

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 1st June 2026

Present:

Cllr Robert Cernik Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Joanne Callaghan	Cllr Kate Cernik
Cllr Emma Guy	Cllr Graham Emmett
Cllr Brian Holland	Cllr Andy Kent
Cllr Rachel Waterman	Cllr Andy Stott
Cllr Catriona Stewart	Cllr Olwyn Dean
Cllr Alison Gerrard	Cllr Sam Naylor
Cllr Arthur Neil	

Also present:

Chris Shaw	Chief Officer
Cath Kirwan	Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

NTC 26/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Julie Macdonald, Cllr Stephen Harcombe, Cllr Janet Illidge, Cllr Catherine Fox and Cllr Tom Melville
Cllr Lee Siddall and Cllr Patricia Parkes and were not present.

NTC 26/02 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, Cllr Rachel Waterman and Cllr Olwyn Dean declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Cllr Sam Naylor declared an interest in Mid Cheshire Hospital Trust.

Cllr Alison Gerrard declared an interest in Rudheath Parish Council

NTC 26/03 OPEN FORUM

No speakers

NTC 26/04 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 13th April 2026 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Olwyn Dean and seconded by Cllr Catriona Stewart

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Sam Naylor and seconded by Cllr Andy Stott

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Sam Naylor and seconded by Cllr Andy Stott

All Agreed

NTC 26/05 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance, Amenities & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2026.

Noted

Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026.

Noted

NTC 26/06 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – April/May 2026

Town Mayor's Communications	
8 th April	Northwich Now and Then, Weaver Hall Museum <i>attended by the Deputy Mayor</i>
17 th April	Witton Street Dentist Easter Competition <i>attended by the Deputy Mayor</i>
24 th April	Charter Night Dinner
6 th May	Winsford Mayors Charity Dine with Us
7 th May	Agora 6 Northwich AGM
11 th May	Knutsford Town Council AGM
23 rd May	We Will Rock You, <i>attended by new Mayor, Councillor Robert Cernik</i>
24 th May	Chester Civic Ceremony <i>attended by new Mayor, Councillor Robert Cernik</i>

NTC 26/07 CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

Church Walk Paddling Pool

Cllr Waterman raised concerns regarding members of the public from outside the area using the paddling pool, noting that they do not contribute to the local precept that helps fund the facility. Concerns were also expressed about the paddling pool being advertised in neighbouring areas, which may be increasing usage by non-residents.

The Chief Officer advised that discussions would be held with the organisers to explore whether usage can be monitored more effectively. However, it was emphasised that there is a desire to keep the paddling pool an affordable and accessible day out for families.

Cllr Sam Naylor suggested that a system should be considered whereby Northwich residents are given priority access.

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Finance, Amenities and General Committee for further discussion.

Cllr Emmett praised Northwich Town Council staff for the immaculate condition of Vickersway Park and suggested that additional signage be installed to help members of the public locate the park more easily.

Cllr Dean raised concerns regarding the accessibility of the paths, noting that, as a wheelchair user, they found it difficult to navigate around the park. The Chief Officer advised that improvements to the paths would be undertaken when the new play area is installed.

Cllr Kent expressed concerns about the length of time being taken by the Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to reach a decision regarding the car park. Chief Officer advised that following the legal advice received a meeting has been arranged with CW&C Officers to discuss the proposal with the NHS. Once this meeting has taken place and we have had a further meeting with the NHS then the outcome will be discussed at a further Town Council meeting.

Cllr Stewart commented that there are two separate issues relating to the car park and emphasised that any decision would ultimately remain with Northwich Town Council.

Cllr Guy suggested publishing an official statement from NTC updating residents.

Proposed by Cllr E Guy and seconded by Cllr A Kent

All Agreed – 1 abstention Cllr Emmett

Chief Officer to ask if NTC can have a representative at the meeting with the NHS

Town Centre Signage

Cllr Callaghan commented on a number of business signs within Northwich Town Centre and queried whether the appropriate planning permissions had been obtained for their installation. It was noted that Northwich Town Council has a forthcoming meeting with Cheshire West and Chester Council planning officers, at which this matter will be raised.

Cllr Cernik suggested seeking the views of residents regarding the business signage within the town centre.

Members noted the Chief Officers Report

NTC 26/08 POLICE UPDATE

PC Jack Kirkbride provided an update on policing matters within the town.

Work continues in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and shoplifting offences. Several young people have been interviewed in connection with recent offences, and it was noted that age is not a barrier to police action where offences have been committed. Some individuals have also attended the police station for discussions regarding their involvement in ASB.

