

**NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Present:**

Cllr Julie MacDonald                      Deputy Town Mayor

**Councillors:**

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Cllr Andy Kent        | Cllr Amy Lockett     |
| Cllr Catriona Stewart | Cllr Andy Stott      |
| Cllr Joanne Callaghan | Cllr Rachel Waterman |
| Cllr Arthur Neil      | Cllr Jane Thomas     |
| Cllr Sam Naylor       | Cllr Olwyn Dean      |
| Cllr Lee Siddall      | Cllr Graham Emmett   |
| Cllr Janet Illidge    | Cllr Tom Melville    |

**Also present:**

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

**NTC 24/26    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Alison Gerrard, Cllr Kate Cernik, Cllr Bob Cernik, Cllr Catherine Fox and Cllr Patricia Parkes

**NTC 24/27    CHEQUE PRESENTATION FROM MAYORS CHARITY 2023/2024**

Cheque presented by Councillor Jane Thomas to Sarah Pickles, Butterfly Breast Cancer Charity and David Levins and Nic Davey from Cheshire Constabulary.

Councillor Sam Naylor commented on the high attendance of the Skate Park and feels this is well invested.

**NTC 24/28    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 Rachel Waterman and Cllr Sam Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

**Date**.....

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**Cllr Julie Macdonald**  
**Deputy Town Mayor**

## **NTC 24/29 OPEN FORUM**

Presented by: Mark Sullivan and Steve James, Sustainable Northwich

Mark has been keeping an eye on LSEP and has dialogue with them and a group of 12 were invited to have a look around, the site has now had planning permission and a permit granted. Concerns raised are what the actual impact will be when it starts to operate. Sustainable Northwich would like to know what the air is around the plant before it starts to operate. They are trying to persuade CWAC for some monitoring around the site so they have a baseline. As far as they are aware it is scheduled to start in 2026 so they feel they have enough time to implement this. There will be a large number of vehicles entering the site which will affect air pollution. CWAC has six monitoring stations around the borough and can monitor the particles, unfortunately they are not near to Northwich. This is measured by biomarkers and can be taken from fruit trees, chickens and eggs to see what is coming out of the stack. They have written to CWAC to see if this monitoring can be done and they are waiting for an outcome. Mark has requested that Northwich Town Council support them in this.

Steve James commented that the one that makes all the smell is up for sale but no interest yet. The LSEP site has been granted by the government, so the waste is brought in by vehicles. Steve feels this isn't a healthy outlook with the fumes polluting the environment.

Councillor Graham Emmett confirmed how he has been working to stop this plant but unfortunately in having the permit makes it easier for them. Councillor Graham Emmett will support them and feels it is a disgrace the way the carbon capture is not happening.

Steve James informed members that an open day on 28<sup>th</sup> September will be happening and anybody can attend.

Cllr Siddall commented on the monitors that have been installed by CWAC and would like to see them in Northwich. Cllr Siddall would like to see the use of rail instead of road. We need to be aware of how much pollution is going into the environment. Cllr Siddall asked where they would like to see the monitors. Mark commented probably near the roundabout and said now it will be quite hard to gate. The LSEP plant is costing £700 million and if they can spend that much on building it then surely, they can spend more on monitoring the environment.

Councillor Catriona Stewart commented that 4 months ago we had a meeting with Peak Cluster and asked if Carbon Capturing was in that – Mark commented that it wasn't.

Proposed that Northwich Town Council write a letter to Cheshire West and Chester asking for Air Quality Monitoring.

**Date.....**

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**Cllr Julie Macdonald**  
**Deputy Town Mayor**

*Proposed by 1<sup>st</sup> Cllr Arthur Neil seconded by Councillor Lee Siddall  
All agreed.*

Councillor Sam Naylor asked where will be waste come from to fire up this incinerator as the public are very good at recycling now. We need to keep the population safe. The stack will be tallest structure in Northwich, nearly 300ft high and there will be two of them. We need to use the railway to alleviate the traffic. We still face the prospect of 600 HGV coming and going out each day on an unsuitable road.

Councillor Julie Macdonald thanked them for the presentation.

#### **NTC 24/30    SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

4.1    The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

*Proposed by Councillor Janet Illidge and seconded by Councillor Lee Siddall*

*All agreed.*

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

#### **NTC 24/31    REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

5.1    To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

5.2    To note the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Councillor Graham Emmett asked about the Waters Cross, changing the use from over 55s to lowering the age and mentioned that the residents living there at the moment have strongly disagreed with this change with the Planning Officer.

Councillor Sam Naylor commented that the building replaced the old social services office. The building has been criticised but the other designs were atrocious, two residents have also been in touch with Councillor Sam Naylor as they have brought the property with it being a retirement flat.

*Members noted the minutes of the meetings.*

**Date.....**

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**Cllr Julie Macdonald  
Deputy Town Mayor**

## **NTC 24/32 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor's diary – July and August 2024

| Town Mayor's Communications |                                                                    |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> July        | Launch of the Visual Arts Cheshire Art Trail and Northwich LitFest |  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> July        | Northwich Musical Theatre Choir (Attended by Deputy Mayor)         |  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> July       | Townbridge Court                                                   |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> July       | Dementia Friendly Meeting                                          |  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> July       | Northwich River Festival                                           |  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> August      | Dementia Friendly Meeting                                          |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> August     | Creative Crafters Family Fun Day (Attended by Deputy Mayor)        |  |

## **NTC 24/33 CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT**

Members received a report from Chief Officer.

