know of any groups that would benefit. Dementia friendly is looking at doing walks to keep people active while they can. Oasis Café in Leftwich at Emanuel Church and Salvation Army are hoping to put on more singing and coffee mornings. Cllr Kate Cernik thanked members for their contribution to producing leaflets and asked members if they would like to attend a Dementia Friendly Awareness training to learn about the impact of dementia.

7.12pm – Cllr Alison Gerrard left the meeting.

NTC 23/135 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 8th April 2024 at 6.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor
Town Mayor

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18th MARCH 2024 at 6.30pm

Members Present : Cllr J Macdonald
Cllr K Cernik
Cllr J Thomas
Cllr C Fox

Also Present : Cath Kirwan – Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

Due to Chair and Deputy Chair sending apologies Cllr. C Fox was appointed Chair. Proposed by Cllr. J Thomas, seconded by Cllr J McDonald.

FIN23/78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr R Waterman, Cllr L Siddall, Cllr S Naylor, Cllr A Gerrard and Cllr T Melville.

FIN 23/79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were given by Cllr J Macdonald to Northwich Metals.

FIN 23/80 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19th February 2024 and noted at Full Council meeting on Monday 4th March 2024.

Proposed Cllr J Macdonald, seconded Cllr K Cernik, all agreed

FIN 23/81 DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET

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

Proposed Cllr J Macdonald, seconded Cllr K Cernik, all agreed

FIN 23/82 BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT

Bacs payments and direct debit figure approved £14,106.57

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

FIN 23/83 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm

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Date

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Cllr Catherine Fox
Chair

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 25TH MARCH 2024

Members Present

Cllr Jo Callaghan
Cllr Andy Kent
Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Andy Stott
Cllr Janet Illidge
Cllr Andrew Cooper
Cllr Catherine Fox

Also present

Liza Clansey - Cemetery Registrar & Wellbeing Manager

PL 23/90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Lee Siddall, Cllr Olwyn Dean. Cllr Patricia Parkes.

PL 23/91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

PL 23/92 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th April 2024 and noted at the Full Council meeting on Monday 5th March 2024 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate.

Proposed by Cllr Callaghan, Seconded by Cllr Janet Illidge, all agreed

PL 23/93 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Site Address: 43 Walker Road Northwich CW8 4UD
Proposal: Installation of canopy extraction unit, outside ducting, on a commercial unit.
Reference Number: 24/00382/FUL
No objection
2. Site Address: 4 Hollybank Close Northwich CW8 4GS
Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Reference Number: 24/00456/FUL
No objection

Date Cllr Andy Stott

3. Site Address: 1 - 3 High Street Northwich CW9 5BX - Nationwide
Proposal: Replace 1no. Projecting signage with new 500mm. Retain existing brackets, replace 2no. Fascia and 2no. Logo with 2no, new blue fascia & 2no. New 185mm logo height, replace 1no. ATM surround and decals with new, Install new safety manifestation to windows, Install new window message
Reference Number: 24/00390/LBC
This building is listed, we would expect the fascia design to correspond with shop front design guidance for Northwich. This guidance was adopted along with Conservation Area Assessment (CAA) which form part of Local Plan policy for Northwich Town Centre. In summary the fascia should reflect the timber framing of the shop front and be in appropriate material, for example timber or a painted sign.
4. Site Address: 8 Oldhams Hill Northwich CW8 1AJ
Proposal: Single storey rear and two storey side extension (Re-submission of approved application 20/01958/FUL - recently lapsed)
Reference Number: 23/04020/FUL
No objection
5. Site Address: Ecolab Burrows Hill Hartford Northwich Cheshire
Proposal: Installation of 122 x solar panels to the office block flat roof to provide a total capacity of 50kW
Reference Number: 24/00471/P14
No objection
6. Site Address: 2 Felix Road Northwich CW8 4BU
Proposal: Two storey side extension, replacement windows, new front entrance with 2 front bay windows with pitched canopy roof and new entrance to side elevation. Replacement of existing roof covering.
Reference Number: 24/00251/FUL
Please note neighbours' comments
7. Site Address: 42 - 44 Station Road Northwich CW9 5RB
Proposal: Change of use from a car showroom/service (sui generis) to a fire training facility (Use Class F1) (amended description)
Reference Number: 23/01575/FUL
No objections

PL 23/93 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Members received a report from National Planning Policy Framework

Cllr Catherine Fox disused this report with members as this policy is used by Cllr Catherine Fox in her line of work. It is in relation builders 5-year plan to supply and calculate to allow for growth in realising some greenbelt areas. This has been updated in Dec 2023 but there has not been much change to the policy.

