



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

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

127. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Simpson of Bowling Green Court (a member of the Townswomen's Guild who were observing the Council meeting) asked whether there had been any change in the rules or boundary of the Nantwich Conservation Area. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

Inspector Hassall spoke briefly about the local policing priorities, which remained 'Management of the Night time Economy' and 'Road policing'. He said that the next major event the police were preparing for was the Jazz Festival. He was pleased to announce 24 hour cover based in Nantwich which meant that he was not reliant on cover from Crewe, because, with the best will in the world, this was not always available at the times required. He anticipated there would be additional officers and improved response in Nantwich from the end of the month. This development was welcomed by Councillors.

128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence, but it was mentioned that Councillor Lewis would be delayed (he subsequently arrived as Council discussed item 8.)

129. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 8TH FEBRUARY 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th February 2010 (which incorporate the Minutes of the Town Watch Committee of 20th January 2010 and the Finance Committee of 21st January 2010) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

130. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported her appointments in February.

On 15th February she had presented a certificate and a bottle of bubbly to Mrs Densem at Densem Wines for the Christmas Lights Awards.

Later in the evening she had been to a presentation of Certificates to the British Legion Cadets.

On 23rd February, she attended a formal dinner at Reaseheath, when the College staff expressed interest in the Green Space organisation.

On 8th March she had attended a very interesting exhibition of photographs at the Museum, which she recommended visiting.

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fenton declared a personal interest in planning application 10/0404N, 14 Ray Avenue, as he was an acquaintance of the applicant. Councillor Lewis declared a personal interest (when the application was considered) in 10/0440N, 14 Lakeside View, as he was an acquaintance of the applicant.

Councillor Moran declared a personal interest as a Cheshire East Councillor in item 9 so far as it related to devolution of functions from Cheshire East Council. He declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 12 (Deputy Mayor's chain) as a Cheshire East Councillor, because the issue involved property in the possession of the Unitary Authority which the Town Council wanted to have transferred to its ownership.

Councillor Martin declared the same personal and prejudicial interests as Councillor Moran for the same reasons. Both Councillors left the room for consideration of item 12 and took no part in discussion or voting.

132. ACCOUNTS FOR FEBRUARY 2010

RESOLVED that the Comparison with Budget Sheet be noted and that payments for February 2010 be approved.

133. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported and it was **RESOLVED** as set out on the attached Appendix A.

134. PLANNING CONTROL

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

135. WORK ON BROOKFIELD HALL

Councillors considered the Clerk's report. **RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) The Clerk be authorised to engage Bower Edleston at a fixed fee to obtain up-dated quotations for estimates already obtained and to supervise work on Brookfield Hall to deal with the matters set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- (b) That the programme of work, details of improvements and any additional ancillary items considered necessary, be agreed in consultation with the leaders of the two political groups and that a budget up to £45,000 be approved from capital reserves for the works and supervision involved.

- (c) That bearing in mind the quotations already in existence, the comparison of costs to be undertaken and the supervision proposed, contract regulations be waived on the basis that best value will be obtained and estimates will be tested by contacting comparable contractors.

136. RECENT ISSUES / MEETINGS

- Councillors Moran, Martin and Dykes had attended a meeting on 23rd February, with the Portfolio Holder at Cheshire East Council regarding the Green Space project. Councillor Moran reported that they had indicated support for capital projects but expressed reservations about the area covered by Green Space which went beyond Nantwich.
- Councillors Moran and McGinnis had attended a meeting on 24th February about pedestrianisation of the centre of Nantwich. It had been agreed that Cheshire East would replace signs, replace some bollards and refresh enforcement. Mill Street was currently 'access only' but Cheshire East Engineers were reluctant, at this stage, to promote an order restricting times. Councillor McGinnis suggested (and Council agreed) that this issue should form part of the Council agenda for the future until the Town Council was satisfied with progress.
- Five Town Councillors had gone to the Community Strategy Event on 25th February. Comment was made on the number of Cheshire East Officers in attendance. The views of the Town Council were well represented but reservations were expressed about how far these meetings were effective consultation.
- The LAP meeting on 2nd March had been attended by several Town Councillors. Councillor Moran had given a short briefing about Nantwich Town Council and Councillor Martin congratulated him on a stimulating presentation.
- Councillor Hope reported on discussions about the possible devolution of toilets and the market in the town. There was a general view that the market, if offered, should be pursued. Views varied as to whether toilets should be "taken over" although it was accepted that, as a tourist town, toilet facilities were very important.

137. MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES MEETING 22/2/2010

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February 2010 were accepted and approved. There were two minor amendments, namely;

- (i) In the minute about proposed Capital Spend (item 7) the Clerk agreed that the suggestion of better signage from Shrewbridge Road to Brookfield Hall should have been mentioned.
- (ii) At paragraph 8 of the same minute it was agreed that the words "The Conservative Group" should be deleted and the words "Some Councillors", substituted.

There were two matters arising from the Minutes, namely:-

- (a) The Resolution relating to item 7 (passed unanimously) reads:- “The Council **RESOLVES** that the various steps outlined in paragraphs 1-11 above be adopted and undertaken.”

The point was made and accepted by Council, that “the various steps” included some feasibility studies, further costing, and examination of the proposals by Policy and Resources Committee and Finance Committee.

- (b) Arising from minute 8, Councillor McGinnis suggested, and it was agreed by Council, that a report on the possibility of appointing a Town Crier should be presented by the Clerk to a next appropriate Policy and Resources committee.

138. DEPUTY MAYOR’S CHAIN

The Council considered the report of the Clerk. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be instructed to seek a meeting between the relevant portfolio holder at Cheshire East and a number of Town Councillors to discuss the issue of the Mayoral Chain of Nantwich UDC.

139. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Cafferty reported that **St George’s Day** was on course for another successful event with a Song and Laughter Workshop, Punch and Judy, Dragon on Stilts and children’s amusements, storyteller, and stalls. He also mentioned that arrangements for **Family Fun Day** were moving at a reasonable pace with a number of proactive members having recently joined the organising committee for which he was very grateful.

Councillor Farrall reported on recent discussions at the **Civic Society**, lead by their active Chairman Jeff Stubbs. Concern had been expressed about the appearance of major buildings in the town centre and a request made for assistance with the Civic Society’s Street Audit. Councillor Farrall also mentioned an apparent shortage of enforcement staff at Cheshire East. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Cheshire East Council expressing concern about lack of enforcement staff.

Councillor Moran reported on Transport Group proceedings and in particular the Highway and Transportation forums, which were to be established on for Ward Members and other interested parties. The forums would cover traffic and highway matters within the area of a particular LAP, in a similar way, Councillor Moran anticipated, to the former Joint Highway Committees. It was hoped that they would create an effective method of effecting necessary alterations and approvals to traffic orders etc., which so far seemed to have been delayed by an overload of work directed to the portfolio holder.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK TO COUNCIL ON 8TH MARCH 2010.**CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF URGENCY.**

1. Power of Well Being training on 24th February had been useful and interesting but the Council was still one person short of trained councillors. Until one more Councillors undertook this training we could not use this very useful power which would make carrying out some of the proposed projects and intended devolution impossible, through lack of statutory authority. The Clerk urged Members who had not attended the session to take the training when the opportunity arose.
2. Councillor Cafferty agreed to attend the Cheshire East LSP Assembly at Crewe Alex on 26th March, 10am to 1pm. [Councillor Cafferty has subsequently reported that he is, unfortunately, unable to attend this.]
3. Clerk had previously discussed his intended trip to Australia with the Mayor and two Group leaders. Explained the position. It was noted that the constraints of school holidays meant that there was a period of 2 weeks in August when the office would be closed. Clerk indicated his intention to take a week of unpaid leave, to ensure that he had a few days holiday “in hand”.
4. Nantwich Link entry tabled.
5. Closure of Wellington Road level crossing 24th / 30th April tabled.
6. **RESOLVED** that the virement of ice rink costs be noted and approved. That the issues of interest in the RBS account and revenue reserves be referred for attention of the Finance Committee with delegated powers for the Committee to make a final decision on behalf of the Council.
7. Application by lady who runs Slimming World to use small office at a reduced rate. Council agreed that a price be fixed by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of Finance and the Mayor.
8. Thanks from the Samaritans for a grant (tabled).
9. Town and Parish Conference on Wednesday 17th March, at 6.30pm, Middlewich Community Church to be attended by Mayor and Clerk.
10. Clerk reported on letter (tabled) from Edward Timpson MP supporting the Town Council’s campaign for equal treatment for Nantwich so far as car parking charges were concerned.

Arising from the points made in the letter, Councillor McGinnis reminded Council that Crewe and Nantwich had wards with some of the lowest per capita income in Cheshire East and that unemployment (while not high) was above average for the Borough Council area. Yet Nantwich residents, without a single 'free' car park, were paying higher parking fees than anywhere else. This could only be detrimental to traders and businesses and was simply unfair and inequitable to residents. A number of other Councillors spoke in support of these points. **RESOLVED** that a letter on behalf of the Council, be sent to the Leader of Cheshire East, pointing out the anomalies in parking charges and asking for parity and fairness with other market towns, as a matter of urgency.

