



6th December 2011

To: The Mayor and Members of Nantwich Town Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of Nantwich Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at Brookfield Hall, Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich, on **Monday 12th December 2011 at 7.00pm** for the transaction of the business set out in the Agenda below. **Councillors are asked to note that the Council will be followed by the Mayor's Christmas Refreshments. The Mayor will be aiming to finish the Council meeting by 8pm.**

W R Graham

W R Graham
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC FORUM**
This is an opportunity for question and comment by members of the public.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive any apologies for absence.
3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 7TH NOVEMBER 2011**
The Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th November 2011 incorporating the Minutes of Finance Committee of 20th October 2011 (**With The Exception of Minute 94 relating to the budget, which is a recommendation to January Council**) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
5. **MAYOR'S REMARKS**
6. **CLERKS REPORT (CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF URGENCY)**
The attached report refers.
7. **CONFIRMATION OF TOWN PLAN AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 8TH DECEMBER 2011**
The Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that the Recommendations contained in the above Minutes be accepted and approved and the Resolutions noted. (The Minutes will be circulated at the meeting of Council)
8. **ACCOUNTS – NOVEMBER 2011**
To Follow

9. **BRIEF UPDATE**

The attached Report refers

10. **PLANNING CONTROL**

The Council is asked to make observations any planning applications received

11 **PRESENTATION OF AWARD**

Former Councillor Steve Hope, distinguished Member of the Council, to be presented with an award for long service.

- END -

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK TO TOWN COUNCIL 12TH DECEMBER 2011.

1. Reminder of forthcoming meetings:-

Tuesday 13th December at 3pm – Transport Group

28th/30th December inclusive – Brookfield Hall closed

Monday 9th January 2012 – Town Council at 7pm

Monday 30th January 2012 – Policy Committee at 6pm [NOTE TIME!]

Monday 6th February 2012 – Town Council at 7pm

Monday 20th February 2012 – Policy Committee at 6pm [NOTE TIME!]

2. New Clerk

Ian Hope, the new Town Clerk has already been in to the office on several half-days, to familiarise himself with procedures and issues affecting this Council. Following consultation with Councillor Lewis and Marren it has been agreed to pay him (pro- rata to salary) for those hours. He actually begins work on 20th February. In the meantime, Councillor Marren will be assisting Jill Geldart, when required, in the routine running of the office and Councillor Lewis will also be available for help and guidance.

3. Re-accreditation – Quality Status

I am delighted to tell you that on the 1st December the “Quality Status Panel” for Cheshire Association of Local Councils considered our application for renewal of Quality Status and approved it. This means that our accreditation, which was due to expire on 6th February 2012, will run for another four years. It is my understanding that provided the Clerk at the time of re-accreditation (i.e., me) had the Cilca (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification, then the fact that the new Clerk has not yet gained the qualification will not affect the Council’s Quality Status. Having said that, Ian is committed to obtaining Cilca in due course.

- END -

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK TO TOWN COUNCIL 12TH DECEMBER 2011.

BRIEF UPDATE.

Transfer

This process is proceeding well. We have had a briefing with the Council's professionals involved (surveyors, solicitor, accountants) and they have made contact with their opposite numbers at Cheshire East. The TUPE list has been supplied – we have made objection to only one name. Staff to be transferred from Cheshire East are co-operating in the transfer process. We have asked Cheshire East to use a part of the sum provided to “ease transfer” to enable their staff to spend time in providing the information we need for a successful and seamless transfer. Councillor Marren to report.

Precept

As Members know, the budget was discussed in November and a recommendation will be made on 9th January 2012 Council to fix the precept (i.e., the amount the Council considers it needs for next year). The precept forms the main income for the Council in 2012/13 and is raised from council tax on residents. Members will recall that the increase amounts to about £1.30 per week when calculated in “council tax” terms.

Monks Lane

One of the matters which has been dragging on for about 12 months, because of Cheshire East's persistent delays, is the adoption of Monk's Lane. The footpath, which runs in front of Dysart Buildings, is an ancient and historic highway but Cheshire East, the Highway Authority, say it is not adopted and therefore not maintainable at public expense. It is cleaned by Cheshire East. It is not in a bad state of repair at the moment, although it could do with a little work. With the aim of clarifying the position for the future, I have taken a Counsel's Opinion (in accordance with Council authority) and sent it to Cheshire East. I hope this matter will be pursued and that Nantwich Cheshire East Councillors will press for commonsense to prevail.

Starlings

A meeting was held at Brookfield Hall on 26th September to speak to local ornithologists and get a view of where the birds were roosting in past years. This was followed on the same day by a meeting with householders particularly affected who gave additional information. A public meeting was held at Malbank High School on 19th October attended by around 100 concerned residents. There, the expert retained by the Town Council / LAP explained the purpose of the Study he had been asked to undertake – basically to find out why and where the birds were gathering and, if possible, suggest methods of discouraging them. He suggested that the birds come in from the countryside when it gets cold because the town is warmer; and if the weather is relatively mild fewer birds will be seen. Let's hope for a mild winter!

- END -

BRITISH WATERWAYS – NANTWICH AQUADUCT

Notes on the meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2011

Attendance

Apart from 4 councillors and one Acton parish representative there were no Nantwich Town organisations or businesses represented. There were 4 CEC/BW reps. Poor community representation with business rep (J Weir) not present.

Main Points

- The BW (British Waterways) proposal was outlined mainly the anticipated costs (attached). There was no proposed timetable and the implication was that the earliest was likely to be 2013/4. The deficit of £48,000 had to be raised and it was hoped that community funds would bridge the gap. A list of possible sources largely from the Town was mentioned and discussed although users of the canal, related marines were also a potential source. Volunteers may also provide ongoing assistance possibly schools
- Little emerged from the meeting other than the ongoing problems and the possibility of putting together a project possibly delivered in phases but within a fixed period to minimise set up costs. It was suggested that the outline of such a project should be put the next meeting.
- The need for a face-lift for the aqueduct was prioritised by the councillors identified as a routine maintenance aspect not the capital repair work which lies with BW as a capital investment.
- The Trust Charity will commence next April and have some local representation

Date of next meeting

This is provisionally planned for the beginning of February 2012 and the agenda is expected to be the draft project outline plus sources of income .

Nantwich Aqueduct Proposal

Refurbishment works to Nantwich Aqueduct to return the structure to a condition befitting its heritage status and celebrate its local significance.

Scope of works

1. Cast Iron Painting and Repairs
2. Masonry and Brickwork repairs (including vegetation management)
3. Leakage investigation works and associate repairs
4. Community engagement/interpretation and celebration

Provisional Budget

Item	Cost
Painting and repairs	£80,000
Masonry and Brickwork	£35,000
Leakage investigation and repair	£10,000
Community Engagement	£8,000
Project Management and fees	£10,000
TOTAL	£143,000

Sources of Funding

Funding source	Value
British Waterways	£15,000
WREN	£50,000
HLF	£30,000
Funding Gap	£48,000