



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 17th October 2011.

Present - Councillor Moran (Mayor) and Councillors Butterill, Cooper, Farrall, Fenton, Hopkins, Hutton, Lewis, Marren, Martin, and Simpson together with the Town Clerk.

63. PUBLIC FORUM

Sarah Egerton asked that the Christmas lights and Christmas switch on should be more imaginative, more “green” and more colourful.

Peter Harrington asked that the Town Council give consideration to funding the purchase of the Walled Garden which is for sale with a reported price tag of £150,000, the company which was to develop it having gone into administration.

The Clerk agreed to include these two suggestions on an appropriate agenda of Policy Committee.

The Officer in charge of the Nantwich Local Policing Unit, Inspector Dave Smithers, introduced Richard Tomlinson, the new town Sergeant. He would be attending the next Town Watch Committee on the 27th October.

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Farr.

65. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Marren and Councillor Butterill were members of the Cheshire East Southern Planning Committee and made it clear they would not be speaking on planning matters. Councillor Moran and Councillor Martin declared personal interests as Cheshire East Councillors in the planning application relating to Millfields CP School as it is Cheshire East owned. Councillors Moran, Martin, Butterill and Marren as Cheshire East Councillors declared personal interests in matters relating to transfer of services from Cheshire East to the Town Council (items 9, 12 and 13) and Councillor Marren asked that mention be made of advice he had received about his position from the Monitoring Officer and Standards Board for England, as he had a relative employed at the Civic Hall.

66. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL 12TH SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th September 2011 (which incorporated the Minutes of four Committees) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

67. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor outlined his engagements as follows:-

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|----------------------------|---|
| 14 th September | Attended Nantwich Players Theatre production of 'Safari Party'. |
| 15 th September | Presented an award to Nantwich in Bloom. |
| 17 th September | Attended the Battle of Britain and Bomber Command Parade service on Town square and laid a wreath on behalf of the Council and people of Nantwich. |
| 19 th September | Attended the opening of Malbank School's Olympic Boulevard, along with Mayor of Cheshire East and Edward Timpson MP. |
| 20 th September | Presented medals at Nantwich library to children in this year's reading challenge. |
| 21 st September | Attended Crewe and Nantwich Weaver Rotary Club and was installed as an Honorary Member of the Club. |
| 22 nd September | Attended Leighton Hospital Prostate Support Group, demonstration of a portable PSA blood testing unit called a Bio Scan, along with the Mayor of Winsford. |
| 23 rd September | Attended and toured Nantwich Food Festival with the festival chairman, Councillor Graham Fenton. |
| 29 th September | Attended the launch of a coach park scheme at Nantwich Town Football Club along with John Weir, Chairman of Nantwich Flourish and representatives from Rotary and Nantwich Town FC. |

68. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported as shown on the attached Appendix A.

69. ACCOUNTS SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED that the Comparison with Budget sheet be noted and the payments for September 2011 be approved.

70. MINUTES OF POLICY COMMITTEE 26TH SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED that the Resolutions of the Committee of 26th September 2011 be noted and all Recommendations accepted save for the Recommendation relating to a letter set out at Minute 3a. In respect of that item the Council **RESOLVED** that a letter from the Town Council be sent to Marks and Spencer's encouraging the firm to open a shop in Nantwich.

71. STREET ENTERTAINMENT ETC

Arising from the Policy Committee minutes the Council considered a report which indicated that Cheshire East Council wanted the Town Council to take responsibility for Christmas Lights, Street Entertainment, Planters and Street Furniture.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Until the transfer of services made it possible to use staff to undertake such duties, the Clerk be authorised to agree with a suitable person, in consideration for a lump sum payment, the programming and inspection of Street Entertainment and the inspection of Christmas Lights.
- (b) The Finance Committee be requested to take into account in setting the budget for 2012/13 the likelihood that the Town Council will in future be financing (i) Street Entertainment; (ii) Christmas Lights; (iii) Planters; (iv) Street Furniture maintenance.

