



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2015

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

113. DEMENTIA FRIENDSHIP GROUP, NANTWICH MUSEUM

Kate Dobson, Curator of Nantwich Museum, introduced the work of the Dementia Friendship Group based at the Museum. The Group has developed out of dementia awareness sessions run by Cheshire East and consultation sessions held at the Almhouses in Beam Street. The Museum has used displays and craft resources to develop reminiscence boxes to encourage interaction with dementia sufferers.

The Group meets monthly in the Gallery and is free. Carers are welcome and the meeting is followed by tea and cakes. The Museum is looking to extend the sessions and possibly go out to care homes.

Volunteers can become Dementia Friends and there is training available through the Alzheimer's Society.

The Mayor thanked Kate for her very informative presentation.

114. PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised by members of the public.

115. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martin (work commitment) and Councillor Hopkins (work commitment).

116. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12TH JANUARY 2015

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

117. 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 Moran declared an interest in the planning application for Nantwich Library as he is a Cheshire East Councillor as well as a Town Councillor.

118. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's list of engagements was circulated.

- Addressed a business meeting at a Community Hub event organised by Red Shift Radio.
- Holly Holy Day, full of memorable events including
 - presentation of the troops,
 - wreath laying at the war memorial
 - and presentation of the Rose Bowl to the best regiment.
- Attendance at Cheshire East Holocaust service.

"Salt of the Earth Awards"

The Mayor announced that she would be presenting 8 community awards at a special event prior to the Mayor's Dance on 27 March.

119. CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE & MATTERS OF URGENCY

119.1 Charity Collectors

Officers from the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association visited Nantwich and other towns in Cheshire East on 21 and 22 January. A meeting to discuss the results set for 29 January was postponed due to the weather. The re-arranged meeting will try to reach agreement on the number of collection days and the number of permitted collectors as part of a site management agreement.

Currently the current site activity in each of the towns is (NB: this is the **maximum** allowed for by the charities concerned rather than what would necessarily be seen from week to week)

Crewe: Up to 5 fundraisers, up to 4 days a week

Macclesfield: Up to 5 fundraisers, up to 3 days a week

Congleton: Up to 5 fundraisers, up to 3 days a week

Knutsford: Up to 5 fundraisers, up to 3 days a week

Wilmslow: Up to 5 fundraisers, up to 3 days a week

Nantwich: Up to 5 fundraisers, up to 3 days a week

Members considered that up to 3 fundraisers on 1 day a week was appropriate for Nantwich.

119.2 Pilot Scheme – Civil Enforcement

The pilot scheme began on Monday 2 February with 2 officers working from the Civic Hall. A list of known locations of parking problems has been issued.

119.3 Election – Thursday 7 May 2015 – Town and Parish Election briefings

The Clerk reported that a briefing on the elections will be held on 2 March, 7.00 pm at Nantwich Civic Hall.

119.4 Nantwich Lake

The contractors, Amey (working on behalf of Severn Trent Water), returned to the site on the 6th January after the Christmas shutdown and started to demobilise the tunnelling equipment. This has taken approximately 3 weeks and the tunnel drive has now been completed under the River Weaver.

On 2 February they began to place the new water pipe within the tunnel. This will take about 4 weeks. Two under pressure connections will be made to the existing main at the start of March and the reinstatement of the car park will commence from mid-March. Unfortunately they are unable to find any money in the budget for a footpath from the car park to the Shrewbridge Road car park.

119.5 SP Energy Network works

SP Energy Networks began works on their 33Kv system reinforcement scheme last summer. Phase One involved work on Middlewich Road. In Phase Two their works have necessitated closure of Whitehouse Lane, Sandford Road and Ray Avenue, one way closure of Park View and one way closure of Millstone Lane.

The hardest section of the project has been Millstone Lane and London Road requiring a 6 week one way closure of Millstone Lane. London Road works have been undertaken using two way temporary signals manually controlled at all times. The temporary lights will be operational to 11 February. Residents and businesses within Nantwich were informed by letter drop by SPEN prior to the works commencing, No works took place over the Christmas period.

119.6 Civic Hall Toilets and Hall Improvements

The Clerk reported that work is now well underway on the contract for the refurbishment of the toilets in the Civic Hall.

The main contractor, RCL Construction, is on site and the temporary toilets (Portaloos) are in place outside the front entrance. This arrangement is working well and no problems were reported at the recent Showaddywaddy concert. Pedestrian access to the Civic Hall is from the ramp near to the bus station.

The initial phase of the contract has involved stripping out the old fixtures and fittings in the toilets. A short delay has been necessary due to the discovery of asbestos.

The expected completion date for the refurbishment of the toilets is 13 March. This will mean that the work will be finished prior to the Jazz Festival concerts at Easter.

Improvements to the main hall

Taking advantage of the partial closure of the hall and the limited bookings at this time of year a number of other improvements have been made to the main hall itself. The ceiling on the left hand side of the hall has been replaced and the lighting has been renewed to match the right hand side. A new floor covering will shortly be installed. On the right hand side new carpet tiles have been laid. (During the summer closure the main dance floor will be cleaned and re-coated and the service area flooring around the bar will be replaced). New lighting and skirting is being provided on both sides to accentuate the step down onto the dance floor.

Along the back wall the sound and lighting wiring has been concealed and the wall has been re-faced below the dado rail. Further works are proposed to improve the appearance of the cloakroom / former bar.

Members of staff have also painted the walls and paintwork throughout the hall together with the stage and the trellis work over the kitchen and former bar.

The Clerk thanked the staff for their time and effort in bringing about these improvements.

Much of the work has been undertaken in-house, including specialist work by our electrician, sound / lighting engineer, painter and handyman / builder. Considerable savings have been made by avoiding the use of external contractors.

Members asked for their thanks to be conveyed to the staff.

120. PLANNING CONTROL

Council **RESOLVED** to make no objection to all the applications listed except for 14/5841N relating to development of 118 dwellings off Queens Drive and 15/0193N relating to advertisements at 36 High Street Nantwich.

Council **RESOLVED** to object to 14/5841N as this site was not in the Town Strategy and not identified as a strategic site by Cheshire East. Council **RESOLVED** to object to 15/0193N in respect of the illuminated sign on the rear wall of the bank as this will cause demonstrable harm to the conservation area.

121. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF POLICY COMMITTEE 19 JANUARY 2015

Council noted the minutes and **RESOLVED** that the Recommendations contained in the above Minutes be accepted and approved and in particular **RESOLVED** to

adopt the model publication scheme as required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and
adopt the revised Complaints Policy.

122. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE 29 JANUARY 2015

Council noted the minutes and **RESOLVED** that the Recommendations contained in the above Minutes be accepted and approved and in particular **RESOLVED** to approve a revised payments process and authorised the Clerk to arrange any necessary amendments to the bank mandates if required.

123. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran reported that Cheshire East is satisfied that appropriate procedures are in place for safeguarding children following the outcome of investigations in other authorities.

124. NANTWICH PARTNERSHIP REPORT

The Nantwich Partnership Strategy was circulated. Councillor Fenton reported an exhibition regarding the timetable for the Nantwich Aqueduct improvements will be held on Nantwich Square on Thursday 19 February.

125. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Simpson reported that Nantwich in Bloom will discuss the improvement of the Old Biot at their meeting on 19 February. Nantwich Museum has received a community grant of £4,000 from Cheshire East.

Councillor Lewis reported that Network Rail had finally cleared the compound at the station due to continued pressure and the involvement of the MP. It was proposed to clear the remaining rubbish using ward budget money.