- END -

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

No	Applicant	Development	Site
10/0303N	Mrs P Edwards	Hand painted sign writers fascia sign to shop and projecting wall hung sign non illuminated.	11 Pillory Street.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0404N	Mr & Mrs K Chang	Single and two storey Extension to front, side and rear of house.	14 Ray Avenue.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0416N	Mr A Wheeldon	Listed building consent for for conversion and refurbishment of rear of 41 High Street to create one house.	Rear of 41 High St.
Comment: While the Town Council is pleased to see buildings brought into residential use in the town centre, it is concerned about vehicular access and parking provision to this property, which presumably will be carefully considered by planning officers.			
Note: Councillor Moran voiced concerns about the state of the Walled Garden. RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Cheshire East planners to ask what safeguards were in place to protect the wall and to ask when development was intended to start.			
10/0440N	Mrs P Moore	Convert garage to living accommodation with change to external elevation and further internal alterations.	14 Lakeside View.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0522N	Mr & Mrs E Brown	Demolition of conservatory & construction of new single storey extension.	23 Weaverside.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0635N	Mr D Cassatta	Alterations and extensions to dwelling.	19 Blagg Avenue.
Comment: No comment.			



Nantwich Town Council

Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of the Council held on Monday 22nd February 2010.

Present - Councillors Moran (in the Chair), Cafferty, Farrall, Fenton, Hope, Lewis, McGinnis, Simpson, Stockton, Tooke and Williams together with the Town Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Martin.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Moran declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of planning application 10/0267N (1 Stonebridge Road) because the applicant was a family friend. Councillor Hope made a similar declaration in respect of the application 10/0285N (1 Nixons Row) each left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote in reference to these items. Councillor Moran declared a personal interest in item 3 (devolution of powers) as a Cheshire East Councillor and in item 7 (part of proposed capital expenditure involving Nantwich Football club ground) as a season ticket holder of the Football Club. Councillor Moran also declared a personal interest in planning application 10/0230N (114 Beam Street) as the applicant had been a colleague in the same political party. Councillors Stockton and Hope declared the same personal interest in the latter application for the same reasons.

3 DEVOLUTION

The Clerk reported the date of a meeting arranged with Cheshire East regarding possible devolution of toilets/market hall. Members briefly discussed these services.

4 CHRISTMAS ICE RINK

Councillor Cafferty made it clear that item on the agenda concerning the ice rink had not been included at his request. However, he intended to give a report to the Council, once he had information about the attendances and finances of the rink. There had been some delay because one of the promoters was in the United States.

5 ACCOUNTS FOR JANUARY 2010

RECOMMENDED that the Comparison with Budget Sheet be noted and Payments for January approved.

6 GREEN SPACES SOUTH CHESHIRE

Councillor Moran was attending a meeting on 23rd February and would report the outcome to Council.



7 NANTWICH FIRST CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The proposals of Nantwich First were outlined and comments made by various councillors. An outline of the results of the discussion and **RECOMMENDATION** to Council is set out on the attached sheet.

8 TOWN CRIER

Members did not wish to pursue the possibility of a Town Crier and, in any event, felt that if such a post were to be established, advertisements for local candidates would be the right approach.

9 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

It was agreed that Members plus the Clerk should attend a conference at Bolton. (Subsequently, and at her request, it has been decided that Councillor Simpson will not attend).

The Clerk took the opportunity to remind Members of a number of forthcoming meetings.

10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that the observations of the Town Council on the planning applications shown on the attached sheet be submitted to the Planning Officer at Cheshire East Council.

11 DEPUTY'S CHAIN

At the request of Councillor McGinnis and with the consent of the Chairman there was mention of the chain of the former Nantwich UDC. The Clerk said he would provide a report to Council.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

- END -



NANTWICH FIRST PROPOSED CAPITAL SPEND ITEMS 2010-2011.

1. **Brookfield Hall**

Work to Brookfield Hall had not been included as an item of capital expenditure in the list of proposals from Nantwich First. The Clerk indicated that he would put a report to Council about the building at the next Council meeting.

2. **Car Parks**

There was general agreement that **Shrewbridge Road** car park surface needed improvements but also acceptance that 'Pay and Display' was not appropriate there. Expenditure here would be expected to be modest. Clerk to make further enquiries (**£30,000?**)

Nantwich Town Football Club car park – Clerk to make enquiries about possible terms of income share if the Town Council contributed to the Club's car park (**£30,000**).