The Clerk has written to Cheshire East to ascertain exactly what might be involved in the last two responsibilities and also some clarification as regards the position on Town Centre Management.

72. TOWN CRIER

Arising from the Policy Committee minutes the Town Council was recommended to agree to the appointment of a Town Crier subject to references. The Clerk said he had spoken to the Clerk of Kidsgrove Town Council (where the potential Crier had been a councillor) and to the Secretary of the Loyal Company of Town Criers who had both given John Parsons glowing references. On the basis of this information and on the understanding that the Crier himself or Crewe and Nantwich Weaver Rotary would be responsible for financial aspects with no costs falling on the Council, it was **RESOLVED** that John Parsons of 157 Jamage Road, Talke Pits, Stoke on Trent, be appointed Town Crier of Nantwich.

73. PLANNING CONTROL

RESOLVED that the observations shown on Appendix B be submitted to the Cheshire East Planning Officer.

73b. RESPONSE TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF) 'PLACE SHAPING' CONSULTATION 2011.

At the request of Councillor Lewis the Council considered a response to the LDF. It may be that the Council will make a more detailed submission in the future, but at this stage it was felt important to make some key points in relation to the LDF.

RESOLVED that the response to the LDF Framework (attached to these Minutes) be approved and sent to the Planning Authority.

Arising from this item (which would otherwise have gone before Policy Committee) the Clerk informed the Council that, following consultation with the Chairman of Policy Committee, Councillor Fenton, it had been decided to cancel the Policy Committee scheduled for 24th October 2011.

74. RESPONSES TO THE PROPOSAL BY THE TOWN COUNCIL TO TAKE A TRANSFER OF CHESHIRE EAST SERVICES

The Council noted the responses received to the Leader's letter and Talk of the Town. The Town Council had asked for comments on the intention of the Council to take over Cheshire East services (e.g., Civic Hall, Market, public toilets). Twelve comments had been received from local organisations and twelve from individuals. The vast majority were in favour of "take-over". The Clerk had mentioned that all responses were available for inspection at Brookfield Hall.

75. PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE 14TH SEPTEMBER STAFFING COMMITTEE 14TH SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The Minutes of the Town Planning and Partnership Committee meeting of 14th September 2011, circulated on the 27th September 2011 be noted.
- (b) The Minutes of the Staffing Committee of 14th September, 2011, circulated on 7th October 2011, be noted.

76. FRONT DESK – NANTWICH POLICE STATION

The Council considered a request from Nantwich Police for a contribution of £16,000 per annum for the next three years, to maintain the front desk at Nantwich Police station.

RESOLVED that a contribution to the police be agreed for the first year (April 2012 – March 2013) and continued for a further two years provided information is supplied sufficient to satisfy the Council that the front desk is used regularly by members of the public and enhances the service the police provide.

Inspection Smithers, who was present, said he was happy to provide such information and, indeed, had already arranged for the detail to be recorded.

77. STATEMENT OF INTENT – TRAINING 2012-2013.

The Council considered the Training Statement of Intent 2011/13. The Statement set out the perceived training needs of Councillors and staff and identified the way in which they would be met.

RESOLVED that the Training Statement of Intent 2011/13 now presented be approved and adopted.

78. REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Simpson reported on the position as regards the **Museum**. The Business Manager, Angela Graham, had outlined a business plan for the future. The Museum had been awarded Accreditation status by the Arts Council for England, which means increased credibility with other organisations and grant giving bodies. The Museum is mounting a "Two Elizabeth's" exhibition to mark the Queens Jubilee.

Councillor Farrall reported on the **Civic Society**, which had won an award at the Civic

Voice Annual General Meeting in Sheffield on 18th October. This was a certificate of “Highly Commended” from the Marsh Civic Awards – a charitable organisation.

There were only two highly commended in the country, together with the winner, Wimbledon Civic Society. The award recognised the Society’s efforts in involving the community in a Spring Clean Up of the Town Centre, working with other local organisations and with young people. A Street Audit and the lobbying and practical work the Society have done was also one of the aspects of the recognition won.

