



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14th December 2009.

Present – Mayor Councillor Williams and Councillors Farrall, Hope, Lewis, Moran, McGinnis, Simpson, Stockton, together with the Town Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments or questions from Members of the public on this occasion.

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Tooke, Fenton, Martin and Cafferty.

93. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 9TH NOVEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9th November 2009 (incorporating Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee of 26th October) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

94. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Moran declared a personal interest in matters relating to Cheshire East Council as a Cheshire East Councillor. Councillor Farrall declared a personal interest in planning application 09/3459N (21 The Broadway) as an acquaintance of the applicant.

95. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported on recent engagements:-

It had been a relatively quiet month.

On 11th of November, stood in respect at the War Memorial in the Town Square in remembrance of the fallen.

Later the same day went to Brine Leas High School for the presentation of certificates and was impressed by the enthusiasm and hard work of the students.

On 26th November met Councillor Wesley Fitzgerald, Leader of Cheshire East, on his fact-finding tour of Nantwich.

On 4th December, attended Nantwich Players Theatre to see an excellent production of 'Neville's Island'.

On Saturday 5th December, the Ice Rink opened and the Christmas Lights Switch-on took place on the Square.

On Tuesday 8th December, attended the Emergency Services Christmas Carol Concert at Chester Cathedral, which was most enjoyable.

Arising from the Mayor's remarks, and in particular the remembrance service, Councillor McGinnis drew Council's attention to concerns about traffic using the centre of town and the paved area intended for pedestrians. He suggested that the Town Council should be pressing for full pedestrianisation of the town centre. He also highlighted the poor state of the surfaces on the paved area and the subsidence which had taken place. Councillor Moran spoke in support of Councillor McGinnis – he had been told of structural damage to a property in Mill Street as a result of heavy vehicles. He also suggested that traffic wardens should concentrate less on parking and more on vehicles which were inconsiderately using the paved area.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Cheshire East Council requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the way in which a legal Order achieving full pedestrianisation could be obtained and practical measures to discourage drivers of motor vehicles from entering the paved area of the town centre.

Arising from the Mayor's remarks, Councillor Hope endorsed her comments about the Players recent play 'Neville's Island' which he considered an excellent production.

96. CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported as shown in Appendix A attached.

97. CONFIRMATION OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 23/11/09

RESOLVED that the Recommendations contained in item 3 (cost of trees and plaque); item 5 (Boundary Committee Warding recommendations) and item 8 (Protocol of Mayor in Council) be accepted and approved. Council noted the Resolutions at item 7 (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) and item 6 (Planning Applications). Members also noted that the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee meeting relating to the budget for 2010/11 will be presented to the Council meeting for approval or otherwise on 11th January 2010, when a precept will be set.

Arising from the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee, Councillor Farrall mentioned Church of God 7. She had attended an open day at COG7 on London Road and been impressed. The gardens were now open to the public and the intention was to renovate the swimming pool and sports hall. Councillor Moran welcomed her comments and suggested that a representative of COG7 be invited to a future meeting of Committee or Council to outline plans for the site.

98. MINUTES OF GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE – 23/11/09.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations contained in item 4 of the Committee Minutes, relating to changes to Grants Policy/Guidance be approved. (Grants recommended formed part of the budget and would be approved or otherwise on the 11th January).

Members noted that the Clerk intended to write to the Parish Church explaining the result of the grant application made by the church.

99. ACCOUNTS FOR NOVEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that the Comparison with Budget sheet be noted and payments for November 2009 be approved.

100. PLANNING CONTROL

RESOLVED that the observations on planning applications listed in Appendix B should be submitted to the Borough Council Planning Officer.

Councillor Moran mentioned that the Cocoa Yard application, which the Town Council opposed, had been refused after a site visit.

101. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor McGinnis outlined the background to the concerns of the Town Council in regard to the **First Responders**. He reminded Members that this matter had been going on for 2½ years. In spite of many meetings, letters, petitions, protest marches and the involvement of the local MP and Shadow Minister of Health, progress was painfully slow. Although Co-Responders were a willing and useful service, they were a paid service as compared to our own Community Responders, who were unpaid. The Co-Responders were attending 40 incidents in 3 months. If the First Responders were allowed to operate at full capacity, they could be attending 90/100 incidents in one month. In the Nantwich area, only half the serious incidents, including heart attacks, were reached in the critical time of less than 10 minutes. (After that time it was recognised that no further assistance could be rendered to cases of cardiac arrest.) In the rest of the North West three quarters of the incidents were responded to in this critical time. The reason for this failure was, in part, due to the refusal of NWAS to restore the blue light to the Nantwich First Responders. Councillor McGinnis made it clear that if no progress was forthcoming after a meeting on Friday 18th December involving the two local MPs, he would be asking the Council to lodge a formal complaint with the Care Quality Commission and asking the Council to endorse a motion of no confidence in the management of NWAS concerning their dealings with the First Responders and provision of an ambulance service in Nantwich.

