

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Chief Officer: Chris Shaw

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Northwich
town council

DATE: 30th November 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 6th January at 6.00pm.**

Yours Sincerely

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

AGENDA

1. **To receive a presentation from Rupert Adams and Jon Haughton regarding the Friends of the Plaza.**
2. **Apologies for 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 Chief Officer 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**
4.1. Of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 4th December 2024. Minutes attached.
Members are required to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.
6. **Reports of Committees**
5.1 To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held 17th December 2024
5.2 To note Grants Committee meeting held on 12th December 2024
Members to note the minutes.
7. **Town Mayors Communications**
List of Civic Events that the Town mayor has attended during December 2024 (attached)
Members to note the report.

8. Chief Officers Report

To receive a report from the Chief Officer (attached)

[Members to note the report.](#)

9. Police Update

To receive a report from Northwich Police

10. Outside Bodies

To receive an update from any member attending meetings of outside bodies.

11. CW&C Members

To receive an update from CW&C ward members

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 6.00pm

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2024

Present:

Cllr Kate Cernik Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Andy Kent	Cllr Bob Cernik
Cllr Catriona Stewart	Cllr Andy Stott
Cllr Joanne Callaghan	Cllr Jane Thomas
Cllr Arthur Neil	Cllr Sam Naylor
Cllr Julie MacDonald	Cllr Janet Illidge
Cllr Patricia Parkes	Cllr Stephen Harcombe

Also present:

Chris Shaw	Chief Officer
Cath Kirwan	Deputy Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer

NTC 24/69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Alison Gerrard, Cllr Catherine Fox, Cllr Lee Siddall, Cllr Rachel Waterman, Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Graham Emmett and Cllr Tom Melville

NTC 24/70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

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

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

NTC 24/71 OPEN FORUM

Members received a presentation from Barbara Dean from Cheshire West Poverty Trust Commission. Poverty Truth Ethos was built upon two West Cheshire Poverty Truth Commissions (WCPTC), a mainstreamed approach now guides Cheshire West and Chester Council's poverty initiatives. The Poverty Truth Advisory Board (PTAB) was established with representatives from public, private, civic sectors, and Community Inspirers. The board meets bi-monthly to influence strategy and policy and amplify voices of those with lived poverty experience. Community Involvement is co-chaired by a Community Inspirer and the Council Leader's Champion for Poverty and Inequality, emphasising shared governance and lived experiences.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Barbara Dean emphasised the profound effects of poverty on self-respect, self-worth, and mental well-being. Barbara highlighted the importance of understanding these impacts and the potential role of education to address poverty's effects on children.

Cllr Bob Cernik noted existing publications on poverty and urged council members to review them for actionable insights. Barbara Dean encouraged local councils like Northwich Town Council (NTC) to assist in poverty alleviation.

Cllr Sam Naylor remarked that resolving poverty requires Central Government intervention but acknowledged NTC's potential to contribute incrementally. Government budget cuts were identified as a factor exacerbating poverty.

Cllr Catriona Stewart discussed the stigma associated with poverty, advocating for efforts to eliminate it.

Cllr Patricia Parkes, as chair of CWaC Scrutiny, committed to supporting the cause.

Cllr Kate Cernik expressed interest in consulting Barbara Dean for future NTC events related to poverty awareness and intervention. NTC to explore actionable measures, drawing from the Poverty Truth Commission's publications and Barbara Dean's guidance. Continued advocacy and education to reduce poverty stigma and enhance community support mechanisms.

Members also received a presentation from Jodie Fraser owner of The Strong Girl Collective a gym for females which is based in Weaver Square. Jodie highlighted her gym as a safe space for women, particularly those who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence. She expressed interest in expanding services to provide greater support.

An ongoing project to map businesses within and near Weaver Square is underway to ensure proper communication about plans once a development partner is in place. The development brief emphasises accommodating existing businesses during design and construction phases. Strong Girl Collective and Goblin Café are excluded from the "red line" of the redevelopment zone.

The walkway from the car park to the gym is poorly lit, causing members to feel unsafe. Past issues with crime have been mitigated by installing shutters, but lighting remains a pressing concern.

Uncertainty about the fate of buildings on the other side of Witton Walk (e.g., Max Spielman and John Griffiths) prevents new tenancy commitments. Developers are being asked to prioritise residential spaces in their proposals, reducing the focus on new business units.

Councillor Kate Cernik thanked Jodie for her impactful work in supporting women through challenging circumstances.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Councillor Sam Naylor suggested Jodie consider opportunities in Barons Quay due to the ongoing redevelopment of Weaver Square.

Chief Officer mentioned an email contact established by Cheshire West Regeneration for concerns related to Weaver Square.

Councillor Kate Cernik encouraged Jodie to address the lighting issue directly with the management company.

NTC 24/72 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor Jo Callaghan and seconded by Councillor Julie Macdonald

All agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 24/73 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

5.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th November 2024.

