



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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12th November, 2007.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

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

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Abbott, Farrall, Healey.

68. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF 8th OCTOBER 2007

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th October 2007, incorporating Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee of 24th September 2007, and Minutes of the Watch Committee of 18th September 2007, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman briefly outlined the variety of attendances he had made as representative of the Town Council:-

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| 10th October | Nantwich Town Football Club opening at 3pm. |
| 14th October | Town Service at St Anne's Church at 6pm. |
| 25th October | Tour of Nantwich lake with Vice Chairman Councillor Cafferty and James Thompson (Riverside Officer) to discuss sites for benches. |
| 2nd November | Millfields Primary School prize giving at 1pm.
Civic Hall RAF to enjoy the regimental band for the Royal British Legion and RAFA at 7.30pm. |
| 11th November | Crewe and Nantwich Remembrance Service in Crewe at 10.40am.
Cheshire Regiment Service at Airman's grave at 1pm.
Remembrance service arranged by the British Legion, in St Mary's parish church at 2.40pm. |

70. TOURISM OFFICER

Lucy Johnson, Tourism Officer based at the Borough Council, explained her work in supporting local organisations and promoting visits to the area. She had held the post since June this year but had already made many contacts and achieved a good deal.

She outlined her progress towards producing a welcome guide, events programme, year of Cheshire Gardens (linked to Liverpool City of Culture) signage, improving gateways, business support, “floating garden” and encouraging providers of accommodation to obtain grading for tourism purposes. Councillors asked questions or commented on parking problems, the dangers of an unsightly plethora of signs, mowing of green spaces, quality of accommodation, and the need for further hotels, improvements to Nantwich station, promoting rail and bus services, publicity for Nantwich as a destination and production of tourism guides and calendars.

The Chairman thanked Ms Johnson for an interesting and comprehensive presentation and congratulated her on her work so far.

71. 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.

72. GRANT APPLICATION PRESENTATIONS

Councillors noted the full agenda of Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 26th November. The point was made that presentations by the three organisations seeking grants should be brief. It was agreed that item 8 on this agenda (Local Development Framework) should be deferred until 26th November but that the meeting should begin at an earlier time of 6.45pm instead of 7.30pm.

73. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Councillor Moran introduced this item. He said government policy was to blame for the proposed closures. Having said that, the important thing was not to dwell on what might have been but instead to concentrate all energies on fighting the closures. He emphasised that this was an issue which crossed party political lines. He welcomed the efforts the conservative group were making to oppose the cuts in services.

The Council **RESOLVED** that proposed closure of Millstone Lane and Millfields sub-post offices be utterly condemned. It further **RESOLVED** that:-

- Surrounding parish councils be contacted and urged to support the campaign to oppose closure, since residents in settlements close to Nantwich made use of these sub post-offices.
- A letter be sent to Post Office Ltd., protesting at the closure.
- Letters be sent to Gwyneth Dunwoody MP and the Prime Minister, outlining the opposition of the Town Council and emphasising the important role these sub-post offices play in the community.
- An entry be placed on the Council’s website protesting at the proposed closure.

74. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

This item was deferred (see minute 72 above) to 26th November Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

75. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported on correspondence and matters of urgency as set out in Appendix A attached.

76. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22ND OCTOBER 2007.

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of item 8 of the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd October, on the grounds that the terms of employment of individual employees were best considered in confidence.

Following that discussion the press and public were re-admitted and it was **RESOLVED** that the Recommendations contained in the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd October 2007 (which accompany these Minutes) be accepted and approved and the Resolutions be noted.

77. ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER 2007

RESOLVED that the Comparison with Budget sheet be noted and the payments for October 2007 be approved (the sheets are attached to these Minutes). The Clerk drew attention to receipt line R14 (repayment of charges by Hibbert Durrad Moxon) and explained the background.

78. 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.

79. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Mrs Stockton gave a comprehensive report of the proceedings of the **Police Forum** on 11th October. One of the most significant items was a warning by Councillor Peter Nurse, the Chairman, of a considerable rise in the precept to be levied by the Police Authority.

Councillor Cafferty gave a detailed report of the proceeding of the **AGM of Chalc** on the 18th October at Middlewich, which he had attended with the Clerk. Key issues considered by Chalc Executive over the previous year had included the Regional Spatial Strategy, Code of Conduct, 5 year Strategic Plan and Local Government re-organisation.

The Chairman of Chalc had recommended acceptance of the Strategic Plan. The Executive were looking for self sustaining income to enable the Association to operate without the necessity for outside support. Accordingly, it was proposed and agreed that affiliation fees would increase by 2p plus an agreed percentage, year on year, to move to that self sufficient position. The subscription for the forthcoming year would be 2p plus 4.5% inflation.

Officer nominations proposed by the Executive were agreed.

Minor amendments to the Association Constitution were agreed.

A variety of motions were debated. The first, called upon the Department of Communities and Local Government to acknowledge the importance of town and parish councils in any restructuring and also favoured the proposal for a single unitary. However, the original motion was so amended and altered by speakers from the floor, that it became difficult to know what was being debated. Broadly speaking, it seemed to be approved.

Motions were also discussed concerning recycling, duties of the Environment Agency and use of Information Technology.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____