

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 Sam Naylor	Cllr Julie Macdonald
Cllr Stephen Harcombe	Cllr Tom Melville
Cllr Lee Siddall	

Also present:

Chris Shaw	Chief Officer
Cath Kirwan	Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

NTC 26/14 PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL ADVANTAGE FUND

Cheque presented to the Leftwich Primary School.

NTC 26/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Janet Illidge, Cllr Catherine Fox, Cllr Patricia Parkes, Cllr Alison Gerrard , Cllr Arthur Neil, Cllr Graham Emmett

NTC 26/16 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.

NTC 26/17 OPEN FORUM

No speakers

NTC 26/18 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 1st June 2026 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Jo Callaghan and seconded by Cllr Andy Stott
All agreed

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

NTC 26/19 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance, Amenities & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 15th June

2026.
Noted

Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd June 2026.
Noted

NTC 26/20 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – June 2026

Town Mayor's Communications	
4 th June	School Butterfly Planting (attended by Deputy Mayor)
4 th June	Lostock Care Home (attended by Deputy Mayor)
9 th June	Heyrose Golf Club (attended by Deputy Mayor)
10 th June	Dine with the Mayor of Knutsford
13 th June	Northwich Music Festival
14 th June	Northwich Music Festival (attended by Deputy Mayor)
17 th June	Dementia Bus Experience, Barons Quay
18 th June	Neuromuscular Centre Open Day
20 th June	Delamere Park, Cuddington, Party in the Park
20 th June	Northwich Musical Theatre Choir, Summer Concert
30 th June	John Walton funeral

Neighbourhood Plan – Following discussions regarding the Neighbourhood Plan between Cllr R Cernik and Knutsford Town Council at a recent event. Members agreed that the Plan should now be progressed to completion. Cllr Fox has been leading work on the project, and an update is required. Cllr Stewart emphasised the urgency of completing the Plan. The Chief Officer will speak with Cllr Fox to agree a proposed way forward and develop an action plan. It was noted that there is currently no budget allocated for this work during the current financial year. Cllr Harcombe requested that a target completion date be established and suggested that the formation of a working group be considered to help progress the project.

Cllrs would like to thank both Chris Shaw and Cath Kirwan for their work on the Northwich Music Festival.

NTC 26/21 CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

Members received the report from the Chief Officer.

Members noted the Chief Officers Report

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

NTC 26/22 POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Lee Robertson provided an update on policing matters within the town.

- There have been no policing issues associated with the World Cup, despite licensed premises extending their opening hours.
- No significant incidents were reported during the Northwich Music Festival.
- Incidents of antisocial behaviour (ASB) have reduced significantly, particularly in and

around McDonald's and neighbouring businesses. A minor issue has been reported at the Church Walk Paddling Pool, but no further concerns have arisen.

- A small number of ASB incidents have occurred in Barons Quay. One young female has now been banned from the town centre.

Members also discussed recent rumours circulated on social media regarding the Woodpecker site. Cllr Naylor reported that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service had received enquiries following claims that immigrants were due to be accommodated there. Members of the public subsequently attended the site; however, the information proved to be unfounded. Cllr Waterman advised that the individuals who attended the site had acted on incorrect information circulated via social media and confirmed that the Woodpecker will not be used to accommodate immigrants. Cllr Stewart expressed disappointment that inaccurate information had been shared publicly. PCSO Robertson noted that the police have no control over content published on social media, even where the information is false.

NTC 26/23 **TOWN CENTRE POLLINATORS**

Members received the report on Town Centre Pollinators.

Cllr J Macdonald asked if this is something the High Schools could do. Chief Officer replied with that we do not have enough beds.

Cllr C Stewart commented that this could be an annual event with the schools and is there a possibility of seeing some mixed planting in the area, especially over Winter. Chief Officer replied that we can look at the beds and plant them.

Members noted the Town Centre Pollinators Report

NTC 26/24 **CHURCH WALK PADDLING POOL**

Members received the report from the Chief Officer.

Chief Officer updated members that a full report of attendance will be given at the end of the season showing where members of the public are from.

Members noted the Church Walk Paddling Pool Report

NTC 26/25 **NORTHWICH MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Members received the report from Northwich Music Festival.

Chief Officer suggested doing the festival again next year but on Friday and Saturday and involve other areas of the town centre and the possibility of local bands.

