



## **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2015**

**Present** - Councillor Martin (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Butterill, Cooper, Farr, Fenton, Hopkins, Lewis, Marren and Simpson together with PCSO Steven Metcalfe and the Town Clerk.

### **102. PUBLIC FORUM**

A member of the public queried the cutting back of trees and shrubs at Barony Park and Love Lane. The Clerk explained that this work was undertaken by ANSA for Cheshire East. The work on the park had been cut back as part of routine maintenance to ensure the willows did not become too large. At Love Lane the work was periodic maintenance to cut out the dead material and allow regrowth.

PCSO Steven Metcalfe advised Council that action had been taken regarding a group of local youths following persistent complaints.

### **103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Farrall (Mayor) (Holiday), Councillor Moran (Holiday) and Councillor Hutton (Illness).

### **104. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

### **105. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Butterill declared interests in planning matters as she is a Cheshire East Councillor as well as a Town Councillor.

Councillor Marren declared interests in planning matters as he is a Cheshire East Councillor as well as a Town Councillor.

Councillor Fenton declared an interest in item 8 regarding the budget in respect of grants to Nantwich Food Festival, Holly Holy Day Society and Guy Harvey Youth Club.

### **106. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor's list of engagements was circulated.

- Rotary lunch invitation in Civic Hall.
- Nantwich Players' Yes, Prime Minister
- Commissioning Service for new street pastors at St Mary's Church.
- Town representative at funeral of former Mayor Mrs Anne Blacklay.
- Attended Santa's Dizzy Day at the Civic with Highfield Primary School.
- Christmas Lunch at The Gables.
- Lions' Carol Service.
- Carols with Acton Amateur Dramatic Society and Mayoral refreshments after December Town Council meeting
- Richmond Village carol service with Wistaston Church Lane choir.
- Nantwich Choral Society's Family carol service.
- Visit to Christmas Day lunch at Hospital St. Methodist Church.

## **107. CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE & MATTERS OF URGENCY**

### **107.1 Charity Collectors**

Officers from the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association are visiting towns in Cheshire later this month prior to developing a site management agreement.

### **107.2 Local Council Award Scheme**

The new Local Council Award Scheme was launched on 6 January and will replace the existing Quality Council scheme.

The scheme has been agreed and approved following extensive consultation by sector stakeholders represented on the Improvement and Development Board including NALC, SLCC, LGA, DCLG, and County Associations.

The new scheme will celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. It encourages progression by including three award levels: Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold, and offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

Any council accredited previously under the Quality Status Scheme can apply for automatic transition to the new Local Council Award Scheme. This registration has been completed and accepted. The Council has been awarded the free Foundation award level for one year, expiring in January 2016. The Clerk will present a more detailed report to Policy Committee on 19 January.

### **107.3 Civic Hall Summer Closure**

To enable the re-polishing of the dance floor it is proposed to close the Civic Hall from 4 to 16 August 2015.

## **108. PLANNING CONTROL**

Council **RESOLVED** to make no objection to all the applications listed.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE 16 DECEMBER 2014, APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR 2015/16 AND SETTING OF THE PRECEPT FOR 2015/16**

Councillor Marren (Chair of Finance) stated that the Council's finances were in a healthy state and the budget for next year meant that there was no need to increase revenue by charging more in tax. This was due to continued savings and improving efficiency, in particular at the Civic Hall. The Council has managed to reduce the subsidy to the Civic Hall by a significant amount since the facility was transferred from Cheshire East.

Council noted the minutes and **RESOLVED** that the Recommendations contained in the above Minutes be accepted and approved and in particular **RESOLVED** to receive the Budget Report and approve the Budget for 2015/16 and to submit a request to Cheshire East Borough Council for a precept of £452,670 for 2015/16.

## **109. CIVIC HALL TOILETS**

The Clerk reported on the contract for refurbishment of the Civic Hall toilets. There had been problems associated with the tender process but a contractor had been identified and a programme of works had been developed. Councillor Lewis suggested that a sub-committee of Councillors be formed for future tender projects.

Council **RESOLVED**

to approve the appointment of RCL Construction for the refurbishment of the Civic Hall toilets at a cost of £81,000 and  
to authorise the Clerk to sign the contract with RCL Construction.

**110. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

None.

**111. NANTWICH PARTNERSHIP REPORT**

Councillor Fenton reported that the next meeting of the Partnership will be held on 3 February.

**112. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Lewis reported that the Nantwich Litter Group now had 84 volunteers. Equipment is bought by the Town Council and the Group continues to have a good relationship with ANSA.

Councillor Fenton reminded Council of the Holly Holy Day celebrations on 24 January.