



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9th February 2009.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AWARDS

Awards (a framed certificate, a bottle of champagne and small gifts for children) were made to the Shepherd household (5 adults and 2 children present) and the Chapman household (2 adults present) for their display of Christmas lights at their homes. A bottle of champagne and a framed certificate was presented to Mr Stuart Austin for an attractive display of lights at business premises, namely Welch's on Hospital Street. Apologies for unavoidable absence had been received by the Reynolds and Prices.

PUBLIC FORUM

Janice Fenton, a Nantwich resident, spoke about the Food Festival which was item 9 on the agenda. She felt strongly that the Food Festival should be supported, although the form and organisation needed examination. She felt there should be more links with the town and encouragement of local attendance. She considered that it was not too late to get involved with the Festival this year. Members welcomed her comments and, in general, agreed with the points she made.

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

113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Martin.

114. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF 12TH JANUARY 2009.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th January 2009, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

115. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The Chairman represented the Council on 15th January, at the funeral of the late Tom Holman MBE, and former Town, Borough and County Councillor. Mr Holman was a previous Chairman of the Town Council and Vice-Chairman of Cheshire County Council. The eulogy was delivered by the Mayor Brian Sylvester, who spoke of Tom Holman's dedication to the Borough and its residents over a period of some 40 years.

On 17th January, the Chairman attended the opening celebration of Nantwich Methodist Church. The interior of the building has changed remarkably, and it is now very light and airy, while retaining the ambience of a modern church. Barbara and the Chairman were made very welcome.

On 20th January, the Chairman attended Cheshire's Best Kept Station Awards at the Salt Museum in Northwich, along with Councillor Lewis. Nantwich Station has been awarded "Best Kept Station garden" in Cheshire. Thanks were due to Nantwich in Bloom, the proprietor of NatraJ, Councillor John Lewis and Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council.

On 24th January, the Holly Holy Day event took place. The weather was excellent and crowds gathered on the Town Square, and Mill Island, justifying the Council's support for this event. Unfortunately, prior to the event, the weather had been very wet and windy and fears of unstable ground and dangerously high river levels meant that the Bonfire had to be cancelled to avoid financial penalties being incurred. The Chairman said the banquet on the evening following the battle to which he and Barbara had been invited as guests of the Sealed Knot ended a very pleasant day. The Borough Mayor and Edward Timpson MP and his wife were also in attendance.

On 25th January, the Town Service was held at Market Street Baptist Church; where Rev. T. Beckett conducted the service. The Chairman thanked all Councillors who attended and hoped everyone enjoyed the service.

116. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Councillor Stockton declared a personal interest in all planning applications as a member of the Development Control Committee of the Borough Council.

Councillor Moran declared a personal interest as a Shadow Cheshire East Councillor regarding item 11, relating to the Licensing Consultation by Cheshire East Shadow Council.

117. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the Payments for January 2009 be approved and the Comparison with Budget sheet and Bank Reconciliation for January 2009 be noted.

The Clerk mentioned that Brian Legge was not intending to renew his CIPFA membership but was prepared to continue to act as internal auditor to the Town Council. Members noted the position and expressed themselves content with the situation.

118. CLERK'S REPORT

The attached Appendix A refers.

119. TOWN WATCH COMMITTEE MINUTES – 10TH DECEMBER 2008

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Watch Committee meeting of 10th December 2008 (attached) be noted.

120. PLANNING CONTROL

Councillors noted observations on two applications submitted on behalf of the Town Council by the Clerk after consultation with the Chairman (attached). Other applications were considered and observations are shown on Appendix B.

Councillor McGinnis drew attention to an illuminated sign at the Balti Flame restaurant on Welsh Row. He had been requesting the Planning Department to take enforcement action for months – to no avail. He asked for the Council's support in relation to this unattractive and unauthorised display and it was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Borough Council expressing the Town Council's concern.

121. FOOD FESTIVAL

RESOLVED that:- Members considered the future of the Food Festival.

They were concerned about:-

- Making admission charges to get on to Mill Island – especially unsatisfactory to local residents.
- Physical effect on Mill Island – mud, churned up, surface etc.
- Retaining clear links with the Town – both physically and psychologically.
- Views of traders and market traders who were clearly affected or involved.
- Being “sucked in” to a financial commitment because Cheshire East may see an alternative funder.
- The scale and nature of the event – Was it too big? Not local enough? etc.
- The need, if possible, to preserve it – but not at any cost.

RESOLVED that: A small group of Councillors be formed to hear views and seek advice from people who had been regularly involved in the Festival. The Group to report back in due course with a recommendation as to the Councils involvement. Names of members of the Group to be determined at next Policy and Resources Committee.

122. VACANCIES AND ELECTIONS

Elections had been called in the Birchin and Weaver wards. Notices calling for candidates had been posted. Town Council elections on the 26th March. European elections on the 4th June.

123. LICENSING CONSULTATION – CHESHIRE EAST

Councillors considered the request for observations on Licensing Policy of Cheshire East Shadow Council.