Date Cllr Andy Stott
PL 23/89 **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting day and date was discussed, it was agreed to be the fourth Monday in the month. Next meeting day to be held on Monday 22nd April 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7pm.

Date Cllr Andy Stott

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GRANTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024

Members Present

Cllr Kate Cernik
Cllr Tom Melville
Cllr Robert Cernik (Chair)
Cllr Rachel Waterman
Cllr Janet Illidge (Vice Chair)

Also Present

Chris Shaw - Chief Officer
Liza Clansey - Cemetery Registrar & Wellbeing Manager

GC 23/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amy Locket and Cllr Julie Macdonald. Cllr Catriona Stewart, Cllr Patricia Parks and Cllr Jane Thomas were not present.

GC 23/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

GC 23/09 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Grants Committee held on Tuesday 28th November 2023 and noted at the Town Council meeting on Monday 4th December 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Rachel Waterman, seconded by Cllr Kate Cernik, all agreed.

GC 23/10 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

2 requests were submitted. Members discussed each of their individual merits before making their decisions.

It was resolved that the following donations be made.

Toppers of Northwich to be awarded **£1500.00**
Northwich Litfest to be awarded **£500.00**

Proposed by Cllr Kate Cernik, seconded by Cllr Tom Melville, all agreed.

GC 23/11 GRANT MONITORING FORMS COMPLETED

Grant monitoring forms had been returned for grants awarded previously and were reviewed by members. It was decided that the grant monitoring forms, and application forms need to be updated to request more information from the applicants. Chris Shaw and Liza Clansey to review the forms and bring back to members.

Proposed by Cllr Rachel Waterman, seconded by Cllr Kate Cernik, all agreed.

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Date

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Cllr Robert Cernik Chair

GC 23/12 **UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS GRANT APPLANTANTS – ON HOLD**

At the November 2023 Grants meeting, members requested further information from the below applicants before payment could be made:

St Wilfred's Scout Group – requested £1200 for various outside camping equipment, members had agreed to award them £600 if they could meet their total cost of £1200.00. St Wilfred's confirmed they had still not met their target.

Members agreed to grant the **£600.00** to cover some costs for Kampa Canopies and other items totaling £600.00.

Rudheath Bowling Club – requested £1500 for a new mower totaling £8600, they have already received funding from Tarta Chemicals and INEOS Chemicals and are also holding their own fund-raising events. They have now decided to purchase a second hand 2-year-old mower from a golf club. With our £500 contribution they would have enough funding to purchase this.

Members agreed to grant the **£500.00** towards the cost of the mower.

Proposed to pay Grants to both St Wilfred's and Rudheath Bowling Club, Proposed Cllr Janet Illidge, seconded Cllr Tom Melville, all agreed

GC 23/13 **DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The date of next meeting will be in the new financial year, date to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 18.53.

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Date

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Cllr Robert Cernik Chair

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 8

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Town Mayor's Communications



Town Mayor's Communications	
2 nd March	The Zodiac Theatre – “Beautiful” – A wonderful performance celebrating the Carole King Story. This was such a lovely story filled with incredible songs and excellent acting. Watch out for any more productions!
9 th March	Namix Gym expansion. Chris Wood started this business 10 years ago and was joined by Charlotte, his wife and Tom, brother in law. It is now a thriving business. I was invited to open the expansion. A real achievement given the number of gyms in the local area and the current cost of living crisis.
23 rd March	Rotary's annual Swimathon. It was a real privilege to open the swimathon event where many teams competed to raise money for a host of different charities.
31 st March	Easter Egg Hunt. I arrived to find most of the eggs won and to a huge queue of people waiting for hot dogs and burgers. The response to this event was incredible and it was lovely to see so many families enjoying this fabulous space. A huge thank you to Cath and Chris for their time and for organizing this very popular event.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 9

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Chief Officers Report



Wildflower Areas

We will once again be sowing 2 wildflower areas this year, Witton cemetery will once again be full of colour and insects along with Verdin Park. Sowing will be late as we are struggling to prepare the land due to the wet weather we are currently experiencing.

Vickersway Park

Vickersway Park opened over Easter for the summer period and once again proved to be a popular attraction for the local community.

The Crazy Golf is to have some repairs carried out, this will include new recycled plastic sleepers and recycled plastic fencing replacing the old wooden fencing that is currently damaged.