Councillor Farrall reported on **Nantwich Tennis Club** and the increasing number of young people who were encouraged to enjoy tennis, partly as a result of the grant aid the Town Council had made to the Club.

Councillor Farrall also reported on the **Civic Society** activities. The Town Centre Audit was ongoing, although more volunteers would be welcomed. Comments had been made on the Cocoa Yard planning application which had been refused. Cheshire East Council was denying responsibility for the surface of Monks Lane, which needed attention. The removal of posts and chains along Welsh Row as a result of recent highway works was regretted.

Councillor Simpson reported briefly on **Nantwich in Bloom**. Recent awards were to be displayed in a local shop window for visitors and residents to view. A presentation evening was to be revived. Margaret Thrower's visit to the town had been arranged. Nantwich in Bloom was to be congratulated on their hard work and the credit they bring to the town.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF URGENCYTOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 14TH DECEMBER 2009.

1. Sunday 20th December – Band on the Square 1–3pm not 12-2pm.
2. Sustainable Market Towns – 7th December 2009. Councillor Hope and Clerk reported on seminar attended. Contacts had been made which might benefit the Council.
3. Christmas Lights inspection. Birchin Councillors to view Barony Ward; Weaver Councillors to view Birchin Ward; Wellington Councillors to view Weaver Ward; Barony Councillors to view Wellington. Lady Councillors to view shops.
4. Letter offering briefings in Code of Conduct will be circulated at the meeting. Members were requested to make every effort to attend the training offered on 10th February 2010 in Municipal Buildings, Crewe at 5.30 for 6pm. Forms to be returned to the Clerk who would forward them together.
5. Invitation had been received for the Mayor to lend her name to Gwyneth Dunwoody tribute. The Mayor asked for the guidance of the Council. A letter about this was enclosed with the agenda. It is felt that, while individual councillors had great respect for Mrs Dunwoody, who had been a very good constituency MP, there was a danger, particularly with an election close, that agreeing this request may have political implications.

The Mayor represented the Council and all the people of Nantwich, and it was felt inappropriate to link her name with an MP, however gratefully remembered, who was a prominent figure in a particular political party. The Mayor said she would respond as Council advised.

6. The Clerk asked for formal resolutions to confirm payments for Home Watch organised by Mr Alan Garnett. **RESOLVED** that:-

Mr Alan Garnett of Cronkinson Avenue be refunded the cost of hire of Brookfield Hall (£35.00) on 27th August 2009 for a Home Watch meeting and that the cost of supplying and fixing three Home Watch signs for the Cronkinson Oak area (£116.78) be met by the Council.

7. The Clerk reported recent investments made by the Clerk and Chairman of Finance following authorisation by the Council.
8. A letter from James Thompson, the Riverside Officer, was distributed to elected Members. It was agreed that the request of Mr Thompson for support for his work at the Riverside should be discussed at a future meeting.

- END -

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 14TH DECEMBER 2009PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
09/3689N	Mr M Hollinshead	Proposed amendment to previously approved extension planning ref P07/0887 involving ground floor extension on rear of dwelling.	145 Queens Drive.
Comment: No comment.			
09/3707N	Mr A Bradley	Take down existing single garage and build new double garage.	Kirkleigh, 71a Marsh Lane.
Comment: No comment.			
09/3723N	Mr & Mrs M Kinch	Proposed gates (retrospective)	79 Shrewbridge Road.
Comment: No comment.			
09/3459N	Mr D Brown	Erection of a two storey side/rear extension with rear conservatory.	21 The Broadway.
Comment: No comment.			
09/3742N	Mr M Pilkington	Addition of conservatory in rear garden area.	Apartment 18, Richmond Village.
Comment: No comment.			
09/3926N	Mr & Mrs J Austin	Rear conservatory.	27 Carter Close.
Comment: No comment.			
09/3668N	Mr A Spanton	Proposed alterations of dwelling.	2 Brookfield Park, Shrewbridge Road.
Comment: No comment.			
09/3960N	Mr P Martin	Conversion of garage to study.	10 St Josephs Way.
Comment: No comment.			