5.2 To note the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 25th November 2024

Members noted the minutes of the meetings.

NTC 24/74 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – November 2024

Town Mayor's Communications	
6th November	Purple Poppies - Animals in War
10 th November	Northwich Town Council – Remembrance Sunday.
10 th November	Rudheath Parish Council – Remembrance Sunday. <i>Attended by Deputy Mayor</i>
11 th November	Northwich Town Council – Remembrance Service
14 th November	Sir John Deanes College – Musical Soiree
23 rd November	Christmas Extravaganza

Date.....

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Clr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/75 CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

Members received a report from Chief Officer.

Chief Officer will be presenting a report to Finance Committee for a 5 year contract for Christmas Lights and will be working on the budget this week.

NTC 24/76 RESIGNATION

Members thanked Councillor Amy Lockett for her work with the council for the last 5 years.

Members noted resignation of Cllr Amy Lockett

All agreed

NTC 24/77 POLICE UPDATE

Community Engagement

Op Sceptre Campaign: Education on knife crime delivered through school presentations (Year 6–11), and knife amnesty initiatives at public locations.

Youth Engagement: Discussions and planning for events with Winnington Youth Club to foster positive activities.

Remembrance Day: Officers participated in services to honour the Armed Forces.

Speed Enforcement and Parking

Speed Monitoring: Conducted at identified areas, with no offences recorded during sessions.

Parking Concerns: Collaboration with the enforcement team and guidance for residents to report issues online.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Youth ASB: Declining incidents reported in the town centre, though some issues like vandalism in Weaver Square persist.

Vehicle ASB: No significant reports from monitored areas.

St. Helens Church: Reports have decreased, but police encourage consistent reporting to address issues effectively.

PSPO in Effect: Enables action against public drinking and ASB.

Retail Crime

Two prolific shoplifters arrested, with court proceedings pending. Efforts include patrols, retailer support, and distribution of purse bells for shopper safety.

Significant Action

Successful Warrant: Six arrests made following intelligence work.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Plans for December

Christmas Awards: Recognising achievements of 44 children nominated by schools, supported by Northwich Town Council.

Operations for Safety: Increased patrols under "Op Jingle," road safety initiatives, and guidance for delivery drivers on theft prevention.

Speed and Parking Monitoring: Targeted areas identified through resident surveys.

Councillor Stephen Harcombe commented on the recent fire in Leftwich, linked to an unsecured empty building, raised concerns about the responsibilities of CWaC (Cheshire West and Chester Council) regarding property safety. Suggestions were made for the Town Council to advocate for a social audit of empty properties and explore their potential for community use. The formation of a task group to address empty building concerns was proposed.

Councillor Julie MacDonald commented that these properties could be used for homeless families in the area rather than having to go and live in Ellesmere Port.

Councillor Kate Cernik proposed that a letter be drafted and sent to CWaC leaders regarding empty assets in the area

Proposed by Councillor Jo Callaghan and seconded by Councillor Janet Illidge

7.15pm Councillor Arthur Neil left.

Councillor Patricia Parkes asked for an update on County Lines and PC Ogden will give an update on this later.

7.18pm Councillor Jane Thomas left.

NTC 24/78 OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Andy Kent updated members after speaking with MP Andrew Cooper that the rail company will be attending the train station in the future.

Rail Officer Sarah Muir will be celebrating Rail 200 in 2025 which is the 200th anniversary of the modern railway.

NTC 24/79 CWaC MEMBERS

Councillor Patricia Parkes highlighted the potential benefits of establishing a Transit Site in Cheshire West during a recent update. Councillor Parkes had recently visited the Transit Site in Middlewich and would like to see something similar in Cheshire West.

NTC 24/80 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 6th January 2025 at 6.00 pm
Councillor Kate Cernik wished everybody a very Happy Christmas.

Meeting closed 7.35pm.

Date.....

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CLlr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17th DECEMBER 2024 at 6.00pm

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

Also Present : Chris Shaw – Chief Officer
Cath Kirwan – Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

FIN24/29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr T Melville and Cllr A Gerrard

FIN 24/30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were given by Cllr J Macdonald to Northwich Metals and Cllr S Naylor Cllr R Waterman to Cheshire West and Chester. Cllr K Cernik and Cllr R Waterman to Dementia Friendly.

FIN 24/31 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18th November 2024 and noted at Full Council meeting on Monday 2nd December 2024.

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

FIN 24/32 DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET

RFO answered various members questions relating to budget headings.

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

FIN 24/33 BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT

Bacs payments and direct debit figure approved £121,048.11

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

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Date

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**Cllr Catherine Fox
Chair**

FIN 24/27 FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CHECK PAYMENTS

Members chose two payments from both November 2024 payments. DCO/RFO provided the evidence for:

Earth Anchors - £265.14
Thinkprint - £384.00

FIN 25/28 2024/2025 PRECEPT

Members discussed budget for 2024/2025. CO and RFO explained where the increases are needed, these are christmas lights and salaries. CO and RFO will discuss further, as they are waiting for the tax base figure to be circulated from CWaC. Updated information to be brought to finance meeting in January.