RESOLVED:-

The Town Council feels that more emphasis should be given to the behaviour of customers of clubs, pubs, and late night refreshment premises when they leave those establishments. The Town Council would like to see the definition of “vicinity of the premises” more widely construed. The Council also notes that there is no specific reference to Late Night Refreshments in the policy and suggests the addition of a paragraph to that effect. The additions proposed by the Council to the Statement are as follows:-

Statement of Licensing Policy.

Page 3 Para 3.3.2. Add the following:-

In this context “in the vicinity of licensed premises” will be construed to mean “the area close to, surrounding, or in the region of, the licensed premises or that area where people who might reasonably be affected by the results of the business carried on at the licensed premises, reside or regularly visit.”

Examples of provisions to ensure harm is not caused to the licensing objectives might include:-

- Calming down customers by quiet music
- Using plastic or reinforced glasses
- Use of CCTV
- Providing buses or taxis to enable customers to leave an area quickly
- Designing clubs or pubs so that there are areas to sit quietly and expansive, open, vertical drinking spaces are avoided
- Measures to reduce noise from the premises

Other measures are listed in paragraphs 5.4 below.

Statement of Licensing Policy.

Page 7 top of page after “which is appropriate...” Bold heading “Late Night Refreshments.” Followed by Para 5.10 and 5.11 to read as follows:-

Late Night Refreshment

5.10 Late night refreshment is the supply of hot food or hot drink to the public, on or off the premises, between 11pm and 5am the next morning. All applicable policies in this Statement are relevant to the licensing of such premises.

5.11 Cheshire East Council lays particular emphasis on the need for late night refreshment premises to avoid disorder, over-crowding and customers causing nuisance, noise and litter when leaving the premises or on their way home. Accordingly, the layout of premises, staffing, service and design of containers and wrapping for food and drink should reflect the importance of reducing or obviating such problems.

Lap Dancing and Pole Dancing

Following discussion of the Licensing Policy as regards liquor and late night refreshments, Councillor McGinnis raised the issue of lap-dancing or pole-dancing clubs. It was his understanding that the controls on the location of such clubs were very limited. Local Authorities had little say in where these types of premises could be established. As an example, he understood that, recently, one had been opened near a school. Generally speaking, Members agreed with his views.

RESOLVED that the Town Council urge the Borough Council to support a change in the law, to make controls on the location and licensing of Lap Dancing and Pole Dancing clubs more effective.

124. TOWN MAYOR

Councillors considered the next steps to create a Town Mayor rather than a Chairman.

RESOLVED:-

- (a) The Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to decide on regalia (suggested a cap and gown – red and gold heraldic colours).

- (b) Issues relating to Deputy Mayor be referred to Policy and Resources Committee for more in-depth discussion.

125. ST GEORGE'S DAY

Date of the event was Sunday 26th April 2009, 12 noon to 4pm. All Councillors were invited to attend and assist. Councillor Hope reminded Members that it had become "traditional" to dress in medieval costume.

126. FIRST RESPONDERS

Councillor McGinnis outlined a recent debate in parliament and involvement of local MPs. He reiterated that North West Ambulance response times were simply unsatisfactory. People were suffering and critical conditions were not being attended to. NWAS were downgrading what had been an excellent service to a third-rate service, without providing an adequate Ambulance response in its place.

Councillor McGinnis mentioned the meeting on 27th February with local MPs, NWAS and the PCT and assured Members that the campaign to restore the blue light and achieve the former outstanding Community First Responders service would continue.

127. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Councillor Stockton reported on the position regarding planning in the new authority. Crewe and Nantwich applications, together with those of Congleton, would be dealt with by a "Southern Committee" on a three-week cycle. Strategic planning matters would be considered by a Strategic Committee. Only one or two meetings of the old "Development Control" of the Borough Council were left to be held.

Councillor Stockton also reported on the Police "Have your Say" meeting on 22nd January. A 3.5% rise in precept was defended. Issues of disturbances on Love Lane car park, dangerous dogs, teenager's joy-riding and pub watch attendance were all raised. The closure of "a cannabis factory" was mentioned. Next meeting in Nantwich was not until 3rd September 2009.

Councillor Cafferty mentioned attendance with the Clerk at meetings to introduce Cheshire East – an LSP meeting at Tatton Park, which was useful; and a meeting about local area partnerships at Reaseheath, which was less worthwhile. However, he felt it was important to get "the face of Nantwich" known and make it clear that the Town Council was interested in sharing or managing facilities.

Councillor Farrall reported on current issues concerning Nantwich in Bloom. She also spoke about the Civic Society which was studying (a) Hospital Street traffic management, (b) Snow Hill development, (c) Regents College development, (d) Cocoa Yard history and the future of the Clock. The Civic Society are also concerned about not receiving some hard copy planning applications and asked if the Town Council could help.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK – TOWN COUNCIL 9TH FEBRUARY 2009.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF URGENCY.

1. Thanks from Town Centre Manager for contributions at Christmas. (Tabled)
2. Boundary Committee – review of Cheshire East proposed and forthcoming meeting at Sandbach (contact Clerk for more details). (Tabled)
Councillor Moran supplied further details.
3. Grant applications made to Borough Council – Clerk reported that 46 applications submitted, 21 projects supported but none of the 8 put forward by Nantwich Town Council. Councillor McGinnis said the bids had been fairly evaluated and scored and, put simply, the community benefit flowing from other bids outweighed that arising from the Nantwich projects.
4. Work on Brookfield Hall needed – next steps to be suggested by Clerk. This matter was deferred for discussion at Policy and Resources Committee.
5. Precept would be paid by 2 instalments – for information.
6. Licensing of Subway – proposal not to appeal.
Councillor Cafferty outlined the hearing he had attended and suggested that the licensing legislation was defective.
7. Micro Hydro Schemes – electricity generation. Report of a meeting attended by the Chairman and Councillor Lewis. No obligation on the Town Council at this stage – only a request for support on principle. **RESOLVED:** In principle, the Town Council supports the establishment of a Mini-Hydro scheme to supplement electricity generation and reduce the town's 'carbon footprint'.
8. 'Talk of the Town' update – Spring issue being distributed. Clerk and (especially) his assistant were congratulated on the latest edition.
9. Date for next Finance Committee (and suggested item regarding renewal of Time Deposits). Agreed to meet on 19th February.
10. Clerk mentioned the offer by Dialogue Ltd., to outline the Sainsbury's application to Council. Also invitation by Civic Society to 'share' their briefing. Members took the view that they wished to reserve their comments for the planning application. Councillor Farrall would hear the Sainsbury's presentation as the Council representative on the Civic Society.

- END -

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL - 30TH JANUARY 2009

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO CREWE & NANTWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

No	Applicant	Development	Site
P09/0012	Mr A Hankinson	Two storey front extension, single storey side extension and two storey and single storey rear extension.	12 Mount Drive.

Town Council Observation:

The Council would ask the Planning Committee to look very carefully at the proposed extension on the site of the house which may adversely affect no. 14 by overlooking and overshadowing. The full effect of the proposals is to create a substantially larger property.

P09/0009	Regenesis	Conversion of Methodist Church to residential use forming eight apartments and construction of one 3 storey town house with ground floor garaging.	Former Nantwich Methodist Church Hospital Street Nantwich
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Town Council Observation:

The Town Council are pleased to see the building put to an acceptable use. However, the Council object to the proposal to build a three storey town house as part of the development for the following reasons:-

1. The proposed town house with a modern design will be out of keeping with the converted church and its current setting and will detract from the appearance of this important and attractive listed building.
 2. The proposed town house will be on the easterly boundary of the site (partly because of the need to accommodate an existing sewer between church and new building). It will overshadow and dominate smaller dwellings in Bowling Green Court, reducing light and feeling of space for local residents.
 3. The architects say that, historically, there were two preachers houses, one on each side of the church, and put this forward as justification building the town house. The Town Council reject this argument, first, because there will be no symmetry, second, because the original buildings were presumably of a similar style and ago to the church and third, because circumstances and surrounding dwellings have changed. The proposal for a town house seems to be an attempt to cram as much as possible onto the site without regard to the effect on the appearance of the church and the street scene.
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NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 9TH FEBRUARY 2009PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
P08/0917	Dowhills Group Ltd	Reserved matters application for the construction of six terraced dwellings and two Apartments.	Walled Garden off Kings Lane Welsh Row.
Comment: No comment.			
P09/0028	Barratt Homes (Manchester)	Substitution of plots 33-68 to be replaced with thirty Dwellings.	Keepers Chase Jackson Avenue.
Comment: No comment.			
P09/0048	Regis International	To replace rotten timber shop front.	9 High Street.
Comment: No comment.			
P09/0064/65	Portfolio Estates Ltd	Listed building consent for conversion of the rear and upper floors into one house and three apartments with some alterations to existing door and window alterations at the rear of the property.	41 High Street.
Comment: No comment.			
P09/0081	Sainsbury's PFS	One additional fuel pump.	J Sainsbury plc Middlewich Road.
Comment: No comment.			
P09/0078	Mr C Gainey	Application for certificate of lawfulness for a proposed use: Loft Conversion and extension to provide additional residential accommodation. Re-submission of P08/0086	107 Millstone Lane. Please note this is not a Planning Application.
Comment: No comment.			

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 9TH FEBRUARY 2009ADDITIONAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
P09/0097	Mr T Fox	Two non-illuminated signs	12 Pall Mall.
Comment: No comment.			
P09/0098	Portfolio Estates Ltd.	Listed building consent for alterations to entrance door, extraction flue and internal alterations.	44 High Street.
P09/0096		Also change of use from retail to restaurant.	

Comment:

The Town Council is concerned at the type of restaurant. Any fast food or similar would be entirely out of place and the Council would object. A restaurant which provides snacks during the day and ideally meals at night would be acceptable.