



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8th February 2010.

Christmas Lights Awards

Before the meeting the Mayor presented the Christmas Lights Awards to families of three households who had displayed the most attractive lights over the festive season.

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

112. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no question or comment by any member of the public on this occasion.

113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Tooke.

114. 'GREEN SPACES SOUTH CHESHIRE

Jeff Stubbs gave information to the Council about Green Spaces South Cheshire, a proposed public interest company which would be concerned with maintenance of green spaces and in particular the Riverside.

Members expressed some reservations about the locality of operation – where the Company would undertake its work – as the Council was not inclined to contribute to set-up costs which benefited areas outside Nantwich. Members also made the point that it would be necessary to see more details – business plans, membership, aims, etc., before any commitments could be entered into. The general point was made that the responsibility and ownership of the Riverside lay with Cheshire East Council. The predecessor of that Council had employed the Riverside Officer, albeit with grant aid, and it was for Cheshire East, in the first instance, to fill the funding gap and valuable service which the Riverside Officer had provided. Councillor Moran said that he would be attending a meeting with the Cheshire East Portfolio Holder and asking him to maintain the post. He urged his fellow Cheshire East Councillors to do the same.

Town Councillors said that while they supported the establishment of Green Spaces in principle they could not, at this time, commit further. Jeff Stubbs expressed himself very satisfied with this statement of principle and thanked the Councillors for their time and their words of encouragement.

115. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 11TH JANUARY 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 11th January be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

116. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported on her attendance at the Salt Museum, Northwich, on 19th January, for the Award for Best Kept Station. Once again Nantwich won an award for best station, with members of the Nantwich in Bloom Committee and have gained another plaque to put up at the station.

On 22nd of January she visited the Nantwich Museum to view a painting exhibition. It was very interesting to talk to the artist and to see the exhibits.

On 23rd January, she attended Holly Holy Day event. The town was busy, with many visitors. Thanks to the Committee for all their hard work. In the evening she was a guest of the Sealed Knot Society at their banquet in the Crown Hotel which she enjoyed.

On 7th February the Town Service was held at St Mary's Parish Church. She thanked the Councillors who attended and Edward Timpson, our MP. Many town organisations had attended and she thanked those groups for their support.

117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Moran declared a personal interest as a Cheshire East Councillor in item 12(a) Food Festival (because Cheshire East currently funded it); item 12(b) the Town Square (because Cheshire East maintained it); 12(d) Ward Boundaries (because this was a Cheshire East issue, albeit with implications for the Town Council); and item 13 parking charges (because Cheshire East were the Council which fixed and collected the parking fees).

Councillor Martin declared the same personal interests as a Cheshire East Councillor for the same reasons.

118. ACCOUNTS FOR JANUARY 2010

Due to computer problems, the accounts for January were circulated only during the meeting and the Clerk, therefore, proposed they be considered more fully at Policy and Resources Committee on the 22nd February. Councillors accepted this suggestion.

119. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as set out in Appendix A (attached).

120. TOWN WATCH COMMITTEE MINUTES – 20/1/10

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Watch Committee meeting held on 20th January 2010 (attached) be noted.

121. FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES – 21/1/10

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 21st January 2010 (attached) be noted and all recommendations approved and adopted.

122. PLANNING CONTROL

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

123. CURRENT ISSUES – REPORTS

(a) Mill Island

Councillors Fenton and McGinnis reported on the meeting with Stan Wooley, consultant sewerage engineer, at Mill Island, on Wednesday 27th January. The Engineer had agreed to speak to contractors and come back with a specification and rough prices. Councillor McGinnis expressed some concern about the possible cost of a drainage scheme, bearing in mind the fact that the river flooded the land at times and so a “collection tank” might be needed and also the necessity to drain under paths.

(b) Traffic on the Square

Councillors McGinnis and Moran reported on a useful meeting with Cheshire East Traffic Engineers on Thursday 28th January. There were three aspects of the discussion. First, the vehicles presently using the Square and how far current Orders could be enforced to reduce traffic. Second, the possibility of additional Orders to restrict traffic or times of access. Third the physical condition of the Square. The Engineers were to report back soon and a further meeting was to be arranged.

(c) Food Festival

Councillor Fenton reported on a meeting at Rookery Hall, with Guy Fenton of Cheshire East, about the Food Festival. Cheshire East had requested “expressions of interest” in taking over the Festival, to be followed by a short-list with more definite offers. Councillor Fenton was in attendance, not as a Councillor, but as a member of the Food Festival Committee. In association with a number of other committee members, and with Shaun Cafferty (who organises Holly Holy Day) and the promoters of Nantwich Show, Councillor Fenton was expressing an interest. The group would be making a bid.

