



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2018.

Present - Councillor Butterill (Mayor) and Councillors Bartram, Bowyer-Bates, Hall, Kirkham, Lewis, Marren, Martin, Moran, Simpson, PC Matt Stonier and the Town Clerk.

96. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE BY NANTWICH IN BLOOM

Mr Tony Percival, Chair of Nantwich in Bloom Committee, outlined the comments made by the judges in this year's competition. They were impressed with the overall planting in the town and the horticultural expertise which it demonstrated. The involvement of businesses in taking hanging baskets was welcomed. Overall the judges felt that the planting and displays created an ambience in the centre of town which merited a top six place in the competition and a "Gold" award. Next year he is hoping for a later judging date when the planting will have matured.

Mr Percival referred to the continuing problem with vandalism on Tuesday nights which hampers the efforts of the Committee. He suggested a joint letter to Reaseheath College and the Chronicle to highlight the issue.

Mr Percival presented the award to the Mayor, Councillor Penny Butterill. The Mayor congratulated the Committee on their success and thanked the volunteers for their hard work during the summer.

97. PUBLIC FORUM

PC Matt Stonier offered his congratulations to the Nantwich in Bloom Committee and also to the Town Council for the Christmas lights display over Christmas. There had been a decline in arrests over the Christmas period compared to previous years with no major issues. Currently there are anti-social behaviour issues with groups in Stapeley.

The Mayor asked about enforcement of the 30mph speed limit in Crewe Road. PC Stonier stated that the hand held speed camera was now being deployed and speeding motorists could expect to receive tickets without having to be stopped. The Mayor also raised the issue of HGVs using the Crescent.

98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Groves and Bostock.

99. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None.

100. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING – 7 DECEMBER 2017

Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2017 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

101. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's report on her list of engagements in December and January was received.

Tues 12 th Dec 2017	Highfields School Nativity Play
Thurs 14 th Dec 2017	Brine Leas School Christmas Concert St Mary's Church
Fri 15 th Dec 2017	Nantwich Players – Performance of ' The Lion the Witch & the Wardrobe '

The Mayor's Quiz will be held on Friday 9 March 2018.

102. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

102.1 Local government finance settlement

The Clerk reported that the government intends to defer the setting of referendum principles for town and parish councils for three years.

Since the introduction of council tax referendums in 2012-13, no referendum principles have been set for local precepting authorities such as town and parish councils ("parishes"), although the Government has made it clear that it would keep this under review and take action if necessary.

However, this is conditional upon:

- the sector taking all available steps to mitigate the need for council tax increases, including the use of reserves where they are not already earmarked for other uses or for "invest to save" projects which will lower on-going costs, and;

- the Government seeing clear evidence of restraint in the increases set by the sector as a whole.

102.2 Medieval Banquet at the Crown Hotel Nantwich on Saturday January 27th 2018

The North Mercia Branch of the Richard III Society is hosting a Medieval Banquet at the Crown Hotel Nantwich on Saturday January 27th 2018 bringing "Holly Holy Day" to a close to which all Councillors are invited.

The Clerk also referred to the publicity for the drainage issue at Brookfield allotments. Councillor Moran expressed concern at the emotive nature of the press release issued by the Allotments Association. As Cheshire East had not responded to the letter sent last year the Clerk was asked to draft a letter to the Leader of Cheshire East, Councillor Rachel Bailey. It was agreed this would be presented to Policy Committee for approval. The Clerk will also respond to the e-mail from the MP, Laura Smith.

103. PLANNING CONTROL

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations of the Clerk in respect of the applications listed in Appendix A. In respect of application Council **RESOLVED** to object to the application on the grounds of loss of car parking space for existing properties in the area and the lack of need for affordable housing given the committed supply on Malbank Waters and the recent development on the site of the Millfields public house.

104. DATES OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018-19

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the dates of Council and Committee meetings to May 2019.

105. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

None.

106. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

None.