

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

Present:

Cllr Kate Cernik Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Bob Cernik	Cllr Janet Illidge
Cllr Andy Stott	Cllr Joanne Callaghan
Cllr Rachel Waterman	Cllr Graham Emmett
Cllr Julie MacDonald	Cllr Stephen Harcombe
Cllr Sam Naylor	

Also present:

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

NTC 24/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Alison Gerrard, Cllr Andy Kent, Cllr Catriona Stewart, Cllr Arthur Neil, Cllr Tom Melville, Cllr Patricia Parkes, Cllr Jane Thomas, Cllr Olwyn Dean and Cllr Amy Lockett

NTC 24/53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:
Pecuniary Interest

Outside Bodies Interest
Family, Friend or Close Associate interest

Cllr Rachel Waterman and Cllr Sam Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

NTC 24/54 OPEN FORUM

Mark Sullivan from Sustainable Northwich addressed members regarding his concerns for the impending startup of LSEP. Mark thanked Northwich Town Council for its communication with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) regarding air quality monitoring. However, he noted that the current efforts are limited, covering only a single point near the road and not a comprehensive site sweep. Mark urged NTC to strengthen its stance, especially with the £700 million development he believes will disrupt the area, impacting roads and potentially releasing fly ash.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Mark commented on the recent open day at the incinerator with only 23 attendees, pointing out a lack of publicity. Plans were explained for a carbon dioxide collection pipeline (not affecting Northwich) and a government-funded hydrogen pipeline to be installed underground.

Mark emphasised the need for more rigorous air monitoring from CWaC, especially given potential pollution from incinerator emissions.

Councillor Kate Cernik's requested that CWaC Councillors investigate these concerns further. Councillor Janet Illidge shared concerns about potential environmental impact, referencing recent media coverage. Councillor Stephen Harcombe asked about specific hazardous emissions that might be overlooked. Mark explained that two large stacks will be constructed, and emissions will be regulated under an environmental permit. The Environmental Agency will oversee compliance, though monitoring is managed by LSEP, raising concerns about transparency and enforcement.

Councillor Bob Cernik's highlighted NTC's ongoing opposition to the development, questioning the efficacy of generating electricity from waste and advocating for independent air quality monitoring. Councillor Cernik reassured Mark of NTC's continued support.

Councillor Catherine Fox's suggested involving a consultancy to analyse air quality data, supporting Mark's call for detailed monitoring to ensure resident safety. It was also recognised that Sustainable Northwich's attempts at independent monitoring were financially unsustainable, urging CWaC to take on the responsibility.

Councillor Sam Naylor's shared his involvement with CWaC on the issue since 2014. Offered to assist Mark directly, addressing concerns on ash disposal via rail. Committed to supporting fixed air quality monitoring, advocating for ongoing comparison data.

Northwich Town Council plans to take a more strategic approach regarding the environmental impact of the plant.

PCSO Devey arrived 6.30pm.

Date.....

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CIlr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/55 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7th October be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Fox and seconded by Councillor Julie Macdonald

Chief Officer informed members that we had received correspondence from a member of the public regarding minutes and agendas not being posted on the website within correct timeframe.

Chief Officer will conduct a detailed review of the website publishing requirements for the Transparency Code in relation to NTC, and Standing Order requirements relating to minutes, and ensure we are compliant.

All agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 24/56 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

5.1 No Finance meeting due to not being quorate

5.2 To note the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 28th October 2024

Members noted the minutes of the meetings.

NTC 24/57 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – October 2024

Town Mayor's Communications	
6 th October	Town Mayors Annual Civic Sunday
15 th October	Police Community Cohesion Group
18 th October	Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership/Northwich Station Schools Art Project
18 th October	Penrhyn Male Voice Choir
24 th October	Omoda & Jaecoo Showroom Launch Event
25 th October	RBL Bikers Launch/Poppy Appeal Launch

Councillor Jo Callaghan arrived at 6.42pm

Date.....

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Clr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/58 CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

Members received a report from Chief Officer.

Councillor Lee Siddall commented on the Northwich Town Council staff who have been working hard planting and would like to pass on his thanks.

NTC 24/59 POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Devey presented to the councillors on recent events. PCSO reported 30 incidents on Halloween, a significant decrease from previous years. PCSO Devey attributed this improvement to proactive engagement with schools, where the team emphasised safety near roads, especially with shorter daylight hours. There have been a number of School Engagement Initiatives such as the police visiting schools to discuss knife crime awareness. A knife sweep is planned as part of the initiative to address community safety. PCSO Devey highlighted an increase in scams targeting elderly individuals, often involving gift cards particularly at Sainsburys. Customers' Nectar points have reportedly been targeted by scammers, and Sainsbury's is investigating these incidents.

