

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 20TH MAY 2024

Present: Councillor Ms. Jane Thomas – Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr J Callaghan	Cllr K Cernik
Cllr B Cernik	Cllr A Cooper
Cllr A Kent	Cllr J MacDonald
Cllr S Naylor	Cllr L Siddall
Cllr C Stewart	Cllr R Waterman

Also Present: Mr. C. Shaw – Chief Officer
Mrs. C. Kirwan – Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

Guests: Invited guests of the incoming Mayor

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 7.00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Council.

24/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. T. Melville, Cllr C Fox, Cllr P Parkes, and Cllr A Neil, Cllr O Dean, Cllr G Emmett, Cllr J Illidge, Cllr A Lockett

24/02 NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF TOWN MAYOR

The Town Mayor, Cllr Jane Thomas called for nominations for the Office of Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. Cllr. Catriona Stewart proposed the Motion that Cllr. Kate Cernik be elected as Town Mayor for the coming year. Cllr. Andy Kent seconded the Motion. The Town Mayor called for any other nominations, and the Motion was put to the vote. There were no further nominations. Motion carried, All in favour.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Kate Cernik be elected as Town Mayor of Northwich for the ensuing year. The Town Mayor, Cllr. Jane Thomas, Town Mayor elect, and the Chief Officer then left the meeting to exchange Mayoral Robes and Chain of Office. The new Town Mayor then returned to the meeting, read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

24/03 TOWN MAYOR - VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Sam Naylor proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor Cllr. Jane Thomas, for her previous year of Office saying it was both a privilege and honour to deliver this vote of thanks. He also thanked all those attending. Cllr. Andrew Cooper seconded the vote and added her thanks. Cllr. Jane Thomas responded to the vote of thanks, and delivered his own closing speech, in which he highlighted some of the main functions and events he had attended during his year in Office.

Town Mayor donations to Sarah Pickles (Breast Cancer), Police (Youth Initiative) and Lee Siddall (River Heroes).

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

24/04 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR 2024-2025

The Town Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Town Mayor for the forthcoming Civic Year. Cllr. Lee Siddall proposed the Motion that Cllr Julie Macdonald be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the coming year. Cllr. Rachel Waterman seconded the Motion. The Town Mayor called for any other nominations before putting the Motion to the vote. No further nominations made. Motion carried. All in favour.

It was proposed by Cllr Jo Callaghan that Councillor Bob Cernik become the Mayors Consort and Cllr Andy Stott seconded the proposal. All agreed.

RESOLVED

That Cllr. Jane Macdonald be elected for the Deputy Mayor of Northwich for the ensuing year. Cllr. Jane Macdonald was then presented with the Chain of Office, read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and gave thanks for her election.

Cllr Bob Cernik to become the Mayors Consort and proposed by Cllr Joanne Callaghan and second by Cllr Andy Stott. All agreed.

24/05 MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

List of Members of Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies had been previously circulated to members and are as follows. These were proposed by Cllr. Lee Siddall and seconded by Cllr. Ms Patricia Parkes. Approved en bloc. All in favour.

Approved

Town Council Committees 2024-2025

Finance & General Purposes Committee

This meeting is to be held the third Monday of each month at 6.00 p.m.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Lee Siddall | 2. Tom Melville |
| 3. Rachel Waterman | 4. Catherine Fox |
| 5. Julie McDonald | 6. Kate Cernik |
| 7. Sam Naylor | 8. Alison Gerrard |
| 9. Vacant | 10. Vacant |

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Planning & Environment Committee

This meeting will be held every fourth Monday of the month at 5.00 p.m.

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Bob Cernik | 2. Patricia Parkes |
| 3. Jo Risley | 4. Andy Kent |
| 5. Catarina Stewart | 6. Andy Stott |
| 6. Janet Illidge | 8. Andrew Cooper |
| 9. Catherine Fox | 10. Vacant |

Grants Committee

Meetings will be held on the following dates at 6.30 p.m.

18th July 2024 and 14th November 2024

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Amy Lockett | 2. Rachel Waterman |
| 3. Tom Melville | 4. Kate Cernik |
| 5. Robert Cernik | 6. Jane Thomas |
| 7. Julie MacDonald | 8. Janet Illidge |
| 9. Patricia Parkes | 10. Lee Siddall |

Amenities Committee

Meetings will be held at 6.30 p.m. every 2 months. Dates to be confirmed at Full Council meetings.

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lee Siddall | 2. Patricia Parkes |
| 3. Graham Emmett | 4. Catriona Stewart |
| 5. Julie MacDonald | 6. Andrew Cooper |
| 7. Andy Kent | 8. Jo Callaghan |
| 9. Arthur Neil | 10. Olwyn Dean |

Date.....