Railway Station car park – there were current discussions about surfacing this car park which were not likely to be concluded very swiftly but there was general support for a car park at the station (**£30,000**).

Reservations were expressed by Members in relation to the Shrewbridge Road car park because it was the responsibility of Cheshire East. It was agreed as important that both the Football Club car park and Station car park (neither in the Town Council's ownership nor that of Cheshire East Council) should bring a reasonable financial return for any investment by the Town Council.

3. **Lakeside Improvements (£40,000)**

Suggestions were made of a facility for sale of food and for toilet provision near the lake. Also improved parking, seating and litter bins. The point was made that improvements to this car park would also benefit visitors to the river and lake. The possibility of an information board to be considered.

Clerk was requested to arrange a feasibility study and put forward options.

4. **The Gables (£80,000)**

it was made clear that this was an option which would only go ahead if a long term lease of the ground floor of the Gables could be obtained from Cheshire East. Costs would be incurred in the refurbishment of the ground floor and kitchens. Some community use of the building, or perhaps as a drop-in centre for young people might be considered. It was pointed out that this would incur revenue costs and doubts were expressed as to the evidence of need – consultation was suggested.



Councillor Hope indicated that his Group accepted that this was a long-term proposal which needed further discussion and research.

5. **Mill Island (£50,000)**

Action already arranged to improve drainage. Other possible ideas were electricity; water; bringing street furniture (lamp standards; litter bins; railings etc) to a uniform colour; facilities for vehicles to avoid damaging grassed surfaces; band stand or similar.

Clerk to investigate options and costs and report back.

6. **Town Square (£100,000)**

This was a proposed contribution, dependent on matched funding by Cheshire East, for improvements to the Square surface and seating. But dependent also on the need to resolve the problem of traffic using the Square – there was no point in improving the paving only for it to be damaged by vehicles. So the outcome of efforts to exclude traffic was vitally important before further action was taken on this proposal.

7. **Street Furniture (£7,000)**

General improvements to street furniture both in the town and on green spaces.

8. **Community School Projects (£60,000)**

Malbank School was to be a local centre for Olympic related activities. (£30,000). Brine Leas School had a special needs project for community use for the Arts (£30,000). The Conservative Group expressed objections to these proposals on the grounds that (a) it was a precedent and (b) schools were already funded by central government and education authorities. The Clerk expressed reservations as to whether there was a statutory basis for contributions. Agreed further research and consideration needed.

9. **Christmas Lights (£50,000)**

In principle, all Councillors in favour of brightening up the town. (But Members were reminded that this had previously been primarily paid for and undertaken by predecessor to Cheshire East.) Physical difficulties of height of the buildings pointed out. Lights could be leased (clearly revenue) or purchased (capital?) In addition, the concept of banners on the shops (agreed some months ago) could be further considered.

Clerk to obtain further information and costing.



10. **Special Project (£150,000 or less)**

Councillor McGinnis outlined a special project which, in principle, was welcomed by Members. It involved a video of the history and highlights of Nantwich and an introduction to tourists and visitors to the town.

It would be in modular form and could be used, for example in the church, museum, schools. It would have tourism benefits and involve many groups in the community. Costs had been put at £150,000, but it may well be less if a number of educational and voluntary organisations were involved. Councillor Fenton suggested such a project if taken forward, would need a steering group and very careful planning.

11. **Conclusion**

Councillor Hope concluded by suggesting that more information and costing be gathered by the Clerk on the projects indicated and that a further report be submitted to a Policy and Resources Committee, followed by a detailed examination by Finance Committee, before final approval by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that [following any clarification felt necessary at Council], the various steps outlined in paragraphs 1-11 above be adopted and undertaken.

- END -



POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING 22ND FEBRUARY 2010

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
10/0230N	Mr E George	Proposed alterations and extensions on rear of detached house.	114 Beam Street.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0285N	Mr P J Wright	Demolition of garage and construction of two storey side extension.	1 Nixons Row.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0301N	Mr & Mrs J Bradshaw	Single storey rear extension.	32 Mount Close.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0267N	Mr J Burt	Two additional bedrooms and one Ensuite bathroom to be built over existing double garage.	1 Stonebridge Road.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0300N	Mrs P Edwards	Existing A1 Retail use to be extended to include A3 hot and cold food sale.	11 Pillory Street.
Comment: No comment.			
10/0370N	Morston Assets Ltd.	Notification under article 8, schedule 1, concerning planning application. 1. New Perspex canopy over entrance. 2. Ramped access up to entrance. 3. Ramped access from rear of building. 4. Relocated accessible space.	Frederick House, Princes Court, Beam Heath Way.
Comment: No comment.			