Cllr Sam Naylor contributed 50% of the costs for additional seating around the friendly bench and this will include wheelchair accessible picnic benches, the remaining 50% was from NTC and these benches will be installed within 2 weeks.

The tennis court posts and nets will also be replaced due to one post leaning and both courts will be marked using thermos plastic in white which should give a 10-year life span.

The front gate has now been removed and is currently being powder coated in black, this should last for many years as apposed to painting on site as done previously.

Easter Egg Hunt

We once again held our annual Town Mayors Easter Egg Hunt in Vickersway Park along with a BBQ, the event was extremely well attended with both Easter eggs and BBQ selling out. All proceeds will go to the Town Mayors Charity which will be distributed at the AGM. Thank you to all that supported the event and the staff who gave worked the event.

Allotments

Winnington – Works have now begun on site with the removal of hold fencing, crown lifting of trees and removal of rubbish that has accumulated over many years. A new fence, gate and tap is being installed and the works are planned to be completed by 10th April. These works have been funded from Section 106 contribution.

Vickersway & Queensgate – Funding applications have been submitted for improvement works to both allotment sites to include improved car parking and security, we are still awaiting approval for both sites.

Northwich NOW Festival

Plans are coming together for the Northwich NOW Festival which will take place on Saturday 27th April in Northwich Town centre. We have be involved in the planning and will support on the day with staff resources.

Verdin Park

Working with the local ranger volunteers we have been upgrading the woodland walk with new timber edgings and installation of additional bark, this will now be much safer and accessible for visitors.

Some paths within the park were becoming slippery as were covered in moss, these areas are treated on a regular basis but with the increased wet weather were proving difficult to maintain. These areas have now been steam cleaned and a programme of works will be introduced to reduce the moss build up going forward.

Contract Works / Summer Maintenance

Due to the current wet weather we have been experiencing we will be starting our grass cutting slightly later than usual on certain areas where we know the ground will be exceptionally wet. Hopefully the weather will begin to warm up and become dryer to enable us to carry out our grass cutting in the coming weeks.

Dane Valley Cemetery

New Cremated Remains concrete plinths will be installed soon along with additional bench bases due to existing space being taken. Concrete plinths are all numbered and will be finished to a high standard.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 10

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Northwich Police Updates



To receive a verbal report at the meeting from our area PCSO.

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 11

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Witton Cemetery Badger Update



Background

Over the last 12/18 months we have been experiencing issues with badgers coming into the cemetery from the railway embankment, initially the badgers were just looking for grubs and were not causing significant damage to the cemetery or grave plots.

We recently saw an increase in activity a month ago and one badger sett is now visible on an existing grave next to the railway embankment. Over the last 2 weeks the activity has reduced and there is not as much foraging around the cemetery.

The area around the setts are checked on a daily basis and any soil that is deposited on to graves is carefully removed taking care not to disturb the badger setts while trying to keep the area safe for people visiting graves in that area.

We have contacted many organisations during this time and the advice is always the same, we cannot disturb the setts or do anything that may harm the badgers which is something we would never intend to do.

Badgers and their setts are protected by law under the Badgers Act 1992 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is a criminal offence for anyone without a licence to kill, injure or handle a badger or to disturb their setts.

Proposal

We have 3 options that we could look at which are listed below.

Option 1 – Do nothing, the news of the badgers went into the local press over the weekend and the reaction of the public was in favour of leaving the badgers as it is their natural environment. we can continue to monitor the activity and manage the area accordingly keeping the site clean and safe.

Option 2 - Employ the services of an ecologist to monitor the setts over a period of time and then be advised of next steps bringing that report back to Council.

Option 3 – Continue conversations with Network Rail to discuss how they could potentially help and offer advice.

Recommendation

I would recommend that we obtain costs for an ecologist to monitor and offer advice while also continuing the dialogue with Network Rail.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 12

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Verdin Park Music Festival



Plans are well underway for the Verdin Park Music Festival from the 7th – 9th June 2024 with the line up now confirmed. Working with Radio Northwich and Rare Vitamin records this is going to be another fantastic weekend event for Northwich.

With fantastic food and a licensed bar throughout the weekend it really is going to be an event you don't want to miss and it is totally free of charge to all.

All we ask is that you support the onsite bar as this goes to offsetting the cost of the event so we can bring it year after year to Verdin Park. Bag checks will be taking place throughout the weekend undertaken by our on-site security with alcohol and glass bottles not being allowed onto site.

There will be a funfair and other attractions throughout the weekend so all we need now is the sun to shine.

