



**Nantwich Town Council, Brookfield Hall,
Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich, CW5 7AB.**



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th February 2008.

Present - Councillor McGinnis (Chairman) Councillor Cafferty (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Abbott, Farrall, Healey, Hope, Lewis, Martin, Moran, Simpson together with the Town Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments by members of the public on this occasion.

105. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Stockton (family matters) and Councillor Williams (illness).

106. PLANNING UPDATE.

Alan Millington, Strategic Manager, (Planning and Development) spoke to the Council about:-

- The forthcoming consultation on the future of the Snow Hill area which includes the swimming pools, car parks and former gas works site. It was anticipated that suggested development could possibly include small retail units, food retail, residential, additional car parking, new swimming facilities, and a hotel. A consultation document with various options would be issued in about two months.
- The Local Development Framework would have to be considered in the context of the new East Cheshire authority.
- Problems of car parking, which might be alleviated by multi-storey development on the right site or possible park and ride.
- The Stapeley Water Gardens development for part residential, which had planning consent but no start yet on site.
- Increased building of apartments in the town - driven by demographics and need to use land more effectively – similarly, development in gardens.
- Certain controversial applications – where, sometimes, the planners were bound to recommend approval because of lack of material considerations to support refusal (even though councillors and public may be opposed), by policies decided some years ago which had remained unchanged and by government planning policy guidance (PPGs).

- Difficulties in enforcement of unauthorised development – development without planning permission was obviously undesirable, but not a crime.
- Illuminated signs in the conservation area – to which planners were not sympathetic.
- Potential further pedestrianisation of the town centre – which was a highways/transportation issue rather than a planning issue, but which Mr Millington supported.

The Chairman thanked Alan Millington for an enlightening and informative address.

107. NANTWICH IN BLOOM.

Mr Douglas Butterill, Chairman of the Nantwich in Bloom Committee, gave an outline of the year ahead for the organisation. He told the committee that:-

- Nantwich in Bloom were “going for gold” this year after recent successes, including silver gilt last year.
- Flowers were important in the competition, but lack of litter, permanent planting, recycling and involvement of the local community, especially schools, was also essential.
- The judges last year had praised the efforts of the committee and the residents – but they also said, “Do more of what you are doing, and pay particular attention to the Oxbow lake and the Riverside.”

Mr Butterill went on to talk about the valuable contributions of Mr James Thompson, Weaver and Wyche Schools, Barclays Bank and Nantwich Now, with special mention to Councillor Lewis and Beverley Cope in regard to that organisation. History was important and the colours of the refurbished station would hopefully reflect the livery of the railway companies which used to operate there.

There were proposals for planters at Church Walk and Pillory Street. The canal side would be enhanced by a floating garden – part of the forthcoming Cheshire’s Year of the Garden.

Councillor Moran thanked Mr Butterill, not just for the presentation, which was entertaining and useful, but more especially for the hard work of the Nantwich in Bloom committee and helpers – they “rolled their sleeves up and got on with it” and their efforts were much appreciated. His sentiments were echoed by the Council and Chairman.

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations were made.

109. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

Councillor McGinnis outlined his engagements since 14th January 2008.

Mon 21 st January	An excellent day at Malbank School attending Junior school final indoor athletics.
Sat 26 th January	Wreath laying on town square on Holly Holy Day.
Sat 26 th January	A very pleasant Holly Holy Day dinner with the Sealed Knot Society.
Wed 6 th February	Planting of an oak tree on Brookfield Park with Cheshire Landscape Trust, in association with the Mayor and other dignitaries.

110. MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF 14TH JANUARY 2008.

It was pointed out that Councillor Cafferty should have been included in those who voted for the approved budget on 14th January. Subject to that addition, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th January 2008, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

111. ST GEORGE'S DAY.

Councillor Cafferty outlined the programme for St George's day celebration on 20th April. All Councillors were urged to participate and to dress appropriately.

112. ACCOUNTS FOR JANUARY 2008.

Councillor Lewis pointed out a presentational omission (line 51) and the Clerk agreed to look into that. Subject to this observation, the Council noted the Comparison with Budget sheet presented and **RESOLVED** that the Payments for January 2008 be approved.

113. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported as shown in Appendix A attached.

114. PLANNING CONTROL.

RESOLVED that the observations on the planning applications set out in Appendix B (attached) be transmitted to the Borough Council as planning authority.

115. REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Councillor Cafferty reported that the **Allotments** prize giving was 23rd September with judging in June. Crewe allotments had a number of problems with vandalism and wear and tear. The new “allotments” at Brookfield were to open in April and there would be 27 plots. Toilets would remain for allotment holders and could be used by the members of the football clubs who play on Brookfield Park at weekends.

Councillor Farrall mentioned the latest meeting of the **Civic Society** on the 15th January, although she was herself unable to attend. She reported as follows:-

- An invitation has been received for up to five representatives of the Civic Society to attend the Mayor’s Oscars ceremony at the Civic Hall on 22nd February 2008. The Society has been short listed in the Environmental Initiative of the Year category.
- The Society will be sending a letter to the County Council highways department about Welsh Row, and with the Borough Council Chief Executive, Paul Ancell, to be copied in. The Society are dismayed that the Cheshire County Highways want to remove the black and white wooden posts from the kerb edge, as they are an historical feature of Welsh Row.
- The Society has sent a letter supporting the proposed tree preservation order in South Crofts.
- The executive committee supports the proposal for allotments rather than Community Gardens on Brookfield, but deplores the closing of the caravan site, which they consider an important amenity for the town.

Councillor Hope begged the indulgence of the Chairman to raise a matter concerning one of the organisations to which the Town Council provide financial support, namely the **First Responders**. Exceptionally, the Chairman agreed to permit the item. It was said that Mersey Regional Ambulance Authority were proposing to reduce the service by no longer allowing First Responders to carry drugs, display a ‘blue light’ and treat paediatric cases. The Clerk agreed to send a letter, as a matter of urgency, expressing the view of the Council that the First Responders service in Nantwich would be seriously damaged and it’s effectiveness reduced by the changes proposed and urging the Mersey Ambulance Authority to reconsider the intended changes. (Copies to both MPs and PCT).

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 11TH FEBRUARY 2008.

1. Reminder given to Members to provide addresses of Christmas lights 'winners'.
2. Tenders for Lengthsman received and opened 4th February 2008. Lowest tender was Mr P Barrett, Cherry Orchard Farm, Poole. We now need to identify areas for work. Members agreed that the Chairman should suggest some locations initially. Councillor Lewis assumed that areas already highlighted in previous discussions would receive priority and the Chairman confirmed that.
3. Walled Garden Society letter circulated to Members.
4. CNBC budget tabled for consultation. **RESOLVED** that the Council expresses its support for the proposed budget.
5. Community Pride Competition entry forms to be passed to Nantwich in Bloom.
6. East Cheshire – Councillors of the Borough and County reported the latest position. Cheshire County Council was not mounting a legal challenge. The result of the Crewe and Nantwich / Congleton challenge expected shortly.
7. Reply from Home Secretary re police pay (tabled).
8. Report of NALC conference in November at Skipton (tabled).
9. Decriminalised car parking enforcement operative from beginning of the month (details tabled).
10. Parish Conference 4th February, Reaseheath College. Clerk had attended – mainly concerned with Borough Council budget and establishment of East Cheshire Authority.
11. Tree planting schedule, Barony Road, Nantwich, had been circulated (tabled).
12. External auditor being replaced by Audit Commission auditor.

- END -

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 11TH FEBRUARY 2008

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
P08/0072	Mr A Shipton	Removal of part of condition 4 on approval notice P07/1474 with relation to Having windows fixed shut.	3 Jan Palach Ave.
Comment: The Town Council consider that the Borough Planning Officer must have had good reason for adding the “no opening” condition to the permission. It fears that if the condition is relaxed then inevitably the window will be open other than for maintenance and this is likely to detract from the privacy of neighbours. Accordingly, it objects to the relaxation of this condition. (Agreed with the Chairman 12/2/08).			
P08/0056	Mr & Mrs Ingham	Demolition of existing Garage and part of boundary Wall and erection of single Storey rear extension and gates to the rear boundary.	79 Welsh Row.
Comment: No comment.			
P08/0059	Mr & Mrs D Harrison	Sun lounge extension.	6 Blankney, Nantwich.
Comment: No comment.			
