

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 2nd JUNE 2025

Present:

Cllr Julie MacDonald Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Emma Guy	Cllr Bob Cernik
Cllr Kate Cernik	Cllr Rachel Waterman
Cllr Stephen Harcombe	Cllr Alison Gerrard
Cllr Andy Kent	Cllr Patricia Parkes
Cllr Lee Siddall	Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Arthur Neil	Cllr Andy Stott
Cllr Joanne Callaghan	Cllr Janet Illidge

Also present:

Cath Kirwan Deputy Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer

NTC 25/01 PRESENTATION OF MAYORS AWARD

Councillor Kate Cernik presented the Mayor's Award to the family of the late David Lanham. Councillor Arthur Neil reflected on the fond memories of David's contributions to his work.

NTC 25/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Graham Emmett, Cllr Tom Melville, Cllr Olwyn Dean, Cllr Sam Naylor, Cllr Jane Thomas, and Cllr Catherine Fox.

NTC 25/03 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, Cllr Arthur Neil, Councillor Patricia Parkes declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council. Cllr Alison Gerrard an interest in Rudheath Parish Council.

NTC 25/04 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

Date.....

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Cllr Julie Macdonald
Town Mayor

NTC 25/05 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7th April 2025 be

- confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.
- 5.2 Of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025
- 5.3 Of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025

Members are required to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Rachel Waterman and seconded by Cllr Catriona Stewart

All agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 25/06 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2025.
- 6.2 To note Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2025

Members noted the minutes of the meetings.

NTC 25/07 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – April and May 2025

Date.....

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Cllr Julie Macdonald
Town Mayor

Town Mayor's Communications	
2 nd April	AED Install at Methodist Church, Witton Street and North West Performance (Navigation Road)
11 th April	Northwich Rotary Club
13 th April	Veterans Breakfast Club
24 th April	Cheshire West Community and Voluntary Arts Award
26 th April	No Limits Event
28 th April	Chrysalis Day Nursery
1 st May	Year 13 Awards Evening – Sir John Deanes College
1 st May	Northwich Gateway Club <i>attended by Deputy Mayor</i>
20 th May	VivoCare, Vivos Got Talent
23 rd May	The Band Performance at Brio Leisure
24 th May	Northwich Mosque
25 th May	Civic Service, Chester

NTC 25/08 CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

Members received the report from the Chief Officer.

NTC 25/09 POLICE UPDATE

During April and May, Cheshire Police received 6,491 emergency (999) calls. They

responded to 92.7% of Grade 1 (emergency) incidents within 15 minutes and 81% of Grade 2 (priority) incidents within 60 minutes. A total of 360 residents responded to the Residents Voice Survey over the two months. The most common community concerns reported were parking (49 mentions), speeding (42), and issues involving youths and drugs (32). In terms of public confidence, 22.3% of respondents strongly agreed that the police are dealing with anti-social behaviour (ASB) effectively, while 26.9% tended to disagree. Visibility of police in the community was also mixed, with 22.6% strongly agreeing that police are visible and 27.4% tending to agree.

Notable enforcement activity included a drugs warrant executed in the town centre on April 28th, resulting in two arrests and the seizure of suspected drugs, mobile phones, and prop money. The investigation is ongoing. A well-known shoplifter in Northwich was again arrested in early May, and police are considering long-term solutions to address both his behaviour and the impact on the community.

There were 17 ASB reports in the Winnington and Castle beat during April and May, all within the town centre footprint, with no single location emerging as a hotspot. Chester Way, Victoria House, and Park Road saw the highest number of incidents. Increased attention is being given to enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Northwich, particularly around street drinking. Officers are being encouraged to take firmer action, and additional support from CSW officers is being arranged, with the help of Sam Chapman. Police are also aware of a group of homeless individuals frequently present in Northwich. One is on the waiting list for housing at Victoria House, two need assistance with homeless applications, and another is currently serving a short sentence for offences committed outside the area.

Looking at ASB trends during the summer months in previous years, 72 incidents were recorded between June and August 2022, 58 incidents during the same period in 2023, and 71 in 2024. The incidents ranged from homeless-related issues near supermarkets to youth-related disturbances at locations like Barons Quay, McDonald's, and the Odeon.

NTC 25/10 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Andy Kent provided an update on the Friends of Northwich Train Station. Activity is ongoing in collaboration with Mid Cheshire Rail, including the recent unveiling of artwork by Jim Stanley, funded by the community partnership. A range of further improvements are planned over the summer. The group is also working with Grozone and Northwich Town Council to plant wildflowers around the station area. Encouragingly, there has been a 24% increase in station traffic, and train punctuality has seen notable success.

However, there was less positive news regarding the ticket office refit by Network Rail. Despite earlier commitments, the project will not meet its initial deadline. It is now anticipated that work will begin in September. The local MP has arranged a meeting to seek an explanation for the delays. Thanks were extended to Cllr Rachel Waterman and Cllr Olwyn Dean for contributing from their members' budgets toward the purchase of essential materials for the ongoing work.

Date.....

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Cllr Julie MacDonald
Town Mayor

Cllr Kate Cernik updated members on the Care Community initiative and progress on compiling information about local groups, which will soon be made available to the public. Efforts continue to ensure that new developments incorporate community space. Although the new library will include such a space, it will be limited in size.

NTC 25/11 CWaC MEMBERS

Cllr Arthur Neil provided an update on the expression of interest regarding Jubilee Fields. Discussions are ongoing with the Canal and River Trust concerning the land at Navigation Road and its potential development. He also reported on his regular monthly meetings with the hospital, particularly raising concern that NHS staff are currently required to pay for parking, which he found quite shocking. Additionally, he noted that Romaines Street has recently been cleared and tidied.

Cllr Rachel Waterman updated members on the disruption caused by the ongoing works on London Road. She shared her concern over the lack of clear communication with residents and reported that during the second night of works, she was spoken to disrespectfully by contractors. She stressed the need for better communication and respect in future works. Regarding Leftwich Care Home, the matter is currently with legal representatives and discussions are ongoing about required electrical work. It is hoped that the home will reopen soon. On a positive note, the new Northwich Library is expected to open in 2026. Local businesses are hopeful this will improve footfall and trade in the area.

On Weaver Square, Cllr Rachel Waterman noted that significant activity is happening behind the scenes, with the area identified as a key focus for a major redevelopment project. In relation to Northwich Market, the intention is to relocate it from Weaver Square to Barons Quay. Recent open days regarding this proposal were reported as highly successful, and the public is encouraged to take part in the ongoing survey to provide feedback.

Cllr Patricia Parkes updated members on a new Northwich bus route after concerns were raised over elderly and disabled people on a Hartford estate being unable to get themselves into town. Its route, which starts on Monday, June 30, was designed around residents on the Firdale housing estate, whose main thoroughfare, Firdale Road, runs along the bottom of Castle Hill.

NTC 25/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Meeting closed at 7.05pm

Date.....

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Cllr Julie MacDonald
Town Mayor