

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 1st July 2024

Present:

Cllr Kate Cernik Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Andy Kent	Cllr Amy Lockett
Cllr Catriona Stewart	Cllr Andy Stott
Cllr Julie MacDonald	Cllr Bob Cernik
Cllr Arthur Neil	Cllr Joanne Callaghan
Cllr Alison Gerrard	Cllr Sam Naylor
Cllr Catherine Fox	Cllr Lee Siddall
Cllr Rachel Waterman	

Also present:

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

NTC 24/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Graham Emmett, Cllr Janet Illidge, Cllr Tom Melville, Cllr Jane Thomas, Cllr Olwyn Dean and Cllr Patricia Parkes.

NTC 24/14 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE KINGS HONOURS

Presented by: Eric Hodgson, Susan Sellars, and Mark Cashlin from the Cheshire Lieutenantcy Eric Hodgson explained the criteria for the King's Honours and requested help with nominations.

Susan Sellars is organizing nominations for the honours, which recognise outstanding achievements within the community.

Eligibility: No age restrictions; nominees must be currently active in their roles, typically for at least 3 years.

Nomination Requirements: Evidence, such as awards or memorable stories, is essential. Nominations require letters from two people, and confidentiality is maintained.

Support: Advice and mentorship are available for the nomination process. Process: After submission to the Cabinet Office, a due diligence process follows, taking up to 18 months before the King offers the honour.

Royal Garden Parties: These are additional recognition opportunities. Nominations are accepted year-round but must be submitted before December 1st.

Date.....

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Mark Cashlin emphasised the importance of community involvement in the nomination process. He also explained the King's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award for voluntary organisations.

Eligibility: Organisations must be at least 3 years old, have more volunteers than staff, and cannot focus solely on animal welfare. Previous winners or recent nominees are not eligible.

Recognition: The award includes the King's logo, a crystal award, and an invite to Buckingham Palace.

Councillors' Questions and Discussions

Councillor Sam Naylor inquired about the nomination process timeline, noting the impact of COVID-

19. Susan Sellars confirmed the process could take 18 months. Councillor Sam Naylor also asked if unsuccessful nominees are informed. Susan Sellars confirmed nominators can inquire with the Cabinet for updates.

Councillor Bob Cernik asked whether the honour level can be chosen. Susan Sellars clarified that this decision is made by the Cabinet.

Councillor Rachel Waterman encouraged councillors to consider nominations, highlighting the many unsung heroes in the town.

Councillor Kate Cernik suggested adding this topic to future agendas to create a systematic nomination approach.

Susan Sellars reiterated her team's support in recognizing unsung heroes and outstanding organisations.

Councillor Sam Naylor asked if overseas organisations can be nominated. Mark will confirm this later.

Mayor Kate Cernik thanked the presenters and highlighted the council's connections to the community, emphasising the council's role in nominations.

NTC 24/15 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 and Cllr Sam Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council. Cllr Alison Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/16 OPEN FORUM

Jan Smallwood (William Street resident) is concerned about the back alleyways, there has been a lot of fly tipping and in lockdown tidied her alleyway. This took a lot of work and a neighbour joined in and then another neighbour. In tidying this area up the fly tipping has reduced. The Council took 5 months to remove the waste but in threatening to go to the newspaper it was removed in a couple of days. A lot of people now use the alleyway, and the residents are very proud of what has been achieved. JS is asking for help towards a green bin to remove the waste. Another neighbour who is keen to help has asked if a gate can be installed to secure the area. Photos have been passed round and the alleyway is very impressive now. Councillor Catherine Fox confirmed that to get gates you would need everybody to agree and who would hold the keys to the gates. It is not impossible to achieve but everyone would need to agree. You may need to seek some legal guidance. These schemes have worked in Salford.

Councillor Kate Cernik commented that when she was a CWaC Councillor she had tried to implement this initiative in Winnington but unfortunately it was very difficult to achieve. Also, an agreement was required from the Police regarding anti-social behaviour. The assessment from the Police was that this could create more issues. Unfortunately, Northwich Town Council would be unable to help but advised that your Cheshire West and Chester ward councillor can offer advice and support on this matter.

Councillor Bob Cernik commented on the gating. When you are making your gardens look this beautiful you can apply for a grant for Northwich Town Council for funding towards the gate.

Councillor Julie MacDonald could other neighbours help cover the cost of a green bin. JS commented that she felt that she is saving CWaC money, alternatively apply for this through the grant at NTC.

Councillor Lee Siddall commented that it is pride in the community and not all people want to be involved. Could NTC have an Alley Awards system.

Councillor Arthur Neil commented that him and Councillor Fliss are meeting with CWaC Streetscene and will be asking for some alleyways to be tidied up and hopefully some schools will get involved.

Councillor Kate Cernik summarised that this is a careful situation and please apply for a NTC grant.

Councillor Sam Naylor praised JS for her hard work and will help with the council application and will do his best to offer support and use the alleyway as an example.

Councillor Rachel Waterman is very impressed with the work in the alleyway and could this be an entry in the Northwich in Bloom.

Jan Smallwood thanked the council and left the meeting.

Date.....

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Clr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/17 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor Bob Cernik and seconded by Councillor Julie MacDonald All agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 24/18 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

5.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 17th June 2024.

Noted by Cllr Catherine Fox

All agreed.

NTC 24/19 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – June 2024

Town Mayor's Communications	
6 th June	Verdin Park – Beacon Lighting
7 th June	National Shopmobility Awareness Day
7 th and 8 th June	Verdin Park Music Festival
14 th June	Middlewich FAB Festival
21 st June	Evening of Health and Wellbeing – <i>attended by Deputy Mayor</i>
25 th June	Scouts Annual AGM - <i>attended by Deputy Mayor</i>
28 th June	Daneside Mews – Open Day

NTC 24/20 CHIEF OFFICER REPORT

Members received a report from Chief Officer.

Summer Bedding - All summer bedding in installed.

Paddling Pool & Vickersway Park - Weather has been very disappointing and it has not been open much.

Belmont Road – Funding has now been applied for and a result will be issued in September.

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Beacon Lighting - Thursday 6th June, lighting of the Beacon – was a successful event

Verdin Park Music Festival – Many thanks for the staff and volunteers and a mention to Councillor Lee Siddall for all his hard work over the weekend. Date for next year to be confirmed next month.

7.07pm – Councillor Alison Gerrard left.

NTC 24/21 POLICE UPDATE

No Police officers attended.

NTC 24/22 ANNUAL PARISH ACTIONS

Members discussed the Annual parish Meeting members raised the following concerns.

Disused buildings at the bottom of Winnington Hill

Rachel Waterman raised concerns regarding the disused building at the bottom of Winnington Hill and what were the plans going forward for the building.

Action – To invite Cheshire West Leader and CEO, BID Northwich and the Localities Team to an open forum and work together and see what is possible to achieve. A working group to be formed to arrange the questions that we want answered.

Councillor Kate Cernik, Councillor Sam Naylor, Councillor Rachel Waterman and Councillor Catherine Fox will be part of the group.

Chief Officer to email Fifield Glynn and asked for a response to the concerns raised.

7.26pm – Councillor Amy Lockett left

Riverside Path to the rear of the Cresnet Leftwich

Andy Kent - raised concerns around the riverside path at the back of the Cresnet and what CRT/CW&C were doing regarding repair.

Response – I have emailed CRT and asked for a response to the question, I have also asked them to attend a Council meeting to discuss on going concerns.

Action – To chase CRT for a response

CRT Building

Bob Cernik – Building at Navigation Road, CRT premises requests and update.

Response – Please see above

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Action – Working group to be formed to contact CRT. Sam Naylor has spoken to CRT with regards to the CRT Assets and has been confirmed that the assets will be protected. Sam Naylor stressed that we are concerned and has suggested that we compile a letter which will list our concerns over the sale of these sites and a local consultation should happen.

7.35pm – Councillor Catherine Fox left.

7.38pm – Councillor Arthur Neil left.

Group: Councillor Sam Naylor, Councillor Graham Emmett, Councillor Andy Kent and Councillor Kate Cernik.

Town Bridge/Hayhurst Bridge Cleansing

Lee Siddall – Can Town Bridge/Hayhurst Bridge be cleaned. Response – Please see above

Timings for swinging town bridges

Andy Kent – Asked if there was a timetable for swinging the bridge. Response – Please see above

Winnington Urban Village

Jane Thomas – Requested an update on Winnington Urban Village. Response – Chief Officer to liaise with Ward Councillors

Town Centre Cleansing

Sam Naylor – Can the Town Centre cleansing be improved including around Sainsburys. Response I will work with BID/CW&C on improving the town centre cleansing.

Action – NTC is delivering this work on improving various sites.

NTC 24/24 OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Sam Naylor updated members on the Solar Farm and has asked for footage of this area and concerns around traffic congestion and the bridge capacity. Members will be receiving a report from CWaC Councillor Felicity Davis on this matter. Councillor Lee Siddall on behalf of Northwich Town Council will be attending the planning meeting as they have many concerns around this.

NTC 24/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 2nd September 2024 at 6.00 pm
Meeting closed 7.55pm.

Date.....

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Clr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