Councillor Lewis drew attention to the latest Minutes of the Transport Group, particularly highlighting the reference to the need to discourage heavy vehicles from entering the town centre. He pointed out that the vehicles were a hazard to pedestrians as well as damaging the paving and adding to pollution in the town.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.REPORT OF TOWN CLERK TO TOWN COUNCIL 17TH OCTOBER 2011.1. Starlings.

Councillors were reminded of the public meeting regarding Starlings on 19th October, 7-8.30pm at Malbank School. Sharon Angus-Crawshaw will not be present, but the meeting will be chaired by Kirstie Hercules. Roy Leigh, the Consultant, will be present.

2. Quality Status.

The draft application for Quality Status has been looked over by Linda Davenport of Chalc, who considers it satisfactory. A few alterations suggested by Linda will be made and the application will be submitted for assessment in November.

3. Reaseheath development.

Meredydd David is to attend Council on 7th November, to talk about the proposed development on land near the College.

4. Alterations to Polling Places.

As a result of the changes of parish boundaries some minor alterations have been made to the lists of voters who should attend Nantwich polling stations. Members noted the position.

5. Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Policy Committee had resolved that the Civic Society be asked if they were interested in becoming involved in these celebrations. The Museum was also involved. Councillors Butterill and Farrall, already on the Civic Society, agreed to represent the Council in the matter of the Jubilee. The Clerk was asked to write to the Museum and Civic Society and suggest that they liaise on the planning.

6. Timetable for determining Precept.

Members were reminded of the Timetable for determining the Precept agreed at Council on 12th September 2011:-

Thursday 20th October at 6pm, Finance Committee considers the broad shape of budget (with a recommendation as to a figure for grants.)

Monday 7th November at 7pm, Council agree provisional 2012/13 budget with fixed figure for grants included.

Thursday 24th November, Grants and Awards Committee at 6pm consider and agree grant applications for 2012/13.

Monday 9th January 2012, at 7pm, Council agree final 2012/13 budget and precept for submission to Cheshire East Council.

7. Clerk's replacement.

The programme for appointment of the Clerk's replacement was noted by Councillors.

8. First Responders.

The Clerk mentioned the regular meetings held with North West Ambulance Service to promote the activities of the Nantwich First Responders. Councillor McGinnis has retired and Councillor Farrall agreed to represent the Council for the time being at NWAS meetings.

- END -

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 17TH OCTOBER 2011PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
11/3383N	Mr P Critchley	Refurbishment of bathroom, shower room & cloakroom, including realignment of interior stud wall and addition of roof vent.	Malt House Cottage 112-116 Welsh Rw Nantwich.
Comment: No comment.			
11/3360N	Mr K Grant Yorkshire Building Society	Replacement of existing fascia and projecting signs.	21 High Street.
Comment: No comment.			
11/3070N	Mr & Mrs C Cornes	Single storey extension to rear.	6 Crewe Road.
Comment: No comment.			
11/3230N	Mr & Mrs G Bailey	Conservatory to rear elevation.	54 Brereton Drive.
Comment: No comment.			
11/3549/3551N	Mr S Binks Keyworker Homes (Cheshire) LLP	Conservation Area consent & demolition of former Kiltarn Medical Centre and construction of retail unit with car parking, Servicing, landscaping and all Associated works.	Church View Primary Care Ctr Beam Street.

Comment:

The Town Council objects to this application on the following grounds:-

1. The Council considers the description of the development is misleading and the application should be re-submitted, since the public will not know the correct location of the site or nature of the development. The application site is described as the former Kiltarn Medical Centre, which it is not, as the Kiltarn Centre was in Hospital Street. (To add to the confusion, development is actually taking place on that site). The site is further described as being at Church View Primary Care Centre, Beam Street. There is a Church View Medical Centre off Beam Street with a Kiltarn Practice in it, but this is a recently built building on a different and separate location to the application site. The applicant's confusion about the location of the site they are developing and the mis-description means that the application has been wrongly identified and members of the public might easily not realise where the application is or what it relates to. It would be wrong to consider an application which has not given accurate information to enable public objection or comment to be received.
2. The design of the building does nothing to enhance or improve the Conservation Area in which the site stands. In a submission by Turley Associates accompanying the planning application it is said that the current building (the old Beam Street Medical Centre) "presents a bland and unremarkable elevation to Beam Street and does nothing to enhance connectivity with the town centre."

The same could reasonably be said of the proposed development put forward by the applicant. It is a featureless, “off the shelf” Shed - a shop unit like hundreds of similar small supermarkets across the country. Turley Associates are scrabbling for justification for the design, when they say (Para 6.21) “the scale and massing of the new retail unit ... is consistent with the built form that has emerged over recent years on the periphery of the town centre.” In other words, the buildings around it are mediocre and undistinguished – and this is yet another. The Town Council believes that the Cheshire East planners should be asking for something contemporary yet striking which enhances this entrance to the town and makes a positive contribution to the Conservation Area.

3. The Council is concerned about the fact that parking is in short supply in Nantwich and this application is likely to mean that increased parking in the adjacent Civic Hall (Beam Street) public car park, which is already restricted because of the building of a Medical Centre. Overflow from this retail development will take more spaces at this adjacent car park.

11/3285N	Mr P Richards	Application for removal or variation of conditions on planning permission 10/3826N.	58 Wellington Road
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Comment:
No comment.

11/2774N	Mr N Grandy	Removal of boundary hedge and replaced with pillared boundary wall, not more than 2m high.	12 The Broadway.
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Comment:
No comment.

11/3546N	Mr A Ross	Internal alterations to form new reception/lobby and alterations To external ramp.	Millfields CP School Marsh Lane.
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Comment:
No comment.

11/3348N / 11/3351N	Mr J Armatage	Change of use from office accommodation to D1 medical use. Application to use premises for medical consultation performing physical examinations, ultrasound examinations & blood tests.	The Old Savings Bank, 39, Welsh Row
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Comment:
No comment.

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

RESPONSE TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK 'PLACE SHAPING' CONSULTATION 2011.

NOTE - The Town Council intends to make a more detailed submission in the near future. However, at this stage, the Council wishes to make a series of brief observations in response to the requests for views on the Local Development Framework.

1. **Scale of Expansion.**

The Council feels that the rate of expansion of the town over the last decade has been too fast. Compared to ten years ago, the roads are more congested, arranging medical appointments is more difficult, it is less easy to obtain a school place of choice, leisure facilities are more crowded, parking in town is more difficult. There are two large housing sites to the north and south of the town which have changed the small town, "community feel", of Nantwich. The Council considers that there has been excessive development in the last few years and that future house building should be restricted to that sufficient to cater for the town's own population. The figure for housing need in the 'Snapshot' Consultation Document are aspirations of Cheshire East Council for growth levels, which local people have not been consulted about and might well disagree with.

2. **Housing.**

It is important to encourage more housing for older people to encourage down-sizing and thus releasing larger houses for local families. More affordable housing is needed. There should also be more vigorous efforts to bring empty accommodation (e.g., flats over shops and vacant properties) into use. Small, affordable, infill developments would be more effective than allowing housing developers to build numbers of houses conditional on providing a small percentage of affordable housing. Where development or expansion cannot be resisted in planning terms, there should be more determined effort to obtain substantial community planning gain and adequate infrastructure.

3. **Character and size.**

Ten years ago Nantwich had a population of about 12,500. Now it is around 17,000, a 35% increase. The size and character of the town is important to Nantwich people and the rapid expansion of housing means that this is in danger of being lost. The compact "feel" of the town is being eroded. It is important that the Green Gap between Willaston and Nantwich should be maintained. The special character and nature of the town centre and its independent shops and services need to be protected and improved. The historic town centre should have an appraisal and plan to prevent inappropriate and poorly designed development. There are already glaring examples of poor design (e.g., Oat market shops, new flats on Waterlode). Shop frontages could be improved, more effort made to reduce inappropriate public and private signage, standard shop-fronts by multiples discouraged and quality of space in the town centre upgraded (e.g., repair or replacement of the tired pedestrian block paving). Increased efforts to resist supermarket expansion in and outside the town should be made to encourage and sustain smaller independent shops which give the town part of its appeal.

