



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2016.

Present - Councillor Martin (Mayor) and Councillors Bostock, Bowyer-Bates, Butterill, Groves, Hall, Kirkham, Lewis, Marren, Simpson, PCSO S Reeves and the Town Clerk.

80. PUBLIC FORUM

Councillor Marren asked if there had been any progress in identifying those responsible for damage to the Christmas decorations. Unfortunately the CCTV coverage was not adequate for identification. Councillor Bowyer-Bates expressed concern about potential vandalism on Tuesday nights (student night). Councillor Bostock referred to a group playing football on town centre car parks in the early evening. PCSO Reeves agreed to refer these issues back for monitoring.

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bartram.

82. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Butterill declared an interest as a member of the Cheshire East Southern Planning Committee.

83. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING – 10 NOVEMBER 2016

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

84. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's report on his list of engagements in November and December was received.

Wed 9 th Nov 2016	Visit to Police HQ Winsford
Fri 11 th Nov 2016	Opening shop - Polka Dot Travel
Fri 11 th Nov 2016	Malbank School Remembrance Service
Fri 11 th Nov 2016	Remembrance Service on the Square
Fri 11 th Nov 2016	Attendance at Christie's Quiz
Sat 12 th Nov 2016	Nantwich Choral Concert St Mary's Parish Church
Sat 12 th Nov 2016	CRY screening at Brine Leas School
Sun 13 th Nov 2016	Remembrance Sunday
	Attendance at Airman's Grave service
	Service and wreath laying Nantwich Church and Square
Thurs 17 th Nov 2016	Attendance at Nantwich Fire Station Respect Graduation
Sat 19 th Nov 2016	Christmas Lights Switch with Thea Gilmore, Bryony Page and Andrew Small
Fri 25 th Nov 2016	South Cheshire Chamber Business Awards
Wed 30 th Nov 2016	Exhibition at Camera Club in Museum
Sat 3 rd Dec 2016	Visit to Etsy South Cheshire at Reaseheath College
Mon 5 th Dec 2016	Santa's Polka Dot Pirate show with Weaver School
Thurs 8 th Dec 2016	The Gables Christmas lunch
Fri 9 th Dec 2016	Opening of Mayfair Spar in Hospital Street
Sat 10 th Dec 2016	Judging Best Dressed Shop windows
Sun 11 th Dec 2016	Santa Dash in Nantwich
Sun 11 th Dec 2016	Crewe & Nantwich Lions carol concert
Tues 13 th Dec 2016	Nantwich Players performance Breezeblock Parkq

85. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

85.1 CHESHIRE EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GRANTS SCHEME

The funding received by Cheshire East for support for neighbourhood planning has been reduced by 30%. The Neighbourhood Planning Grants Scheme which has been used to support town and parish councils in the preparation of plans is therefore to be closed.

85.2 CAR PARK – HENSHALL'S WAY – SHREWBRIDGE ROAD

Cheshire East is constructing the new footpath to join this car park to the Nantwich Lake car park. The works compound has taken some of the car parking and, following parking on the grassed area, Cheshire East has decided to close the car park for the duration of the contract.

86. PLANNING CONTROL

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations of the Clerk in respect of the applications listed in Appendix A.

Councillor Moran reported on the meeting of Cheshire East Strategic Planning Board which had considered and approved the reserved matters application for Kingsley Fields.

The debate centred on the function of the spine road with several speakers including the Chair of Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Council. Mr M Houlston, highlighting the inadequacy of the road as a strategic route into the town centre. The road is not required to be completed until the occupation of 400 dwellings. A start on the development will be made from Waterlode. The Reaseheath conservation area bypass is not required to be complete until the occupation of 600 dwellings. It is therefore not clear how the spine road will be linked to the A51 in the interim period.

Councillor Moran reported that the application included a site for a new school but 100% of the money for the new school would not be available until the completion of 500 dwellings. There will therefore be several years when pupils of primary school age living in the new houses will have to find places in the existing schools.

During the debate Councillor Michael Jones indicated that there may be scope to discuss the allocation of precept revenue with Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Council. It was agreed to open talks with Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Council.

Cheshire East has announced that the Local Plan Inspector is satisfied with the proposed housing strategy. There is now five years supply in the Nantwich area and therefore further applications should be easier to defend. Councillor Groves stated that the outcome of the Stapeley appeal is still awaited.

87. CHESHIRE EAST PROPOSAL FOR 4 DAYS FREE PARKING

Council noted the Cheshire East Proposal to offer 4 free parking days per year on Snow Hill, Civic Hall and Bowling Green car parks. The Clerk will prepare a report for Policy Committee on the options for choosing the days.

88. 2016 BRITAIN IN BLOOM NORTH WEST

Council noted the Judges report in respect of the Gold Award awarded to Nantwich in Bloom. The Mayor congratulated the Committee on behalf of the Council. Councillor Marren stated that the Council may be able to assist with the presentation next year. Councillor Moran suggested that there should be more publicity for the winners in each group within the town.

89. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE 6 DECEMBER 2016

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

Councillor Marren drew Members attention to the expenditure on improving the safety of the shutters at the Market, an inherited problem when the Market was taken over from Cheshire East. Twenty four shutters still need attention. To date about £8,500 has been spent on the brakes and bearings.

Councillor Marren also referred to the need for additional storage for Christmas trees and lights which is to be provided by purchasing two storage containers to be sited at Welshman's Lane allotment site.

The Finance Committee has also reviewed the Christmas lights event and considered a report on changes to the lights switch-on and the holding of Christmas markets in 2017. The proposal is to hold the switch-on on Thursday 23 November 2017 at 6.30pm. The event would be part of a week of Christmas activity including a late night shopping evening. A further report on the detailed format of the switch-on is to be presented to Policy Committee.

Councillor Marren informed Council that he had been given assurances regarding the covenant issue in respect of the acquisition of the Gables and the rear of the Civic Hall. The pre-application discussions with Planning regarding the extension were encouraging. The planning application has been submitted and will be decided under delegated powers.

90. NANTWICH PARTNERSHIP

There was no report as the meeting had been postponed.

91. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The Mayor, Councillor Martin, reported that Bryony Page and Andrew Small had been honoured with the Freedom of Cheshire East Borough.

Councillor Groves reported that the Council Tax base for Nantwich had been approved as 5,290.39.

92. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Lewis reported the Nantwich Branch of the Royal British Legion has raised over £50,000 during the year.

Councillor Simpson reported that Nantwich in Bloom is to contact businesses regarding new hanging baskets for next summer.