### **Weaver Square**

Councillor Lee Siddall commented on the shutters in Weaver Square and who is responsible to close them in the evening. Chief Officer confirmed that the shutters have been out of action for two years and they were condemned. Northwich Town Council has installed the shutters through Colliers, the management company are they are now responsible to closing the shutters.

### **Belmont Road & Rose Meadow Play Area Improvements**

Councillor Andy Kent asked if we knew what the hold up is on Rose Meadow regarding the play area and feels it is getting quite embarrassing as residents have asked numerous questions to what is going on. Councillor Rachel Waterman commented that the agreement will be signed this month and is due a catch up and will update members as Councillor Waterman is also receiving numerous enquires about Rose Meadow. Chief Officer confirmed that when the consultation first started, he was informed that it would be 6 months until a decision was made.

### **Solar Farm Leaflets**

Members to approve that Northwich Town Council pay the invoice of £260.50 for leaflets and not individual Councillors.

Decision of the Council is requested.

Proposed by Councillor Graham Emmett and seconded by Councillor Tom Melville.

All agreed

Date.....

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**Clr Julie Macdonald**  
**Deputy Town Mayor**

## **NTC 24/34    EVENTS UPDATE**

Members received an update from Chief Officer on past and upcoming events. Councillor Lee Siddall commented on how fantastic Pina Colada Event and what a great boost for businesses and thank you to Northwich Town Council staff and BID Northwich.

Councillor Andy Kent updated members on the towpath near and a meeting will be happening with CRT as they have a budget to repair this.  
7.00pm – Councillor Jane Thomas left.

## **NTC 24/35    POLICE UPDATE**

David Levins Neighbourhood Inspector LPU introduced himself and has been in post since January 2024. He commented on how Northwich is a safe town and that residents want to make it a better place. We have had a new PCC this year and has already promised to invest and tackle ASB and has been to Northwich and will be returning. The police always want to hear from the residents and has been dealing with complaints from Victoria House and tackling any problems with them. He opened an invitation to any Councillors to come out and see what they do and how they go about their duties. Retail theft is also on the increase as it is nationally too. Sainsburys, Tesco, Boots and Asda are popular sites with this crime. They are having great success with AI face recognition. There are pockets of ASB in the area. Priority for the Police will be concentrating on supporting victims of crime and protecting vulnerable people and how crime is reported.

Councillor Rachel Waterman reported on the high level of activity at Leftwich Green and had called 999 three times over the weekend and wondered if this was the right action to take. David Levins confirmed to keep calling 999 and reporting the crime.

PCSO Nic Davey talked about the Crucial Crew – where they go and deliver a drugs workshop but not many schools attend this due to cost.

Proposed to look at funding these Crucial Crew workshops for the five schools in Northwich. PCSO Nic Davey will confirm costs as this will be very beneficial to the children.

**Date.....**

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**Cllr Julie Macdonald**  
**Deputy Town Mayor**

PCSO Nic Davey updated members on the Football Sessions when over 20 children have joined this these and has been good to see. PCSO have arranged knife sweeps and have worked with the Ministry of Metal Detection, and it was great that no knives were found. They also supported the community safety event in Barons Quay and a great turnout from the community attended. A couple of crime prevention session will be happening in the next few months, and this will involve educating the elderly community with safeguarding. Shoplifting has been on the increase, but this is happening nationally too. There will be a week in October for Crime Prevention week where plain clothed officers will be around time trying to tackle ASB behavior over the summer has been greatly reduced compared to previous years. Weaver Square has now been secured thanks to Northwich Town Council to stop people breaking in and anti-vandal paint will be painted. Business needs to be responsible for clearing their rubbish and will be working with the BID to resolve this.

### **NTC 24/36    OUTSIDE FORUM**

Councillor Graham Emmett updated members on the Navigation Road, Dockyard site. He attended a meeting last Friday from a Charity who will be delivering a social housing site. He would like to form a sub-committee working group on this.

7.35pm Councillor Arthur Neil left the meeting.

Propose to create a sub committee

*Proposed by Councillor Andy Kent and seconded by Councillor Lee Siddall*

*Committee members will be Councillor Arthur Neil, Councillor Sam Naylor, Councillor Catriona Stewart, Councillor Jo Callaghan, Councillor Lee Siddall, Councillor Janet Illidge, Councillor Graham Emmett and Councillor Rachel Waterman. Dates to be confirmed.*

Councillor Andy Kent updated members on Northwich Railway Station. Councillor Andy Kent had a meeting with Andrew Cooper MP and is waiting for an update on the Station. The ticket office will be closed up until at least June 2025 due to the refurbishment. Andrew Cooper MP will be chasing this up. No update on the BIDS for Northwich and if declined an explanation will be sent. There will be a further meeting with a friends group who have been litter picking on a regular basis at the Penny Black, Northwich. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am, Northwich Town Mayor and Andrew Cooper will be coming to open the stations artwork which will make the station look more cared for and will be a nice welcome to visitors to the town. This artwork has been done by local school children and this will also be displayed in Church Walk Paddling Pool but on a smaller scale.

Councillor Rachel Waterman commented on how the Town Centre looked good and has suggested to CWaC that we have a pilot scheme to show how a town council can look after the town centre. Chief Officer reported that he has a meeting with BID to discuss the ongoing upkeep of the town.

Councillor Sam Naylor updated members on the library will be opening in 2026.

**Date.....**

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**Cllr Julie Macdonald**  
**Deputy Town Mayor**

**NTC 24/37    DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6.00 pm

Meeting closed 7.58pm.

Date.....

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**Cllr Julie Macdonald**  
**Deputy Town Mayor**