The view of the Town Council was that the Festival had a particular attraction by being held in the town and in association with the town. Some organisations would simply use it as a vehicle to make profit and take away “the Nantwich feeling” from the event. Town Councillors expressed a hope that Cheshire East would appreciate the interest by local people and support the bid to be submitted by the group represented by Councillor Fenton.

(d) **Ward Boundaries.**

Councillor Moran reported that Cheshire East had submitted a revised suggestion to the Boundary Committee as to the exact boundary between the two proposed wards in Nantwich. (The significance to the Town Council was that the wards for election of Town Councillors would probably follow the same lines). The revised suggestion would, according to Councillor Moran, split the Alvaston / Scaife Road / Monks Orchard estate. Councillor Martin contended that Cheshire East was putting forward two alternatives, rather than a new suggestion. It was pointed out that the final decision was for the Boundary Committee.

124. PARKING CHARGES

Councillor Moran, supported by Councillor Fenton, addressed the Council regarding anomalies in the car park charging regime across East Cheshire. For example, Alsager, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach were going to be “no charge”. Congleton was probably going to be 30p per hour and 50p for two hours. This contrasted with Nantwich which was currently 70p and £1 plus 50p on Sunday. The Town Council were unanimous in supporting the two Councillors in their concerns and **RESOLVED** that:-

The Town Council urges Cheshire East Borough Council to re-examine proposed car-parking charges across the Borough, as a matter of urgency, with a view to achieving fairness, parity with other towns and Justice for Nantwich – and in that examination, an initial hour of free parking in Nantwich, to stimulate trade and the use of community facilities, should be incorporated.

Councillor McGinnis also spoke on this issue and then drew attention to the area used for car parking at the old Gas Works site at St Anne’s Lane off Welsh Row. He requested (and the Council agreed) that the Clerk should write to Cheshire East to ask the new Council to ensure that the surface of the site, which was known to be contaminated, had not deteriorated in the recent harsh weather and that contaminants had not leached into the river.

125. FIRST RESPONDERS

Councillor McGinnis reported on the success gained following a public meeting, a march through the town, petition, lobbying by MPs and many months of discussion with NWAS. At last NWAS had seen sense, and would be restoring the blue light to Gavin Palin, the Nantwich First Responder. NWAS would also be stationing a blue light ambulance in Nantwich. Although there were other issues to take forward, such as better recording of ambulance response times, regular monitoring, and training of First Responders, these were very significant achievements, which would improve ambulance response both in the town and surrounding villages like Audlem.

The new Chief Executive of NWS, Darren Hurrell, had felt able to make these changes and Councillor McGinnis applauded his common-sense in doing so. He also paid credit to the individuals who had helped in the campaign to obtain restoration of the blue light. It was agreed that the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, would write to thank and congratulate those individuals.

Councillor Lewis proposed that the thanks and congratulations of the Council and indeed residents of the town, were also due to Councillor McGinnis for his persistence in this struggle and this sentiment was unanimously endorsed by the Council.

126. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no formal reports. Councillor Simpson reminded Councillors of some forthcoming events at the Museum.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK TO TOWN COUNCIL ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2010

1. Results of LAP meeting on 18th January, at Malbank School, reported. The next LAP meeting is 2nd March at 4.30pm at Malbank School.
2. Budget Consultation on 18th January, Congleton was mentioned – promise received about grant to parishes. Similar event on January 20th at Wychwood Park – it seemed that Cheshire East were trying to divest themselves of discretionary activities.
3. Town Crier for Nantwich – Clerk suggested a report to Policy and Resources Committee.
4. It was agreed to nominate (next) Mayor for draw to attend the Royal Garden Party.
5. Councillors reminded of need to book meetings well in advance, because of extensive use of Brookfield Hall by diverse organisations.
6. Notification of Rural Housing Questionnaire being distributed.
7. Chalc training reminder circulated.
8. Warning by Trading Standards of “council tax confidence trick” was tabled.
9. Town and Parish Conference on 17th March – 6/8.30pm Middlewich. Two representatives should attend.
10. Chalc newsletters tabled.
11. Cheshire East organising area events to help shape Community Strategy. The Nantwich even was on 25th February, 5.45pm in Nantwich Civic Hall.
12. Power of Well-being briefings – Clerk made a request for the maximum number of Councillors to attend on 24th February 2-5pm, Brookfield Hall.
13. Council’s entry in ‘Link’ magazine for January tabled.