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CLlr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

Policy & Operations Committee

Chair & Vice from all the above Committees, meetings as requested.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Town Mayor | 2. Deputy Town Mayor |
| 3. Chair of Planning & Environment | 4. Vice Chair of Planning & Environment |
| 5. Chair of Grants | 6. Vice Chair of Grants |
| 7. Chair of Amenities | 8. Vice Chair of Amenities |
| 9. Chair of Finance | 10. Vice Chair of Finance |

Personnel Committee to be agreed at first meeting of Policy & Operations

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|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

Proposed by Cllr A Cooper seconded by Cllr J Thomas
All Agreed

Representatives on Outside Bodies 2024-2025

ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	PROPOSED COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE	PERIOD OF OFFICE
Sir John Deane's College Foundation Trust	1	Councillor Bob Cernik	1 year
Northwich BID	3	Chris Shaw (Chief Officer) Councillor Sam Naylor Councillor Rachel Waterman	1 year
Cheshire Association of Local Councils (CHALC)	2	Chris Shaw (Chief Officer) Councillor Kate Cernik	1 year
Manchester International Airport	2	Chris Shaw (Chief Officer)	1 year

		Councillor Sam Naylor	
Mid Cheshire Community Rail	2	Councillor Andy Kent Councillor Julie Macdonald	1 year
Warrington & Vale Royal College	2	Councillor Olwyn Dean Councillor Sam Naylor	1 year
Dong Energy	2	Councillor Julie Macdonald Councillor Sam Naylor Councillor Bob Cernik	1 year
River Festival	3	Chris Shaw (Chief Officer) Councillor Rachel Waterman Councillor Amy Lockett	1 year
TATA Heat and Power now LSEP	2	Councillor Sam Naylor Councillor Graham Emmett	1 year
Care Community	1	Councillor Kate Cernik Councillor Rachel Waterman	1 year
Dementia Friendly Northwich	3	Councillor Kate Cernik Councillor Rachel Waterman Councillor Lee Waterman	1 year

24/06 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. It applies to all principal councils (district, county and unitary councils etc). It also applies to eligible¹ parish and town councils. It replaces the wellbeing powers in England that were provided under the Local Government Act 2000.

The scope – and some limitations – of the General Power are set out in sections 1 to 6 of the Localism Act 2011.

In summary, the GPC enables councils to do things:

- an individual may generally do
 - anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- for a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area (although in practice councils will want to realise such benefits).

But there are some limitations on General power, either because they are not things which an individual can do or because they are excluded by the Act. The GPC will not:

- provide councils with new powers to raise tax or precepts or to borrow
- enable councils to set charges for mandatory services, impose fines or create offences or byelaws, over and above existing powers to do so
- override existing legislation in place before the Localism act 2011, so-called ‘pre-commencement limitations’ (however powers enacted after commencement of the GPC will only limit the GPC if this explicitly stated in the legislation).

Where using the GPC for charging or trading purposes, the recipient should agree to the service being provided, the income from charges should not exceed the cost of provision and, where things are done for commercial purposes, this must be done through a specified type of company.

Notwithstanding the limitations outlined above, the GPC remains a broad power.

As part of the Government's wider localism agenda, the GPC is intended not only to increase local authority powers but to give greater confidence in the scope of those powers and to signal that how those powers are used is a matter for local authorities (Department for Communities and Local Government, November 2011).

It should encourage more managed risk taking by councils. In enacting the GPC, the Government intended to remove the uncertainty which had arisen around the scope of the previous wellbeing powers – to promote the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of a council's area – where the courts had found that these powers did not enable councils to enter some arrangements such as a mutual insurance company across several councils – the so-called London Authorities Mutual Ltd (LAML) case in 2009.

Cllr. Jane Thomas proposed that we adopt the General Power of Competence and this was seconded by Cllr Andrew Cooper,

All agreed
Approved

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

24/07 NTC STANDING ORDERS

Members were requested to agree the Council Standing Orders which had been previously received. Cllr. Andrew Cooper proposed the Motion to accept, and this was seconded by Cllr. Ms. Jane Thomas.

All agreed

Approved

24/08 ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023-2024

Schedule of Councillor's attendances was submitted for members information, previous to this meeting, and were noted.

24/09 MEETING CALENDAR 2024-2025

Members were requested to agree the Calendar of Meetings for the forthcoming year, Cllr. Bob Cernik proposed a Motion to accept, this was seconded by Cllr. Andrew Cooper.

All agreed.

Approved

24/10 SECOND INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT – JDH BUSINESS SERVICES

CO discussed the AGAR figures with members which were approved to be sent off to the External Auditors.

Proposed by Cllr C Stewart seconded by Cllr L Siddall

All agreed

Approved

24/11 YEAR END AUDIT – JDH BUSINESS SERVICES

The internal audit from JDH Business Services for 2023/24 issues, recommendations and follow ups were discussed in detail with members, which were accepted.

Proposed by Cllr C Stewewart and seconded by Cllr L Siddall

All agreed

Approved

24/12 AGAR 2023/2024

Members approved Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/2024

All agreed

Approved

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, and Mayor making ceremony, the newly elected Town Mayor joined fellow members, family and friends for celebratory refreshments in the Council Chambers.

Meeting Closed at 7.40pm.

Date.....

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**Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor**

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