



Nantwich Town Council

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th June, 2007.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Williamson of Tanners Way spoke on behalf of himself and a number of other residents with gardens adjoining the caravan site and with the support of members of the local Allotments Society. He, and those he was speaking for, were concerned about the planning application in respect of the former caravan site at Brookfield Park.

He made a number of points:-

- There had been no proper notification of the planning application to neighbours affected.
- Until he had drawn attention to it, no notice of the application had been posted at the site.
- There was strong objection to the plans to cut down six poplar trees.
- The application envisaged 24 plots. He contended that a reduction of just 6 plots would be enough to save the trees.

Councillors spoke in support of the residents. Among the points made were:-

- Trees were being felled with unseemly haste and virtually no consultation.
- There was a suspicion that the land was being cleared for housing development.
- There was concern that the term "family gardens" was being used. If there was a genuine long-term intention to establish plots for cultivation of vegetables and flowers, why was the land not designated as "allotments", which would give it statutory protection?
- The loss of the caravan site without suitable replacement was deplored.
- The Chairman assured the members of the public present that if more information was available, the Clerk would communicate it to them and they had the support to the Town Council. The Council's observations on the planning application would be discussed later in the meeting.

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor McGinnis who was on holiday and Councillor Abbott who was unwell.

21. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th May 2007, which accompanied the Agenda, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. NANTWICH NOW

Beverley Cope provided an update on the Nantwich Now project and answered questions arising from her presentation. Broadly speaking, the initiative had brought in £216,000 in funding to the town in 2006 and £105,750 in 2007. Many projects were now coming to fruition, there was increasing community involvement and more funding applications in the pipeline. Bev mentioned in particular money obtained for the Snow Hill Feasibility Study, the Big Battle and St Anne's bridge. The Nantwich Now Initiative itself had funding until March 2008. Then its future was unclear.

RESOLVED that the Town Council record it's thanks to Beverley for the presentation and her work for Nantwich Now and the funding it had brought to the town.

23. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Councillor Cafferty, acting in the place of the Chairman Councillor McGinnis, who was away, reported his attendance with his wife Barbara at:-

- Musical evening 9th June, St Mary's Church Crewe Male Voice Choir had provided excellent entertainment and an enjoyable evening.
- Service on 10th June, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Victoria Cross medal. Some 2000 people had attended the service at Lichfield Cathedral. Among those awarded the Victoria Cross was a local resident, now buried in Acton churchyard. The Grenadier Guards and Lord Lieutenant were among those present at the service and Councillor Cafferty expressed himself privileged to represent the Council on this occasion.

He was also looking forward to the Lions Annual Charity Fair on 16th June.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hope declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application P07/0689 as a friend of the owner of the property and left the room while the application was discussed and neither spoke nor voted thereon. Councillor Moran declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application P07/0689 as a neighbour and consultee and left the room while the application was discussed and neither spoke nor voted thereon. Councillor Moran declared a personal interest in application P07/0682 as a member of the Borough Council because the application was made by the Borough Council. Councillor Stockton declared a personal interest as a member of the Development Control Committee of the Borough Council in all planning applications.

25. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported on a number of matters (see Appendix B attached.)

26. PLANNING CONTROL

RESOLVED that the comments set out in Appendix A attached be transmitted to the Borough Council as planning authority.

27. ACCOUNTS

The Clerk circulated a fresh 'Comparison with budget' sheet for May. Totals were unaffected but some changes had been made to the columns in which amounts were entered. He briefly explained the changes which were highlighted on the fresh sheet. **RESOLVED** that the Comparison with Budget sheet for May be noted and the Payments and Receipts for May 2007 be approved. (The pages are attached to these minutes.)

28. AUDIT AND ACCOUTS 2006/7

The Clerk reported that the Accounts were now prepared. He intended to advertise them as Audit regulations required. **RESOLVED** that the action proposed be noted and agreed.

29. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 21ST MAY 2007

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of the 21st May 2007, which accompany the agenda, be accepted and approved and the resolutions be noted.

30. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Williams reported her recent attendance at **Nantwich Forum** held at Harrisons. John Weir had resigned and presumably the Forum would elect a new Chairman in due course. The next Transport Festival was August 12th. Phil Martin said the Jazz Festival had done well. Paul Burns reported on car parking, although there was little new to tell. The market refurbishment was proceeding satisfactorily.

Councillor Cafferty reported on his recent attendance at an **Allotment Meeting**. There had been (unusually in Nantwich allotments) some vandalism at Welshman's Lane and a break-in at Brookfield site, but nothing had been taken. Pot holes at Welshman's Lane required repair. New raised beds were now complete and Councillor Cafferty would urge that they be let as soon as possible. He would look into the comment (by Councillor Healey) that the existing raised beds were in a poor state. In Crewe, Ford Lane allotments had been regenerated by a magnificent effort by a husband and wife Allotment Representatives and there was now 90% occupancy in sites across the Borough.

Councillor Farrall reported that **Nantwich in Bloom** is recruiting for small working groups across the Borough.

Councillor Farrall reported that the **Civic Society** were to take a stall at a forthcoming charitable market.

Departing from the Agenda, but in connection with Nantwich in Bloom, **Councillor Cafferty** reported on the deplorable condition of the roundabout near Cheerbrook Farm. There was some debate about who was responsible for it, the consensus being the Highway Agency; the Clerk said he would make enquiries.

31. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that because the next item was concerned with the terms of a legal agreement and finances of a third party, the press and public should be excluded while the matter was discussed.

32. NANTWICH FOOTBALL CLUB AGREEMENT

The Clerk summarised an approach made by the Club concerning the terms of an Agreement relating to the grant to be made to the Club. **RESOLVED** that:-

- a) The terms of the Agreement for grant of £100,450 to Nantwich Town Football Club shall be agreed as outlined by the Clerk; and in particular, the Club shall be required to ensure that any charges imposed for public parking shall be “reasonable” but there shall not be a requirement that the prior agreement of the Council to the level of charge must be obtained.
- b) That the Agreement be now concluded on the terms outlined, executed, and the grant paid to the Club Trustees in accordance with its terms.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

- END -