



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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th January 2008.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments by members of the public on this occasion. The Chairman welcomed the Nantwich Townswomen's Guild, a number of whom had attended to observe the Council meeting.

91. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Farrall who was on holiday, Councillor Abbott who was ill. Councillor Moran who would be delayed by a few minutes.

92. CHIEF EXECUTIVE MID-CHESHIRE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

Mr Phil Morley, Chief Executive of the Mid-Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust, was kind enough to give a brief outline of the work of the trust. He told Members that there had been considerable improvements in the performance of the Trust in the last 2 years or so. Last year the trust won an award as the most improved trust hospital in England. Last month the trust obtained the European award for the 'most turned around' public organisation in Europe – sandwiched between private sector awards for TSB and Marks and Spencers. More nurses, more surgeons, additional beds and facilities had all been recently gained or were in the pipeline.

Members raised issues about "deep cleansing"; car parking; dealing with an aging population; security in A'n'E; appointments running late; shortage of specialists; rehabilitation of stroke sufferers; concerns about infection; the impact of three new health centres; bed blocking and staff shortages at weekends.

The Chairman thanked Mr Morley for an upbeat and informative report and Members expressed the hope that Mr Morley would address the Council again on future occasions.

93. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Councillor McGinnis mentioned the Chairman's Refreshments and carol service before Christmas, which he felt had been a successful and enjoyable evening. He had also attended a pleasant carol service at St Anne's church, on Sunday 23rd December. In the company of most other councillors present, he had given out Christmas refreshments on the Square. Special tribute was paid to Councillor Lewis and his wife, "slaving over a hot microwave" on that occasion.

Unfortunately, the Chairman had succumbed to flu over the Christmas period and was just recovering. Luckily, he had no council engagements during that time.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stockton declared a personal interest in all planning applications as a member of the Development Control Committee of the Borough Council. Councillors Hope, Lewis, Stockton, McGinnis and Healey declared personal interests in P07/1727 (Brookfield Caravan Park) as Borough Councillors. Councillor Hope declared a personal interest in P07/1702 (9 Brereton Drive) having knowledge of the applicant and being a resident of the street.

95. MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF 17TH DECEMBER 2007

The Minutes of Council of 17th December had been sent with a letter to all Councillors on 19th December. **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th December 2007, incorporating the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee of 26th November 2007, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Members noted that budget, minutes and recommendations were included in item 6.

96. BUDGET

The budget recommended to Council by the Policy and Resources Committee was discussed. (A detailed report on the budget had been considered at the Committee on 26th November). Amendments to the budget proposed in the report before Council were suggested by Councillor Lewis, supported by Councillors Healey, Martin and Simpson. Councillors Moran, Hope, Stockton, Williams and McGinnis supported the budget as shown on the pink page of the agenda. When put to the vote it was **RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) A sum of £25,000 be transferred from the Abbey capital account to the Royal Bank of Scotland current account within the next 60 days.
- (b) The budget shown (to be amended by a reduction of £4,000 interest at line R9) be accepted as a basis for expenditure and income in 08/09.
- (c) The precept requested from the Borough Council be £109,226.
- (d) That interest on National Savings Accounts held by the Council should continue to accrue in those accounts.

(The approved budget for 08/09, which will result in a council tax of £20.78, an increase of 25pence per month, is attached.)

97. DRAFT EMPTY PROPERTY STRATEGY

RESOLVED that the Questionnaire as drafted and attached to the report be submitted to the Borough Council.

98. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF CHESHIRE'S JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** that the following observations be made on the SEA:-

- (i) Nantwich Town Council accept that the strategic aims of the Cheshire Partnership are the right ones.
- (ii) A uniform approach to waste collection across the County would reduce confusion and anomalies. In some districts wheelie bins are used, in other districts, sacks or boxes for recyclables. In some areas, garden waste is collected free, in others not. Some districts have alternative collection, others not. It would be helpful to have a uniform approach to these and other aspects of the service.
- (iii) The siting and emptying of recycling containers (e.g., bottle or shoe banks) is often a source of concern. Increased efforts should be made to keep such sites tidy and to empty containers more regularly.
- (iv) Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council should revisit the issue of whether kerb collection of glass should be instituted.

99. ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER 2007

RESOLVED that the Comparison with Budget sheet be noted and the Payments for December 2007 be approved (the sheets are attached to these Minutes).

100. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported as shown in Appendix A attached.

101. 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.

102. REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Stockton reported on the **Crewe and Nantwich** Police Forum (now renamed "Have Your Say") on 10th January at the Civic Hall. Major items had been funding for the police when County Councillor Peter Nurse (Chairman of the Police Authority) said that in a recent MORI poll 87% of the public who responded were prepared to see a rise in council tax of at least £1.50 per month. In a questionnaire to Forum members, about half supported an extra £2.93 per month or more. The indications seemed to be that a 20% rise in the police precept was likely.

Mrs Stockton also reported that the 'Have Your Say' meeting had discussed the role of Police Community Support Officers and certain specific incidents in the borough. Next meeting was 7pm on 17th April at Municipal Buildings, Crewe.

Councillor Hope took the opportunity to raise the issue of the **St George's day fair** which he considered had been a success in 2007. He proposed a similar celebration in 2008 and Councillor Cafferty indicated that he was prepared to organise the event again. The date of 20th April was proposed. The budget would be similar to last year – a little over £2,000. **RESOLVED** that a St George's day celebration be staged on Sunday 20th April 2008, (the day itself being Wednesday 23rd) with similar arrangements to the previous year, and that Councillor Cafferty and the Clerk be authorised to enter into any appropriate contracts or agreements on behalf of all the Council. All Councillors and the Clerk were urged to attend and take part in the day.

103. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and on the grounds that the item following concerned the finances and business affairs of a third party, best considered in confidence, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

104. POSSIBLE GRANT AID – JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

The press and public having left the meeting, the Council considered the question of possible grant aid to the Festival. **RESOLVED** that in view of the commercial nature of the event, no assistance be offered to the Nantwich Jazz and Blues Festival.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK TO COUNCIL – 14TH JANUARY 2008.

1. Nantwich and District Band have in the past, received a grant equivalent to their annual rental for Brookfield Hall. The grant this time will amount to £1,000 and be paid from the Local Organisations budget (line 37). **RESOLVED** that:- a grant of £1,000 be paid to Nantwich and District Band in relation to rental costs incurred in 07/08, pursuant to sections 144 and 145 Local Government Act 1972.
2. Cheshire Police Authority Programme of consultation meetings (tabled). Next meeting on 17th April 2008, in Municipal Buildings, Crewe.
3. Responses to Post Office closure letters and petition from Post Office, Prime Minister and Gwyneth Dunwoody (tabled). The Chairman commented that a decision was expected in 10 days.
4. Members noted a new “loan of scooter” scheme, to help young people travel to work or training (tabled).
5. Members noted the tree preservation order South Crofts – acknowledgement of letter of support (tabled). Various Members spoke strongly in support of this order – some had written individually to support.
6. Cheshire Quality Council Forum. Council was asked to nominate a member to attend the next meeting of the Forum, on 27th February at 6.30pm at Winsford. Councillors Hope, Cafferty and McGinnis expressed a willingness to attend.
7. Notice of proposed reclassifying and re-signing of Nantwich Highways Network (tabled and plans displayed). Councillor Moran outlined the reasons for the changes.
8. Notice of a course on how to develop effective grant applications. No charge. Various venues. Full day – lunch provided. Our nearest venue is 19th February at Middlewich. Suitable for members of voluntary organisations interested in raising funds. (Councillors or others). (Tabled).
9. Proposed extension of hours of hackney carriage stand in Swinemarket. (Tabled). The point was made that decriminalised parking enforcement would probably mean that motorists should be wary of parking in taxi ranks in the future.
10. Empty Properties Consultation documents (tabled).
11. Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation documents (tabled).
12. The Clerk told Council that he had agreed to investigate two alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct. The cases had been referred to the Monitoring Officer

at Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council, who needed an independent person to look into them. The Clerk would be working on his own account, entirely separate from the Town Council.

13. The Clerk and Chairman told the Council of the picnic tables and benches planned for Nantwich Lake. A grant of £1,000 had been promised from County Council. With funding from the Town Council 3 picnic tables and 3 normal benches could be purchased.

RESOLVED that the sum of £3,500 in total (£1,000 already agreed) be paid towards the seating shown on the plan circulated and to be installed around Nantwich Lake pursuant to section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council being of the opinion that the expenditure will bring direct benefit to their area and will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred, the sums involved to be vired from entertainments, allotments and street furniture budgets.

14. The Clerk and Chairman told the Council of the proposal for an improved path around the far side of Nantwich Lake. It was felt likely by James Thompson, the Riverside Officer, that WREN (the recycling charity) would meet most of the £40,000 to £50,000 costs. The Town Council were asked to provide £3,000 (£6,000, if the Borough Council failed to join in the project) the money would be payable in 2008/9.

RESOLVED that the sum of £3,000 from 'Environmental General' (or in extremis £6,000 if the Borough Council failed to contribute) be paid in 08/09 towards the improvement and maintenance of a footpath around the far side of Nantwich Lake, furthest from the Whitchurch road, pursuant to sections 30, 43 and 50 of the Highways Act 1980 and to section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council being of the opinion that the expenditure will bring direct benefit to their area and will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred.

Provided that, in the case of both item 13 (the seating) and item 14 (the footpath) above, the Borough Council agree to the use of it's land and to future maintenance of the seating and footpath.

15. The Market Towns 'Good Practice' event on Wednesday 27th February at Chester was mentioned. Chalc had been offered a stall and councillors were being asked to help staff it. In view of a clash of dates (Borough Council budget, Quality Status Group) and distance from Nantwich, it was not felt that a representative of the Town Council should attend.

- END -

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 14TH JANUARY 2008

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
P07/1680	Mrs N Mottram	Outline application for one dwelling.	Land adjacent to Existing dwelling at 5 The Beeches.
Comment: No comment.			
P07/1683	Mr & Mrs Li	Single storey rear extension	22 Gingerbread Lane.
Comment: No comment.			
P07/1690	Mr & Mrs Cassata	Two storey side extension	11 Blagg Avenue.
Comment: No comment.			

ADDITIONAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
T7.43	Cheshire County Council	Proposed reclassification and resigning of the Highway Network in Nantwich.	
P07/1697	Portfolio Estates Ltd.	Change of use of upper floor to create restaurant with associated access.	44 & 46 High Street Nantwich
P07/1698	Portfolio Estates Ltd.	Listed building consent for repair of existing upper floor to facilitate a change of use to create a restaurant with associated access.	44 & 46 High Street Nantwich
Comment: While not objecting to this application, which will bring a welcome benefit to under used premises, the Town Council would ask that particular and careful attention is given to:-			
(a) Alterations to a listed building.			
(b) Means of access in case of fire.			
(c) Access for disabled or less mobile people.			

No	Applicant	Development	Site
P07/1702	Mr & Mrs I Moulton	First floor side extension (resubmission)	9 Brereton Drive Nantwich.
Comment: No comment.			
P07/1706	Rodney Densem Wines Ltd	Metal shutters to windows of retail premises.	4 Pillory Street Nantwich.
Comment: The Town Council consider the installation of metal shutters to shop windows can give a closed and 'dead' look to town centres. Shutters of this kind can discourage visitors and ultimately create conditions which foster the disorder and vandalism they are intended to guard against. The Council would therefore prefer not to see such shutters at all, but if the proprietor of Densem's considers it essential, would urge the Borough Council to condition the planning consent so that the shutters are (i) internal and (ii) of an 'open weave' type so that the display can still be seen and the window is not wholly 'blanked off'.			
P07/1727	CNBC	Change of use from caravan park to allotments.	Brookfield Caravan Park Off Shrewbridge Road.
Comment: No comment.			
P08/0002	Mr & Mrs Maude	Single storey rear and side extension.	Marsh Mount, Marsh Lane, Nantwich.
Comment: No comment.			