FIN 25/29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting Monday 20th January 2025 at 6.00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.45pm.

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Date

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**Cllr Catherine Fox
Chair**

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

Members Present

Cllr Julie Macdonald
Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Tom Melville
Cllr Bob Cernik
Cllr Kate Cernik

Also Present

Chris Shaw - Chief Officer
Cath Kirwan – Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

GC 24/01 TO APPOINT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2024-2025

Cllr Julie Macdonald was appointed Chair.
Proposed by Cllr Tom Melville and Cllr Catriona Stewart.

Cllr Bob Cernik was appointed Vice Chair.
Proposed by Cllr Tom Melville and seconded by Cllr Kate Cernik.

GC 24/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Patricia Parkes, Cllr Janet Illidge and Cllr Lee Siddall

GC 24/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interests.

GC 24/04 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 11th March 2024 and noted at the Town Council meeting on Monday 8th April 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

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

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Date

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Cllr Julie Macdonald
Chair

GC 24/05 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

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

It was resolved that the following donations be made.

Retrospective approved Leftwich Primary School - £500.00

Proposed by Cllr Tom Melville seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald all agreed

Cheshire Without Abuse (Known as MyCWA) - £620.00 (if this is based in Northwich and all the sessions are in Northwich).

Proposed by Cllr Tom Melville seconded by Cllr Bob Cernik all agreed

Superbox Northwich (CIC) - £500.00

Proposed by Cllr Tom Melville seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald all agreed

GC 24/06 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6pm

PART B

In accordance with the Local Government Act – Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the following agenda item is to be considered in the absence of press or public.

GC 24/07 TOWN AWARDS

Members discussed at length the Town Mayor Award nomination and the application process.

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Date

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**Cllr Julie Macdonald
Chair**

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 6th January 2025

Agenda Item : 6

Prepared By : Cath Kirwan

Subject : Town Mayor's Communications



Town Mayor's Communications	
1 st December	St. Lukes Hospice Christmas Light up Life Service <i>Attended by Deputy Mayor</i>
3 rd December	Kingsmead Primary School Mini Police
6 th December	Tree of Lights ceremony
17 th December	Grozone Christmas Pizza Day
18 th December	Sir John Deanes College, Spirit of Christmas
20 th December	Victoria Road Primary School, Christmas celebration assembly

Report to : Full Council

Meeting Date : 6th January 2025

Agenda Item : 8

Prepared By : Chris Shaw

Subject : Chief Officers Report



Belmont Road Play Area

Installation of Belmont Road Play Area will start at the end of January once all equipment has been delivered, we are estimating a four to five week build programme weather permitting. I will invite the Mayor and ward members, manufacturers and partners to site when we start for a photograph, date to be confirmed.

Rose Meadow Play Area

I have now sent the land transfer document to our solicitors for a quote to carry out land searches and other required searches, once this quote is received this will be passed onto Bellway Homes. I will continue to press CW&C Council and Bellway Homes so we can hopefully start the works in the Spring. All the play equipment is chosen and a contractor in place to install, we are just waiting for all the terms of the agreement to be agreed from all parties.

Additional AED Installations

Following on from a successful funding application we will be installing 2 more accessible AED's on Witton Street and Navigation Road. Along with these additional AED's we will also be installing trauma kits into the town centre AED cabinets, these kits help control catastrophic blood loss and are vital to help patients before the Ambulance Crews arrive on scene.

Sincere thanks to Cllr Sam Naylor, Cllr Felicity Davis, Cllr Arthur Neil, Rotary Northwich and Northwich BID for their financial contributions.

We now have 26 24 hr accessible AED's in our Parish which are all managed and maintained by Northwich Town Council, we also have one event AED which is used by parkrun each Saturday.

Christmas & New Year

The festive period was relatively quiet, we had staff on duty throughout this period carrying out a range of tasks in our parks and cemeteries.

Many thanks to all staff members who worked through this period.

Christmas Lights

Work will now begin on creating a tender for our Xmas Lights following a meeting with suppliers. The plan is to hire the lights over a 5-year period to spread the cost. A full report will be given at February Full Council.

Our current lights are owned by Northwich Town Council, but these are old and have significant repairs carried out on them each year. Further repairs are not viable, so this is why we are looking at a total replacement over a five year lease period.

After the five years are completed then we will replace again with a new scheme.

Additional Town Centre Cleansing/Grounds Maintenance

I am currently working with CW&C Council on proposals for Northwich Town Council to take on services provided by CW&C Council. Scope of works will initially be around cleansing and grounds maintenance with a view to increase over the coming years.

We already carry out some services in partnership with CW&C Council and this has seen an improvement in these areas.

A full Report will be given at the February meeting with identifying areas and associated costs.