- END -

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 8TH FEBRUARY 2010PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
09/3964N	Mr M Rhodes & Mr G Brown	Two storey extension at rear of property, extending some 1563mm from the rear of the existing house. Existing glass conservatory to be removed and then rebuilt to the rear of the new extension.	10 Vauxhall Road
Comment: No comment.			
09/4219N	Mr D Moorhouse	Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and sun lounge. Erection of single storey rear kitchen extension and sun lounge and provision of French window to side elevation.	59 Shrewbridge Rd
Comment: No comment.			
10/0012N	Nationwide Building Soc.	Installation of two external a/c condenser units on rear wall adjacent to flat roof.	25 High Street.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0117N	Mr A Bradley	Construction of double garage and first floor extension.	71a Marsh Lane.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0173N	Richmond Village Centre	Remove windows from bedrooms 14 and 15, replace with double doors.	Richmond Village Richmond Village, St Josephs Way.
Comment: No comment.			

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 8TH FEBRUARY 2010ADDITIONAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
09/4227N	Johnsons of Nantwich Ltd	Alterations to Beam Street elevation.	10 Oat Market.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0062N	The Stanley family.	New re-designed residence alongside no. 47 Marsh Lane.	47 Marsh Lane.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0226N	Mr A Edwards	Garage conversion and two storey side extension.	3 Hellath Wen.
Comment: No comment.			



Nantwich Town Council



MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2010 AT 2.30PM.

In attendance: - Councillor Lewis (Chairman), Councillors Hope and Cafferty, together with the Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor McGinnis. Councillor Fenton was not in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 5TH NOVEMBER 2009

The Minutes of 5th November Committee, previously approved by Council, were noted.

4. MEMBERS AND AUDIT

The Chairman spoke to a note he had prepared. The Clerk and Chairman had attended a briefing organised by Chalc concerned with internal audit held on 25th November 2009. The focus of the training was on risk management and adequacy of financial controls.

RECOMMENDED that the Council **RESOLVE** that:-

- (a) A new letter of appointment and terms of reference be suggested to the internal auditor.
- (b) The internal auditor be asked to report every 4 months (annual report plus two others), such reports being for the attention of the Council.
- (c) Members who sign cheques be requested to sign the Schedule normally accompanying them which forms the Schedule of Payments reported to Council each month. The purpose of signing the Schedule being to confirm details of cheques signed and to demonstrate that invoices and/or Council authority has been produced as required.

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5. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Committee considered a summary of the current Financial Regulations and discussed a number of amendments suggested by the Clerk. **RECOMMENDED** that the Council **RESOLVE** that:-

- (a) That the Regulations should make clear that once a sum is included in the annual budget, that is sufficient authority for the expenditure to be incurred.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, that capital funds may be kept in interest bearing accounts which are not necessarily instant access.
- (c) References to 'Chairman' altered to 'Mayor' throughout.
- (d) Payments by Direct Debit, Standing Order and, where applicable, by Credit Card as well as by cheque shall be permissible.
- (e) That provided that orders for goods or work are in writing and the terms (including price, date of delivery and specification) are clearly stated, an Official Order shall not be necessary unless requested.
- (f) That the regulation relating to Contracts (regulation 11) shall be amended as follows:-
 - 1. Responsible Financial Officer can authorise all day-to-day maintenance and running expenditure for which there is budgetary provision and any expenses urgently required for purposes of health and safety.
 - 2. Mayor and Responsible Financial Officer can authorise other expenditure up to £2000 without the need for tenders, provided that in all cases best value shall be sought and comparative quotes obtained where practical.
 - 3. Above £2000 at least 3 tenders shall be sought.
 - 4. On the recommendation to Council of the Responsible Financial Officer or a committee, tenders may be waived for reasons including urgency, good work done in the past, only one supplier and the need to maintain consistency (e.g., particular type of computer equipment).

The Committee also **RECOMMENDED** that the Council **RESOLVE** that the Petty Cash float be agreed in the sum of £150.00.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL WATCH COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on 20th January 2010, at 11am in Brookfield Hall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Joyce Stockton (Chairman), Councillor Edith Williams, Councillor Bill McGinnis, Inspector Bob Hassall, PC Amy Fletcher, Phil Ball (Licensees) Brett Hall, Sue Togay (Town Centres Manager) and Riddell Graham Town Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Nicola Tooke, Andrew Martin and Steve Hope.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF TOWN WATCH COMMITTEE MEETING 21ST OCTOBER 2009.