Volunteers

We will need some help from members and volunteers mainly to set up on the Friday and to de rig on the Sunday evening so if members can spare anytime over the weekend can you please let me know.

Chris Shaw

Chief officer

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 13

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Belmont Road Play Area Refurbishment



Background

Northwich Town Council currently lease a number of play areas from CW&C Council over a 30 year period, the reason this decision was taken was to ensure that these sites received significant funding and refurbishment for our residents.

Proposal

Belmont Road is the last site that is to be refurbished as all other locations have received significant investment and all now have a high standard of play equipment installed.

As with all our installations we will work with local residents by inviting them to take part in a consultation and feed into the design of the site, these flyers with a QR code will be delivered to local residents by members in the next few days.

Once we have the information from the community, we will develop a design and then go out to tender for the supply and installation of the play equipment.

We aim to have our play areas accessible all year round to encourage health and wellbeing to our community, this is why we do not install on grass or grass mat so the play surface is always usable. This is more expensive but means the site will be well used and offer longevity.

Funding will be sourced from the following.

- Section 106 contribution
- Wren Funding Grant (FCC Communities)

Northwich Town Council will pay the 3rd party contribution if we are successful which will be £10,000.

Members to approve the Belmont Road Play Area project and allow the Chief Officer to apply for funding for the project.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 14

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Church Walk Play Area Referred



Background

Church Walk Play Area is an extremely popular site in Northwich, this is where our padding pool is situated and attracts visitors from around the Northwest.

Proposal

The current play equipment is safe but is old and does not offer significant play value as newer play equipment now does. we will also look at putting in a sensory area and work with local groups such as Tiny Steps to pick the correct equipment.

Again, we will follow the same format as previous installs by asking local residents, park users and Church Walk school to take part in a consultation to enable us to come up with a design.

Once the design is agreed will then go out to tender for the supply and installation of the play equipment.

Funding will come from the following sources.

- Veolia

Northwich Town Council will pay the 3rd party contribution if we are successful which will be £10,000.

Members to approve the Church Walk Play Area project and allow the Chief Officer to apply for funding for the project.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 8th April 2024

Agenda Item : 15

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Vickersway Park Sensory Play Area



Background

Vickersway Park attracts many local residents through out the year, there are many activities in the park including crazy golf, tennis, bowls, putting, table tennis and a children's play area. We have also recently installed a concrete skatepark which is proving extremely popular.

Proposal

Something we are currently being asked about is play equipment which is accessible, low level and supports sensory requirements.

I have already made contact with local groups and the community regarding this project and they are extremely keen to become involved.

A location in Vickersway Park will be decided and we will then consult with relevant groups on the kit they would like to be seen in the park.

Funding will come from the following sources.

- Awards For All (National Lottery)

Members to approve the Vickersway Park Sensory Area project and allow the Chief Officer to apply for funding for the project.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

Report to : Full Council
Meeting Date : 8th April 2024
Agenda Item : 16
Prepared By : Chris Shaw
Subject : Rudheath & Witton Together



Background

The Big Local project started 10 years ago, Northwich Town Council have been involved in various projects with them during this time.

Below is a letter of thanks from the Project Manager for all the support all organisations have given over the years, but I think it is fitting that Northwich Town Council thanks all the staff and volunteers that have worked on the project since the start, you have made a massive contribution to the town and its community so thank you!!

As Rudheath & Witton Together Big Local project comes to a close in the next 2 weeks (ends on 31st March 2024) we just want to say a huge thank you to you all for your support over the 10 years of the project. We're sad that it's ending, but also very proud of what's been accomplished by the various residents who have been involved in the partnership throughout the whole 10 years – we can absolutely say that without them and the support from the staff, community and funders all this wouldn't have been accomplished!! Some projects will continue post Big Local, such as the warm space at Rudheath Social Club which will be taken over by Changing Lives Together Buddying and Befriending project and the Over 55's group who have been running independently for the last 5 years. The partnership are hoping to continue to hold a variety of events over the year. The RWT Facebook page will no longer be monitored, but the RWT Community page will be renamed Rudheath & Witton Together Community and will still continue to be active. We've completed a short report about our 10 years (attached) – as you can probably appreciate we had to be selective otherwise it would be a huge document. We've also made a film about the project and focusing on some of the projects and people that have been supported. You can watch the full film here: <https://youtu.be/82kJfQ0H3hI?si=1NnZIH NirSAJG2zq>

Once again thank you for your time, help and support over the last 10 years and best wishes for the future.