Members noted the Northwich Music Report

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NTC 26/26 **LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME**

Members received and noted the report on the Local Council Award Scheme.

Resolved: That the Council apply for the Local Council Award Scheme Silver Award.

Proposed by Cllr Catriona Stewart and seconded by Cllr Andy Kent.

NTC 26/27 **INTERNET/EMAIL POLICY**

Members considered the draft Social Media Policy and discussed a number of points requiring clarification.

Cllr Emma Guy advised that she had previously requested a copy of the existing policy and raised several concerns regarding the draft. These included whether councillors' emails are monitored, the lack of clear definitions for terms such as "social media platforms" and "chat rooms", and the wording relating to monitoring and identity theft. Cllr Guy also sought clarification on who authorises the Council to monitor social media, whether councillors are permitted to publish information about Council activities to keep the community informed, whether they may comment on or question Cheshire West and Chester Council online, and whether the policy had been approved by the National Association of Local Councils.

Cllr Macdonald commented that she understood the policy to relate to social media activity concerning Northwich Town Council but agreed that further clarification would be helpful.

Cllr Siddall noted that some guidance on appropriate use of social media is included in the induction information provided to new councillors.

Cllr R Cernik also asked Members to forward any queries to the Chief Officer, who would provide clarification in line with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act.

Cllr Harcombe supported the need for additional clarification, particularly around what councillors can and cannot say in public or online, noting that the same standards of conduct should apply regardless of whether comments are made in person or by email.

Cllr Naylor advised that he shares information on his own social media channels and emphasised that both councillors and staff are expected to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct.

NTC 26/28 **OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Kent provided an update on the improvement works at Northwich Railway Station. Following discussions with the Chief Officer, it was confirmed that Cheshire West and Chester Council has appointed a project manager for the building, who has been working with Network Rail. A 12-week programme of works is planned to complete the building. Members were advised that the project requires a possession order, which has delayed progress.

It was also noted that there will be no Sunday rail services during July to facilitate the works. WorkZone will be relocated once the project has been completed. The ticket office has now officially opened and, although there were some initial operational issues, these have now been resolved.

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor

Cllr Holland updated Members following a visit to the LSEP site. Members were informed that the project is being delivered in four stages. Stage 1 has been completed, with the facility currently processing food waste and producing approximately 50% of its intended output. Stage 2 will involve commissioning the gas plant, while Stage 3 will see the facility move away from electricity generation to the production of methane gas. Cllr Holland asked whether the operation would run seven days a week, and was advised that it would operate daily, although no night shifts are planned. Members also noted that when the facility reaches full operational capacity, there is the potential for occasional flare-offs as part of the process.

NTC 26/29 **CWAC MEMBERS**

Cllr Naylor reported that the new market is scheduled to open in September with 14 business stalls, providing a good range of traders. Cllr Stewart suggested that consideration be given to including a children's area with books and toys.

Cllr Naylor also advised that Northwich Pride will be taking place in the town and expressed his support for the event.

Members were further updated that The Danny will be sailing into Northwich following the award of a recent grant. Canal & River Trust has confirmed that dredging works will be undertaken to enable the vessel's arrival.

Members received an update on proposals for the LSEP Energy from Waste Plant. It was reported that the scheme would involve transporting between 600 and 700 tonnes of material by making use of the existing railhead, thereby avoiding an increase in heavy goods vehicle movements. Northwich Town Council will be invited to participate in the public consultation. Cllr Dean advised that ash waste would be dampened and transported in covered wagons to prevent dust escaping, with the material intended for use in road construction and refurbishment.

Cllr Dean updated Members on proposals for Liverpool Street, advising that an application for funding had been submitted to FCC Communities Foundation. The project includes the installation of raised planting beds, with local community involvement in their development and maintenance.

Members noted that two new benches will be installed on Belmont Road, one adjacent to the play area and a second at the opposite end of the road.

Cllr Waterman reported that, since being elected, she has been working to ensure that the listed Verdin House is appropriately maintained. She advised that engagement with the property's management company had proved challenging.

Cllr Waterman also updated Members on work with Northwich Town Council to install commemorative benches recognising local COVID-19 heroes, including one dedicated to the memory of a local resident. The memorial bench will be installed on Clifton Drive.

NTC 26/30 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 7TH September 2026 at 6.00 pm

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Date.....

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Cllr Robert Cernik
Mayor