The Minutes of the meeting of 21st October were approved as a correct record. They had previously been reported to Council.

4 POLICING IN NANTWICH

Inspector Hassall made a presentation to the Committee. The slides are attached.

“Headline” points were:-

- Boots the Chemist, where staff had not been fully using the radio system, were now using it and a number of shop-lifters had been detained.
- Shop lifting continues to be an issue in the town. Ages are between 20 and 40 generally and, of course, the real problem is professional shop-lifters, some stealing to support a drug or drink addiction.
- Management of the night-time economy was a continuing priority. Christmas was reasonably quiet – partly due to policing but also due to cold weather, the way the holidays fell and to a co-ordinated door staff force – all now working for a single company. Phil Ball confirmed this assessment from the point of view of a licensee. He said that the Town Link (radio system) had been particularly effective over the festive season. The Malbank pub was coming on board. Compared to last year, Inspector Hassall reported that recorded anti social behaviour over this period was down 26%.
- A joint enforcement initiative with Cheshire East relating to taxis had been effective.

- The Pizza parlour had received special attention over Christmas.
- Management of seasonal anti-social behaviour had meant joint patrolling and visits to parishes.
- The presentation revealed 103 instances of rowdy behaviour and 29 ASB incidents.
- Around 150 'Directions to Leave' had been issued over the 3 months, as compared to 17 in Macclesfield. The use of this measure helped maintain an uneventful Christmas period.
- It was important to respond quickly to calls over the SCOOT radio. If no response is made, shop-keepers and businesses become disillusioned.
- There was a discussion about drunkenness. The Inspector doubted whether an increase in the cost of alcohol in clubs and pubs would have much effect. Phil Ball agreed. The feeling was that people were (i) drinking at home and (ii) buying from off-licences. Phil said that, paradoxically, when venues were crowded and there was plenty to occupy customers, then there was less likelihood of arguments or violence.
- As regards speed checks, these were mainly carried out on the outskirts of town for obvious reason.
- Generally speaking, crime in Nantwich was low. In December, Nantwich suffered 100 crimes across all categories, as opposed to 1495 in Cheshire East.

Priorities.

Looking forward to January/March inclusive, including the Jazz Festival, priorities proposed were the management of the night time economy and road policing. These priorities were agreed by the Committee (see sheet attached for detail).

A general discussion about parking matters followed. Inspector Hassall said this was no longer a police matter, save as an obstruction (and there had to be a person actually obstructed for a successful prosecution). The Clerk was asked to write to Cheshire East to ask what resources, in terms of wardens, were available to discourage parking on yellow lines, on the pavement and in pedestrian areas.

5 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Brett Hall – CCTV reported on the shift of the CCTV control room to Macclesfield. The timescale originally suggested for the move was a “challenging” one and Brett felt that a possible, if ambitious, date was end of October 2010. The move was intended to bring economies of scale and savings in that the Council would employ its own CCTV operators directly instead of third party operators.

As long as local knowledge was retained, Brett felt the new arrangements would work successfully. He was aware that just one operative was reluctant to transfer. There was logic in the changing arrangements, as otherwise there would be three different systems covering three areas and this was not efficient.

Sue Togay – Town Centre Manager reported briefly on Holly Holy Day, LAP meetings and tourism. She was keen to encourage co-operation and “joined-up thinking” in the town and she felt her local knowledge and contacts could assist in achieving that. She noted that the Chamber of Commerce was working to establish a local network of businesses which she was supporting. All the Town Centre Managers were now based at Municipal Buildings and part of Economic Development. Jenny Anderson would be part of the team. Sue’s phone numbers were 537542 and 07970707055 and she invited members of the group to contact her if any assistance was required.

Phil Ball - Licensees said that most of what Inspector Hassall had reported covered issues he was concerned with. He agreed that it had been a relatively quiet and well policed Christmas and that the fact that all door staff were with one firm was helpful. A brief discussion on Emcat, a new drug derived from agricultural fertilizer, followed. It had previously not been a classified drug but on 23rd December 2009 was designated illegal. It was thought that this was not fully understood, until recently, by club-goers.

6 NEXT MEETING

- (a) Inspector Hassall reported that there was a meeting at Brine Leas School on Tuesday 20th April at 7.30pm when the Chief Constable would be in attendance. The meeting would be particularly concerned with issues of interest to Town and Parish Councils and all Members were urged to attend.
- (b) The next meeting of the Town Watch Committee was fixed for Wednesday 28th April at 11am.

- END -