PC Kirkbride advised that children as young as 12 years old have recently been arrested for theft offences, which will now be dealt with through the youth justice system.

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

An update was provided on homelessness within the town. Efforts are ongoing to support vulnerable individuals and assist them in securing appropriate accommodation.

PC Kirkbride confirmed that the police will be supporting a number of forthcoming town centre events, including the Music Festival, River Festival and the Pina Colada Festival.

A World Cup update was also provided. Event notices and licensing applications are being monitored, and additional police resources will be in place where required. It was noted that a number of public houses have applied for extended trading hours during the tournament.

PC Kirkbride stated that Northwich remains a safe place to live and that crime levels in the area remain comparatively low.

Cllr Cernik asked whether support services such as The Salvation Army are utilised when assisting homeless individuals. PC Kirkbride confirmed that they are, describing the

organisation as a welcoming environment for people in a wide range of circumstances.

Cllr Guy enquired about licensing arrangements. PC Kirkbride advised that the police have a dedicated licensing officer and that businesses may apply for Temporary Event Notices (TENS) within prescribed timescales. The police are consulted as part of the process and have significant input where concerns arise.

Cllr Callaghan commented on levels of deprivation in certain parts of the town, particularly in the area around New Era Boxing Club on Queen Street. Cllr Naylor noted that crime statistics and related information are publicly available through police publications. PC Kirkbride reiterated that Northwich is considered a safe area and remains within a lower crime category compared with many other locations.

Cllr Waterman raised concerns regarding reports of people climbing onto buildings in Weaver Square. PC Kirkbride confirmed that the police are aware of the issue, which has increased in recent months. The police have been working with the management company, which has obtained quotations for security improvements, including the application of anti-vandal paint. PC Kirkbride agreed to follow up on the matter.

Cllr Emmett referred to recent water-related incidents in the area. PC Kirkbride advised that the police respond where there is a risk to life and are familiar with the designated access points for entering the water if required.

Cllr Naylor thanked PC Kirkbride behalf of Northwich Town Council for his continued work and support within the community.

NTC 26/09 TOWN CENTRE POLINATOR PLANTING

Members noted the Town Centre pollinator planting

*Cllr Catriona Stewart proposed a thank you to NTC staff for their work with biodiversity
Proposed by Cllr C Stewart and seconded by Cllr R Cernik
All agreed*

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

NTC 26/10 NORTHWICH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Members noted the Northwich Music Festival

*Proposed by Cllr Olwyn Deans and seconded by Cllr Jo Callaghan.
All agreed*

NTC 26/11 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Kent provided an update on recent improvements at the railway station, including the wildflower planting undertaken on the embankment. An update is still awaited from Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding their building at the station.

Cllr Kent advised that some snagging works remain outstanding at the new ticket office and expressed hope that these repairs will be completed soon, noting that the delays have been frustrating for both staff and members of the public. Cllr Kent also commented positively on the overall appearance of the station and the improvements that have been made.

Members were informed that a book exchange has now been established at the station, and members of the public are encouraged to donate books for others to enjoy.

Cllr Cernik commented on the work undertaken by Northwich Town Council in supporting the Dementia Bus event held at Barons Quay in June.

Cllr Gerrard left 7.15pm.

NTC 26/12 CWAC MEMBERS

Cllr Neil provided an update on a recent project at the Blue Barrel site, as well as works to improve the condition of various alleyways through tidying and clearance.

Cllr Neil also reported on the “Toxic Free Tomorrow” project, advising that a structural engineer has reviewed the plans. Some aspects of the proposals have been challenged with the Environment Agency in relation to ensuring the site is made safe.

In response to a question from Cllr Emmett regarding Jubilee Fields, Cllr Neil advised that Cheshire West and Chester Council are in the process of demolishing the building on site.

Cllr Neil further advised that discussions have been held with the local Member of Parliament regarding the adoption of the sewers, and contact has now been established with United Utilities. It was also noted that 1874 Northwich Football Club will be taking over the lease.

Cllr Dean reported that she will be speaking with residents from Liverpool Street and was pleased to note that the area has been kept reasonably tidy. Northwich Town Council will also be undertaking grass cutting in the area.

Cllr Dean advised that two new benches will be installed on Belmont Road, funded through her Members’ Budget. She also informed members of a “Tackling Child Poverty” training session being held on 3rd June, delivered by Cheshire West and Chester Council and lasting two hours, with a further face-to-face training session planned for September.

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

NTC 26/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 6th July 2026 at 6.00 pm

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor