



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12th January 2009.

Before the meeting, Councillor Cafferty, the Chairman, requested a few moments silence in memory of Tom Holman MBE, Honorary Alderman of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council, ex Town and County Councillor. Councillor Moran said words of tribute to "Mr Nantwich", a devoted public servant.

PUBLIC FORUM

Donald Rich of Crewe and Nantwich drew attention to the fact that there were no buses which called at Crewe Railway Station. He suggested that a partial solution to this problem was for buses which currently run down/up Edleston Road to be re-routed along Mill Street and stop on a corner convenient to the station. Council agreed and the Clerk was asked to write to Arriva to suggest that possibility. Councillors Moran and Lewis also offered to raise the matter at the Transport Group.

Exceptionally, the Council also considered a written question submitted by Councillor Graham Fenton and agreed with his view that town-twinning was not necessary in this day and age and that the Town Council would not be pursuing links with towns the Borough Council was been twinned with when that Council was abolished.

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

103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Abbott, Farrall, Hope and Stockton.

104. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF 15TH DECEMBER 2008.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th December 2008, incorporating the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee of 24th November 2008, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The Chairman mentioned his attendance at the Christmas Lights switch on which was well attended and well organised on 22nd November 2008. On 29th November he and Barbara attended the Freedom of Borough Mercia Regiment (Cheshire) marching through town plenty of support from shoppers was given. The Gala Evening on 28th November appears to have gone well and raised over £4000 thanks to all who attended and for donations. On 6th December he attended 'A Christmas Carol' at Nantwich Players and enjoyed a very impressive performance. On 9th December, he attended a 'Kooldown' production and graduation at the Fire Station in Crewe, which is a youth, based project aimed at reducing anti social behaviour. On 11th December, the Cocoa Yard Christmas Lights were switched on, good feed back from public and tenants. The Lions Carol Service was held on 14th December at St Mary's and was well attended and the Chairman and Consort were made welcome by the Lions President and wife. On 21st December Nantwich and District Band and Nantwich Young voices choir sang on the Square, mulled wine and mince pies were handed out and well received. Thanks to all who attended. On 3rd January, he attended 'Messiah' at Methodist Church, Nantwich Choral Society and said it was a fitting closure to 200 years of church usage.

106. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of interest.

107. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the payments for December 2008 be approved and the Comparison with Budget sheet and Bank Reconciliation for December 2008 be noted.

108. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2009/10

Councillor Lewis proposed that rather than the 5% increase recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee, the Council adopt a budget whereby the Council tax remained unchanged for 09/10. This suggestion received general support from Members. The Clerk indicated this would mean a reduction in proposed income of around £5,500 for the year but suggested that budget figures remain unchanged with the exception of an addition of £30,000 contribution from capital, to be used if work to Brookfield Hall went ahead. (The budget sheet for 09/10 is attached). The Clerk suggested that economies throughout the year should accommodate the proposed "council tax freeze". Councillor Lewis indicated that this was acceptable. Councillor Lewis was putting forward the resolution to signal to residents that the Council was conscious of the difficulties they may be facing in the current economic climate and as a strong hint to other budget setting organisations that council tax rises should be kept to a minimum. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that

1. The budget shown (amended as indicated above) be accepted as a basis for expenditure and income in 09/10.
2. The precept required is £110,788 (resulting in a band D council tax of £20.78 for 09/10, no increase from the current 08/09 level).
3. The Clerk be authorised to invest capital sums in appropriate recognised institutions from time to time, including time deposits, to achieve a reasonable return for the Council, taking into account economic conditions and the need for financial security.

109. CLERK'S REPORT

The attached Report A refers.

110. PLANNING CONTROL

RESOLVED that the Town Council's observations, set out in below, be sent to the Borough Council's Chief Planning Officer.

P08/1360 Muller Pallatine Properties Ltd. 91 & 93 Hospital Street.
Change of use of ground floor from A1 to residential and single and two-storey rear extension to form 4 no. residential properties with bin and cycle storage.

Comment

The Council welcome this application insofar as it marks a return to residential use in Hospital Street, which is primarily a street of residential dwellings.

111. ANNUAL AUDIT.

RESOLVED that

- a) The completion of a satisfactory audit for 07/08 be recorded and the Auditor's comment (relating to fidelity insurance) be noted and responded to in due course.
- b) The Finance Committee be asked to comment on the fidelity insurance issue and a meeting of the Committee be called in this financial year.

112. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Councillor Williams raised the issue of possible planting of commemorative trees on land at Blankney Avenue owned by Wulvern. Clerk to pursue.

Councillor Cafferty reported on Holly Holy Day progress, which lead to general discussion on state of Mill Island and agreement that work was needed during the year to put it in a state for festivals, events etc., as well as preserving rights of way. Possibility of WREN grant to be pursued by Clerk.

Councillor Cafferty reported on Fun Day (11th July) and St George's Day celebration (agreed date as 26th April 2009).

Councillor McGinnis asked for a letter to be sent reminding the Borough Council to close off barriers to Pepper Street more regularly. Clerk to deal with.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK TO TOWN COUNCIL 12th JANUARY 2009.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF URGENCY.

1. Reminder about Town Service on 25th January, at 6pm in Market Street Baptist Church.
2. Representatives of Council to attend presentation by East Cheshire Council on proposed working arrangements 27th January, at Reaseheath at 6.30pm.
3. Eight applications for capital grant submitted to Borough Council. Hoping for decision by end of January.
4. Storage of Christmas lights agreed.
5. Agreed to Councillor Cafferty, Councillor Lewis and Councillor Williams would meet the hydro-electric group at a mutually convenient time. Clerk to arrange.
6. Christmas lights award – Council 9th February. Clerk to contact households concerned.
7. Notice of Training Courses organised by Chalc circulated.
8. Notice of December Link entry circulated.
9. Lengthsman forms - tabled.
10. Police consultation meeting details - tabled.
11. Thanks for switch on Christmas Lights from Town Centre Manager – tabled.

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