4. **Traffic.**

The Council believes that traffic should be more strongly discouraged from using the town centre. Shops and offices must obviously be serviced but the present poor compromise which allows extremely heavy vehicles regularly in the pedestrianised areas is not acceptable. More parking outside the town centre and better transport links would reduce pollution and encourage pedestrian visitors. More cycle-ways are needed within the town. Efforts should be made to reduce air pollution. Railway and bus links should be encouraged. A car park next to the Railway Station would be helpful and encourage its use. The Nantwich Transport Group has in the past submitted, a Vision Statement to the planning authority, a copy of which is attached. Gateways to the town (e.g., railway station, Aqueduct Bridge on Welsh Row) should be improved.

5. **River.**

Greater use of, and improvements to, the river and its surroundings are needed. In some ways, the river is almost separate from the town. In other towns it is a major asset and a part of the townscape. More walkways by the river, better signage and lighting, encouragement to stroll by it to move across the town, better maintenance of the riverside itself, could all help enhance its appeal and increase its links and relationship to the town.

6. **Industry and Employment.**

Land and buildings for new and expanding businesses are important and there should be land allocated for such uses outside the town. It is desirable to provide work locally and the principal Council could stimulate that by providing affordable units in or near the town.

7. **Conclusion.**

Overall, the Council considers the existing planning permissions not yet taken up and the existing infill and Brownfield sites not yet built upon should go a long way to satisfying housing demand. It would strongly object to further expansion of the town or building on Greenfield land. It wants traffic in the town to be reduced, more account to be taken of the river and the character and scale of the town centre to be preserved.

Nantwich Transport Group

Vision Statement 3

AIMS

The aims are: -

- To give greater priority to residents, pedestrians and cyclists, over motor traffic by reducing vehicle use in the town
- To improve the environment generally and
- To sustain the Town's historic market character.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote a consistent approach to speed limits approaching and within the town – possibly after review a 30 mph limit within the town's boundaries and a 20 mph limit within the town centre bounded by Beam Street, Water Lode, Station Road, Pratchitt Row, London Road and Millstone Lane
- To set weight/time restrictions on heavy vehicles accessing the town centre as defined above and to establish a regime for collection and delivery loading and unloading within the town centre
- To review and encourage better use of current car-parking sites in the town centre and develop a comprehensive car-parking strategy for the whole town maximising facilities
- To review and consider the options for further pedestrianisation in the town centre
- To consider options to relieve traffic congestion including considering the establishment of a by-pass for the south, south west, and west links as a long term objective while recognising the need to consider the impact on neighbouring villages and the environment
- To promote the integration of all public transport systems recognising the need to develop a coordinated approach inclusive of cycling and pedestrian infrastructure needs

PRIORITIES

It is suggested that a list of priorities be drawn up as an action plan that will reflect the agreed aims and objectives. Listed below are a number of concerns that have been raised in the past and more recently. These are not necessarily put forward as priorities or in any ranking order but merely to bring together some of the issues that may need attention and to stimulate suggestions.

- Reduce traffic congestion on the A500 northern by-pass at the roundabouts and Elwood Way - suggested re-align kerbs and white lines
- General review of traffic light operation in the town
- Redesign and review the junction of the Wellington, Park, and Audlem Roads
- Monitor regularly air pollution in the Town centre
- Introduction of 20 mph speed limits on all roads passing schools
- Renewal of all faded signs particularly those related to speed and weight restrictions
- Support for all schools to develop their own 'safer routes to school' programmes
- Introduction of a weight restriction action plan for the town centre
- Review and evaluation of new route signage particularly Wellington Road

JL 12-3-10.