Youths Causing Disturbances at Waitrose Boat Area. There have been ongoing issues with youth disturbances in the vicinity of Waitrose boats, which remain a focus area for PCSO Nik and her team. Shoplifting Concerns, with the approach of Christmas, shoplifting incidents are on the rise. PCSO Devey is collaborating with the Business Crime Manager to provide safety advice to local businesses.

Speed monitoring efforts have been active in the area, and PCSO Devey assured that these checks, including the use of a speed gun, would continue to help manage speeding concerns.

Vape Sales to Minors, the team is working alongside Regulatory Services to prevent underage sales of vape products.

PCSO Devey is working with the parking enforcement team to reduce instances of vehicles blocking pathways. Residents can report problematic parking on the Cheshire Constabulary website.

A recent large-scale operation led to the arrest of four individuals, with seizures of money and drugs.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Councillor Julie Macdonald: Inquired about the success of educating high school students through the Crucial Crew program. Councillor Lee Siddall noted residents' complaints about speeding on Walker Street. PCSO Devey agreed to set up

monitoring to address the issue.

Councillor Kate Cernik extended thanks to PCSO Devey for the comprehensive update and the ongoing efforts in the community.

NTC 24/60 MAYORS AWARD

Members agreed to have a Mayors Award for Northwich residents who have gone above and beyond for the community.

Officers will now work on delivering this award through our Grants Committee

Proposed by Cllr Julie Macdonald seconded by Cllr Rachel Waterman

All agreed.

NTC 24/61 HR PROVISION

Members agreed to accept the proposal from Wirehouse Employer Services for £297.50 per month over a 3 year contract.

Proposed by Cllr Joanne Callaghan seconded by Cllr Catherine Fox

All agreed.

NTC 24/62 NORTHWICH FESTIVE LIGHTING

Members agreed to allow the Chief Officer to approach three festive light suppliers to supply quotes for a 5-year leasing period for festive lights in Northwich. This is from 2025 – 2030 and approach BID Northwich for a contribution.

Proposed by Cllr Julie Macdonald seconded by Cllr Lee Siddall

All agreed.

NTC 24/63 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY INCREASE

Members approved the pay agreement for 2024-2025 backdated to 1st April 2024

This will be a cost to the council of approx. £20,000

Proposed by Cllr Bob Cernik seconded by Cllr Sam Naylor

All agreed.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/64 EVENTS UPDATE

Chief Officer updated members on upcoming events and asked for volunteers.

NTC 24/65 WADE WORKS ALLOTMENTS

Chief Officer updated members on the new housing estate on Hargreaves Road, Northwich (the old Wade Works). The current plan includes 7 allotment plots at 125 m2 which the development company would like Northwich Town Council to Manage.

Councillor Janet Illidge suggested for them to form an association, but this was already discussed with the developer and dismissed.

Councillor Catherine Fox said that if NTC were to manage it we would need to increase the price of the allotment fee to cover the cost.

Councillor Sam Naylor suggested that Sustainable Northwich could possibly take this.

Councillor Bob Cernik and Lee Siddall would like to go back for another discussion with the developers and the possibility of a better deal.

Members agreed on Option 2 for Officers to have further discussions with the developer to reduce costs.

Proposed by Cllr Janet Illidge seconded by Cllr Bob Cernik

All agreed.

NTC 24/66 OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Sam Naylor discussed the Local Strategic Economic Plan (LSEP) and emphasised that the council has taken all feedback from Mark Sullivan into consideration.

Councillor Rachel Waterman requested information on areas with poor mobile phone coverage so she can address these issues. Councillor Waterman also provided an update on the Mid Cheshire Plan which aims to unify Middlewich, Winsford and Northwich for economic growth. Councillor Waterman, a Mid Cheshire Champion, reported that a consultant is currently drafting a report. Councillor Waterman raised questions regarding Rose Meadow; the Chief Officer informed her that Bellway is currently handling the matter, with an update expected soon. Residents are encouraged to contact the management company directly for further details.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Councillor Catherine Fox collaborated with Councillor Waterman on the high street signage issue, reinforcing that the current advertisements are not appropriate for the area.

Councillor Kate Cernik was pleased to announce her new role as a Director with HealthWatch, which is an organisation focused on health and social care advocacy. Members congratulated her on this new role.

NTC 24/67 CW&C MEMBERS

No updates as previously covered in other areas of the agenda.

NTC 24/68 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 2nd December 2024 at 6.00 pm

Meeting closed 7.35pm.

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Date.....

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ClIr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor