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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12th September 2011.

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

44. PUBLIC FORUM

Doug Butterill, Chairman of Nantwich in Bloom gave a 'Big Thank you' to the Council for its financial and moral support for Nantwich in Bloom. He felt that keeping the town attractive encouraged visitors and shoppers and kept Nantwich vibrant. He mentioned also that a Council £1,000 grant to Riverside Concern had helped the organisation to obtain £7900 from the Lottery.

The Mayor thanked Alderman Butterill for the hard work of Nantwich in Bloom volunteers. He also congratulated him and his wife Councillor Penny Butterill on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Patrick Cullen, a Nantwich resident asked whether the Council had a view on developments which had been rumoured at (a) Stapeley and (b) Kingsley Fields. He mentioned a recently formed web site www.protectstapeley.org.uk intended to provide information about planning issues affecting Stapeley. Councillor Lewis said the Council had not currently formulated a view on these matters but would be doing so in due course. In broad terms the Council was opposed to excessive development and development without infrastructure.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Farrall.

46. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL 11TH JULY 2011

Councillor Marren asked that it be made clear in his declaration of interests (Council minute 33) that he had correspondence and discussion with the Cheshire East Monitoring Officer who had consulted with the Standards Board for England. Councillor Marren had received advice in respect of (a) his membership of the Town Council and Cheshire East Council and (b) the fact that his son worked at the Civic Hall. In both cases he had been assured that a "personal interest" was an appropriate declaration as matters stood. Subject to this clarification, the Minutes were agreed and approved.

47. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor outlined his engagements as follows:-

14 th July	St Mary's Festival of Flowers, opened the festival and attended lunch time concert along with Deputy Mayor of Cheshire East and Edward Timpson MP.
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16 th July	Wyche School 100 years celebration, attended the Opening ceremony, officially opened by Edward Timpson MP
17 th July	Attended Church Service at St Mary's celebration of Flower Festival.
20 th July	Attended Nantwich Players production of 'Good Things'.
21 st July	Attended Scope Fund raising event, on Nantwich Square.
25 th July	Met Britain in Bloom judges and toured around town with judges, Doug Butterill and Edward Timpson MP.
26 th July	Attended pre-show reception for Nantwich Show.
27 th July	Attended Nantwich Show and judged stalls in Town and Country Marquee.
7 th August	Visited Elm House for the 100 th birthday celebration of Mrs Elsie Wilson.
7 th August	Attended the CANTA welcome dinner at the Ramada Hotel, Crewe, for students from Macon and Bischofsheim attending the English Summer School.
10 th August	Wulvern Housing Fun Day – attended the fun day along with the Mayor of Cheshire East and Mayor of Crewe.
12 th August	Cheshire County Council re-union lunch, attended with ex-Cheshire County Council officers and members at the Oddfellows in Nantwich.
21 st August	Opened the Mill House Fun Day.
29 th August	Attended as a guest at Nantwich Town Football Club for the match Nantwich Town v Chester.

48. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors Marren, Martin, Moran and Butterill declared personal interests as Town Councillors and Cheshire East Councillors in item 11 regarding transfer of services. Councillor Marren drew particular attention to advice received from the Standards Board (see above at Minute 46). Councillors Marren and Butterill also declared personal interests in item 12 (Planning Control) as members of the Cheshire East Southern Planning Committee.

49. NANTWICH FLOURISH

John Weir, Chairman of Nantwich Flourish gave a short presentation to the Council. He outlined the aims and work of his Business Group, which was sub-group of the Nantwich Local Area Partnership of Cheshire East. He mentioned four current projects which he hoped the Council would support. These were as follows:-

1. Encouragement of coach parking (see later in Clerk's report)
2. Park'n'Ride shuttle service
3. Signage in and around Nantwich and Gateways
4. Speed Control – pursuing the '20 is plenty' campaign.

Amanda Fazelynia followed this presentation with a short outline of 'Love Local Life' which is a loyalty card to encourage people to shop locally.

Mr Weir hoped Councillors would consider these proposals further, join with others in trying to promote the economy of the town and, if possible, contribute to these initiatives. He was thanked for a stimulating address and Councillors agreed to consider his suggestions further.

50. ACCOUNTS JULY & AUGUST 2011

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

51. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2011

Councillors noted that the Audit of Accounts 2010/11 had resulted in a “clean report” from the Audit Commission. The relevant page from the Annual Return was reproduced for the benefit of Councillors who noted the position with satisfaction.

52. CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported as shown on the attached Appendix A.

53. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council **RESOLVED** to:-

- a) Note Minutes of Town Watch Committee 26/7/11
- b) Note and approve Minutes of Finance Committee 28/7/11
- c) Note Minutes of Grants and Awards Committee 8/8/11
- d) Note Minutes of Town Plan and Partnership Committee 24/8/11

54. PROGRESS ON TRANSFER OF ASSETS FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Councillors Marren and Lewis outlined the latest position. Costs associated with running the facilities had been established more clearly. A timetable for transfer had been set out and largely agreed. A report had been considered and approved by the Cheshire East Cabinet. It authorised officers to negotiate transfer with a target (but with some flexibility) of 1st April 2012 as a date for hand-over. The report said that some funds may be available to assist transfer but indicated “better-off” local councils would be less likely to receive additional monies, although contributions for problems relating to buildings (e.g., structural condition) may be forthcoming.

RESOLVED unanimously that:-

- a) The transfer process proceeds in accordance with the Minutes of the Town Plan and Partnership Committees of 14th July, 4th August and 24th August 2011, with the intent of the Town Council taking a transfer of:-

The Civic Hall, Market Street;
The Market (indoor and outdoor);
The Market public toilets;
Two allotment sites at Brookfield, (near Shrewbridge Road);
Brookfield Hall.
Snow Hill public toilets;
Barony Park public toilets;
'The Gables' Beam Street.

- b) The following Nantwich firms be instructed in regard to the transfer of assets from Cheshire East Council, namely:-

Bower Edleston (Architects / Surveyors)

Bowcock Cuerden (Solicitors)
Afford Bond (Accountants).

- c) The Council undertake, for 2012/13, the provision of:-

Street entertainment;
Christmas lights;
Street furniture and planters.

However, that the provision of town centre management and a tourist information service be further considered and be subject to a decision by full council.

55. PLANNING CONTROL

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

56. TIMETABLE FOR DETERMINING PRECEPT

The timetable outlined on the Agenda was accepted. (Councillor Lewis mentioned he was on holiday for part of this period but Councillor Martin had agreed to act as Leader in his place).

57. ANNUAL MEETING CHALC – 20TH OCTOBER 2011

The proposed meeting of Chalc on 20th October was outlined. It was suggested that Councillor Hutton might put forward a motion relating to excessive housing development in view of a recent letter he had written to the local newspaper on this issue.

Councillor Hutton indicated that if he was able to attend he would probably do so. He agreed to check his diary and get back to the Clerk.

58. STARLINGS IN NANTWICH

A report outlining the current position was noted. It was agreed that the Council could also consider some modest contribution to mitigation measures to discourage roosting.

RESOLVED that a sum of £1000 (payable from Environmental General) be put forward at an appropriate time to assist residents in mitigation measures (primarily lopping or reducing the height of trees) provided residents obtained firm quotations for any work and paid at least half themselves.

59. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND PLANNING CONSULTATION

There was discussion as to the need for an informed position by the Council and the importance of putting forward observations in relation to the Local Development Framework (LDF) as it affected the town. Councillor Marren suggested retaining a consultant to produce relevant comments on behalf of the Council. Councillors Hutton and Hopkins made the point that the question of planning and town development was one which was of great concern to residents.

RESOLVED that the issue of producing observations and/or a policy stance by the Town Council on the LDF and planning issues affecting the town be referred to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

60. REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Fenton produced the **Food Festival** programme and urged Councillors to attend what was likely to be an outstanding event.

Councillor Simpson reported on **Nantwich in Bloom**. The judging for North West in Bloom was due at the end of October.

Councillor Simpson reported on the **Museum**. The Community Learning Officer was doing an excellent job. It was proposed to appoint a (self-financing) manager rather than a Curator. The Management Team were receiving further training in commercial issues. Cheshire East Council seemed likely to review or even reduce their grant. If it happened, it would be a very serious loss to the Museum and the town.

61. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed which concerns financial terms, conditions of employment and personal circumstances of an individual.

62. CLERK'S REPLACEMENT

A brief discussion regarding the advertisement for a new Clerk and job description shown on the agenda took place.

RESOLVED that:-

- a. The job description, advertisement and pay scale for the future Town Clerk be approved and the Town Clerk be requested to place advertisements and arrange interviews without delay. The Staffing Committee (to meet Wednesday 7th September) to agree a 'person specification' and covering letter.
- b. The Staffing Committee be authorised to select and short-list candidates for the position of Town Clerk. Interview and final appointment to be by the whole Council.
- c. The Staffing Committee be authorised, at the appropriate time, to consider and determine the job description and terms and conditions of the employment of an "Operational Manager" and approve arrangements for recruitment and selection for the post.

- END -

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK - TOWN COUNCIL 12TH SEPTEMBER 2011.

CLERK'S REPORT – CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OF URGENCY.

1. Reaseheath Development

Meredydd David, Principal of Reaseheath College had asked to speak to Councillors either at the College or at Brookfield Hall, about some misunderstanding which may have arisen about aspirations for development by the College. It was agreed to invite Mr David to a Council meeting.

2. Museum Trust request

Nantwich Museum Trust had asked for a contribution towards blinds costing around £1000 which are essential to reduce light levels to maintain accredited status as a museum (copy request attached).

RESOLVED that subject to Councillor Butterill, as a member of the Grants and Awards Committee, viewing the accounts, a contribution of £500 be made.

3. More about the Local Area Partnership

Rodney Walker, Chairman of the Nantwich LAP, asked some time ago for the opportunity to give a short presentation and update, along with the LAP Manager, about some changes to the LAP. It was agreed that Mr Walker be invited to an informal meeting rather than full Council. Clerk to arrange.

4. Economic Forum

Following his presentation to Council about economic development, David McGifford asked whether the Council wished to be represented on an economic focus group? **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Councillor Fenton attend on behalf of the Council, with substitutes Councillors Marren and Lewis if needed.

5. Attracting Coaches to Nantwich

Peter Saunders, Chairman of Rotary Weaver, had sent a copy of a letter which has gone to 300 coach companies who either use the M6 or come to destinations close to Nantwich. The letter said that the Football Club car park was available for coaches and drivers could have a voucher of up to £5 for lunch. Rotary have donated £250 of Rotary Club funds to the concept and the Food Festival have donated a further £100. It costs £8.00 to park a coach at the football ground for up to six hours and the meal vouchers are for £5.

RESOLVED that the Council should support the venture by offering up to £1000 from this year's budget ('Environmental General' code 4315) to contribute to the coaches and drivers who actually come to Nantwich and take advantage of the offer. Clerk to notify Peter Saunders of the decision.

6. 10th to 17th October for Council

Clerk reminded Members that the next Council will be 17th October at 7pm, in Brookfield Hall (re-arranged from 10th October).

- END -

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 12TH SEPTEMBER 2011PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

No	Applicant	Development	Site
11/2920N	Ms B & Ms A Williams	Extension to rear of existing semi-detached house to provide a conservatory.	9 Damson Drive.
Comment: No comment.			
11/2778N	Mr O Dakin	Creation of a second access onto property from main road.	Shrewbridge Lodge Shrewbridge Road.
Comment: The Council does not object to this application but draws the attention of the Planning Officer to the fact that this is a very fast road (in spite of a speed limit) and visibility is somewhat restricted at some points.			
11/2886N	Mr D Hough	Residential development comprising 21 dwellings with associated access, parking, garages, landscaping and open space.	Land off Hastings Road.
Comments: No comment.			