

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2025

Present:

Cllr Kate Cernik

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Graham Emmett

Cllr Sam Naylor

Cllr Olwyn Dean

Cllr Rachel Waterman

Cllr Andy Kent

Cllr Lee Siddall

Cllr Bob Cernik

Cllr Julie MacDonald

Cllr Stephen Harcombe

Cllr Janet Illidge

Cllr Andy Stott

Also present:

Cath Kirwan

Deputy Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer

NTC 24/109 PRESENTATION OF GRANTS CHEQUES

Councillor Kate Cernik presented a cheque to Superbox - £500.00

NTC 24/110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Catriona Stewart, Cllr Arthur Neil, Cllr Catherine Fox, Cllr Alison Gerrard, Cllr Patricia Parkes, Cllr Joanne Callaghan and Cllr Tom Melville

NTC 24/111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

Pecuniary Interest

Outside Bodies Interest

Family, Friend or Close Associate Interest

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

NTC 24/112 OPEN FORUM

Members received a presentation from Victoria Roberts who is studying towards a masters degree on Northwich flooding and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The project is a community consultation focused on flooding issues. It was highlighted that 3 million properties in the UK are at risk of flooding and the importance of SuDS in flood management. Victoria would like to engage with the public in discussions regarding flood risks and mitigation strategies.

Councillor Bob Cernik Suggested identifying heavily populated areas affected by recent flooding, including Percy Street, Weaver Court, the Marina and local schools. Recommended consulting Karen Shore (CWaC) and Cllr Naylor for strategic planning. Noted that the Saxons Lane Marina development is considering the implementation of SuDS.

Cllr Naylor spoke highly of the recent flood defenses that are now in place.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/113 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2025 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Dean and seconded by Cllr Harcombe

All agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 24/114 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 17th February 2025.

6.2 To note the Planning Committee Meeting held on 24th February 2025.

Members noted the minutes of the meetings.

NTC 24/115 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – February 2025

Town Mayor's Communications	
14 th February	Goodoaks Homecare, Valentines Coffee Morning
14 th February	Legally Blonde, Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College
18 th February	Beauty and the Beast, The Grange Theatre, Hartford
22 nd February	Northwich Rugby Club, 60 th Anniversary pre-match meal
10 th February	Belmont Road play Area
27 th February	Official opening of New Block 10 Learning Centre, Sir John Deanes College <i>attended by Deputy Mayor</i>

NTC 24/116 CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

Members received the report from the Deputy Chief Officer

Cllr Siddall thanked everyone for the fantastic job. It shows pride in the town.

Cllr Bob Cernik again thanked everyone for their partnership working and this is a great working model.

Cllr Kate Cernik thanked Northwich Town Council for their work.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/117 POLICE UPDATE

ASB within the town centre
YOUTH ASB

Barons Quay/ASDA have reported some issues with youths attended the site throwing cones in the foyer near to the travelator and being abusive towards staff. CCTV is being reviewed to see if the youths can be identified.

Regular visits to staff at Mcdonalds are made during shifts and no staff are reporting any issues with youths, however still getting reports of youths congregating outside blocking the pavements with their bikes and leaving the area in a mess with litter. This area will be patrolled during weekends and half terms to support the staff and the town.

BEGGING

Received reports from members of the public regarding people begging in the town centre – Main area's where the begins takes place is Sainsburys, McDonalds, Pound Bakery and near to Greggs.

PCSO'S and Community safety wardens will be patrolling these areas to provide a visual deterrent and to take positive action against anyone committing the offence.

STREET DRINKING

Goblin Games reporting issues with people drinking alcohol in the street close to their premises, believed to be the homeless community and associates. PSPO is still in place and positive action will be taken against anyone breaching this. The staff have been advised to report all incidents via 101/ online submission for the issues to be documented accordingly.

PARKING - Winnington Estate

PCSO Faulkner and Cllr Dennis have been in contact with the Manager of Sauna Sauna regarding parking complaints received from residents on the Winnington Estate – I had a meeting with the manager and discussed possible solutions parking attendant etc, However they both believe a meeting with local residents in a community building would be the best option so we can hear the concerns raised and provide answers/ guidance accordingly. From what they have witnessed no parking offences have been committed as there are limited restrictions in place on the estate.

PARKING DAHLIA CRESCENT

Complaints have been received from residents on Dahlia Crescent regarding parking issues when there are sporting events on at Moss Farm, PCSO Faulkner has spoken to several residents reporting issues in particular on a Sunday. PCSO Faulkner has patrolled this area last week and no offences were observed. I am aware that Cllr Dennis has been in contact with Moss Farm to see if this matter can be resolved.

YOXALL JOINERS

After recent complaints last month regarding this site Reg Services had made contact with the owners who then secured the property, however this last week has seen one of the boards removed from the front windows. PCSO Faulkner has informed Shola from reg services who has once again made contact with the owners, further patrols will be made to ensure no ASB is taking place at the location.

Still no reports regarding vehicle ASB on the car parks within the town. The signs still seem to be having an impact aswell as Matalan who have implemented new restrictions preventing people being in the car park for more than 10mins after closing. However, these area's will still be monitored to provide reassurance to residents, members of public in the area.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

HOMELESS

Currently there are three homeless people living on the land behind the job centre in a disused building. These people are still there, I was informed by the CSW that this building

was due to be demolished by the end of last week however this has not happened. PCSO Faulkner is waiting for an update regarding the progress of this. The homeless are still in contact with Forfutures but are not engaging as well as we hoped. Last week an incident was reported by the group stating that a group of youths had accessed the land and had set fire to one of their tents, CCTV was reviewed however due to the poor quality the offenders have not been identified. I have been made aware that there is also another homeless person on the town centre behind B&M on my patrols I have not been able to speak with this person as they have not been at the location, I am making enquires with Forfutures to see if they have been referred to themselves for support.

GOOD NEWS

A prolific shoplifter has been sentenced to 46 weeks in prison for offences committed on the town centre.

NORTHWICH AGAINST BUSINESS CRIME TEAM

Working closely with the NABC team we have been able to identify several suspects for numerous Shoplifting offences in the Northwich Town centre. Once identified these incidents are then passed to a Police Officer who will then be able to investigate, obtain all the relevant evidence and bring the offenders to court. Partnership working with the NABC team allows both Police and Cheshire west to share intelligence around offenders, new trends and also targeted products – This information allows both agencies to inform shops so that the appropriate crime prevention advice can be given. If we see that certain shops are being targeted, I will invite our Crime prevention Officer to attend the store and complete an assessment of the site to Target harden the location. A training session has been organised by the NABC team to work with retailers to show them what to look out for regarding going equipped – using detagging devices and foil line bags' also to discuss shop layouts and other crime prevention methods. This will take place on the 18th March.

HOUSING

Regular contact is made with the staff at Victoria House whereby we discuss problematic tenants, suspicious behaviour and the movement of tenants to other areas within Northwich, this allows the Police to manage offenders and be proactive in dealing with potential issues.

EVENTS

During February we attended several primary schools to discuss internet safety – this is a great way to engage with the children about how to stay safe online. Charles Darwin and Barnton Primary were visited, Witton Walk was rescheduled as I had laryngitis, and Victoria Road are getting booked in for this month.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

PCSO Faulkner attended Charles Darwin to discuss ROAD SAFETY with the pupils and conducted a whole school presentation and also conducted a parking patrol with the Junior Safety Officers. Future visits are planned to tackle the school parking issues.

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NATIONAL KNIFE CRIME WEEK

To support this initiative PCSO Nixon is in the process of booking in the Nurse to attend local high schools. So far, we have one school confirmed and we are waiting for confirmation from others. We have also been in talks with the staff at Winnington Youth group

Can I please remind all Councillors that if a resident from your ward wishes to raise a concern that requires Police involvement, then please direct them to Ringing 101/ 999, Cheshire Police Website where they can submit an online report or complete a Resident

Voice Survey.

This allows all concerns to be raised officially on Police systems and assists local officer in producing a patrol plan for their patches. It also means that should a member of staff change their area or report Sick the information will be recorded and passed onto the most appropriate patrol.

Cllr Kate Cernik would like to express her thanks for PCSO Faulkner for the detailed report

NTC 24/118 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

Council resolved at a previous meeting for Northwich Town Council work towards obtaining Gold in the Local Council Award Scheme.

The LCAS exists to celebrate the successes of the very best Local Councils and to provide a framework to support all Local Councils to meet their full potential.

The scheme was created in 2014 and is managed on behalf of local councils by the Improvement and Development Board (IDB). Councils can apply for an award at one of three levels: The Bronze Award, The Silver Award and The Gold Award.

The scheme sets out criteria to meet at each level covering selected aspects of the council's work. Councils can seek to progress through the tiers over time thereby raising standards and it is my intention to start on the Silver Award as soon as Bronze is complete.

Proposal

Before applying for the Bronze award, members will need to confirm by resolution that all the required documents, information and conditions are in place for the Bronze award, and that these are published on the council's website, where applicable.

Application form attached for your information, along with five updated or new policies which will be placed on the website once approved.

Members to approve attached policies and agree that all information and conditions are correct and in place to enable officers to submit to NALC.

Proposed by Cllr Emmett and seconded by Cllr McDonald

All agreed

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/119 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Andy Kent updated members on the Friends of Northwich Train Station. A canopy will be installed so it will be easier to buy tickets as the sun can make it hard to view the options. The picket fence will be removed and artwork from Jim Stanley will be installed at the Manchester bound platform. A litter pick will take place on the 4th March. Northern Rail to look at install a cigarette bin. Northern Rail are keen to celebrate Rail 200 with the possibility of a one-off train journey. Northwich is a busy train station and is well used.

Cllr Kate Cernik thanked Cllr Kent for his continued support with the train station.

Proposal - Letter to be wrote to CWaC regarding the state of the building and the loss of the annual grant.

Proposed by Cllr Siddall and seconded by Cllr McDonald

All agreed

NTC 24/120 CWaC MEMBERS

Cllr Naylor provided an update on recent meetings and attended the opening of the new Mosque at the old Citizen Advice Bureau building and they have done a fantastic job with redevelopment of the building.

CWaC councillors received a presentation from NHS and the refurbishment of Leighton Hospital as this will be a pioneering development.

Presentation from Andy Burnham regarding devolution.

20 mph speed limited were introduced in the borough in the past but some schools in the borough do not have this speed limit in place. This will be discussed in more detail at CWaC Scrutiny meeting.

Cllr Waterman provided an update from the flood prevention group are a group of engineers who delivered a very positive meeting.

Rose Meadow – press release to be wrote regarding an update.

Mid Cheshire Development Board has now retired, and a new group will be formed and a new identify will be developed and a new action plan will be published.

Winnington Rec has now gone into liquidaton. a meeting on 7th March with the MP will be held to discuss the possible potential of the club. Update to be given when available.

Weaver Square – new market to open in Barons Quay in 2026.

Cllr Lee Siddall raised concerns on the danger of Weaver Square being derelict.

Cllr Olwyn Dean updated members on a community clean up near Liverpool Street and would like volunteers to help on Sunday 9th March at 9.30pm. Please contact Cllr Dean should you wish to volunteer

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor

NTC 24/121 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 7th April 2025 at 6.00 pm

Meeting closed 7.20pm

Date.....

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Cllr Kate Cernik
Town Mayor