



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL **HELD ON 5th MARCH 2020.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Arthur Moran (Mayor), Stuart Bostock, Penny Butterill, David Greaves, Peter Groves, Pam Kirkham, David Marren, Andrew Martin, Philip Staley, John Statham, Carole Thomas and Stephanie Wedgewood with the Facilities Manager and Town Clerk.

Also Present: Four members of the public and one Police Officer

135. PUBLIC FORUM

135.1 PC Mark Harley spoke to Council advising that there was nothing of significance to report to Council, with no particular crime patterns. He had recently dealt with an issue of speeding on Birchin Lane with Council Butterill. Speeding devices had been placed on the road at different locations during different times, which no speeding identified. Councillor Thomas highlighted parking issues at the bottom of Crewe Road. PC Harley advised he would look into this. PC Harley informed members that the Jazz Festival arrangements were progressing well.

Councillor Andrew Martin arrived 6.05pm

135.2 Representations from members of the public.

A representative from the market traders spoke to a prepared statement informing Council that traders wish to be engaged with the Town Council for the future of the market, requesting that the Town Council consider a 0% increase in rents for 2020/21.

The Mayor advised members that the representatives comments could be considered during agenda item 7 when market and allotment rents would be considered.

135.3 Representations from the public on planning applications – None.

135.4 Questions submitted in advance in writing.

There were no questions submitted in advance.

136. APOLOGIES: There were no apologies of absence.

ABSENT: none

137. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests expressed.

138. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

138.1 Resolved: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

138.2 Resolved: To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held 30th January and 20th February 2020, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

138.3 Resolved: To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 24th February 2020 and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

139. MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor's report on his list of engagements since the last meeting was received.

Wed 12th Feb	Players "Honour" 7.45pm
Wed 26th Feb	The Wingate Centre open day
Sun 1st March	Mayor of CEC Civic Service St Mary's Church Astbury
Mon 2nd March	St Anne's School Mayor planting an Oak tree

The Mayor also expressed his thanks to the Deputy Mayor for attending the opening ceremony of the Agricultural Technology Centre at Reaseheath, and informed members that the Salt of the Earth awards would be held on 27th April.

140. PLANNING CONTROL

Resolved: It was resolved that there were no objections in respect of the applications listed, other than application 20/0771N Walled Garden Site, SECOND WOOD STREET, NANTWICH.

141. MARKET STALL AND ALLOTMENT RENTS 2020/21

Members considered the information tabled at the meeting by the Clerk to aid in their discussions. The Clerk informed members that the Facilities Manager had carried out an exercise to understand the current sizes of market stalls compared to the amount each stall holder pays. This spreadsheet had been provided for members to show the current rent pricing irregularity. The Mayor suggested that members could choose to freeze the market rents for 3 months allowing officers to work with market traders to develop a fair and transparent rent setting policy future rents. Councillor Marren in support of the Mayors comments added that officers should also look to neighbouring markets to identify good practice too. Councillor Groves also in support of the Mayor's comments raised concern over the current investment at Crewe market which may potentially take trade away from Nantwich. Councillor Statham stated that he broadly supported the Mayor, but urged consideration for the council taxpayers, added the rents need to be fair for the traders and the council taxpayer.

Members also re-considered the allotment rents set for 2020/21. Councillor Marren suggested that the rents should remain at the £52 per year set by Council in January. Members discussed and support a review of allotment plot sizes with the aim of introducing a rent setting policy based on plot sizes for future years.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) To freeze the market stall rents for three months;

- b) To develop a fair and transparent rent setting policy in consultation with market traders based on good practice from neighbouring markets and NABMA;
- c) To bring back proposals for a new market rent policy for approval by full council.
- d) To keep the rents set for allotments at £52 per year;
- e) To develop an allotment rent setting policy based on plot sizes for future years.

142. TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2020/21

Members considered the previously circulated proposals for scheduled meetings for Town Council and committee's during 2020/21 and agreed to the proposals subject to typo amendments.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve Schedule of meetings for Town Council meetings during 2020/21.

143. FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Members considered the previously circulated draft Financial Risk Assessment. The Clerk informed members that the Policy Committee had considered the draft document, with suggested amendments included from Councillor Marren following the Policy Committee meeting.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the draft Financial Risk Assessment for 2020/21.

144. NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET

Members considered the previously circulated draft public document containing details of the approved Council budget for 2020/21. The Clerk informed members that most of the document contained previously approved reports of the Town Council. The only element not previously considered by Council was the draft budget setting timetable for 2021/21 on page 8.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the public document of the Town Council's budget for 2020/21

145. DZIERZONIOW INVITATION

Members considered the previously circulated information following an invitation from the mayor Dzierzoniow's to attend their beekeeping fair Miodobranie (28-30 August 2020). Councillor Statham advised that he could not support the attendance of Town Council representatives due to the costs. Councillor Marren suggested that the Town Council should also consider the reputational impact by refusing to attend. Councillor Groves advised that he could understand the spirit of the invitation particularly following the UK's departure from Europe, it could appear that the Town Council is no longer interested. However, Councillor Groves also understood the cost implications suggesting that a decision could be deferred to the next meeting of the Council to allow time for the Clerk to obtain estimated costs for the flights to Poland. The Clerk informed members that food and accommodation was provided by the Hosts, and advised members that obtaining flight costs would only be true at the time of obtaining as flight prices vary almost daily.

Resolved: It was resolved to defer consideration for the visit to Dzierzoniow for the next meeting of the Town Council to allow the Clerk to obtain flight costs.

146. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: To exclude Press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960 as personal and financial details of individuals are likely to be discussed.

147. WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE CONTRACT REVIEW

Members considered the previously circulated three quotes for the future provision of a waste collection service at the Civic Hall and Market.

Resolved: It was resolved to appoint ASH Waste Collection Services as the future provider.

148. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The Mayor informed Council that Cheshire East had approved a balanced budget for 2020/21.

Councillor Groves advised that he had spoken with the Deputy Leader about his concerns over the car parking review for Nantwich. The conversation with the Deputy Leader had been very promising, suggesting that Nantwich could be the first town to go through the car parking review.

Councillor Butterill informed members that she had attended the funeral of Martin Greenwood the Architect who had worked on the Gas Works site with Schofield Brothers.

Councillor Marren advised that a new portfolio holder had been appointed for Highways which will be Laura Crane. The New Chief Executive of Cheshire East will be Lorraine O'Donnell who is joining Cheshire East from Durham at the end of March. Councillor Marren also advised that there is currently funding available from Cheshire East for My Bright Ideas up to £250 and Our Community Bright Ideas for up to £10,000.

149. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Mayor advised members that he and the Clerk had recently attended the Nantwich Pride meeting to discuss arrangements for this year's festival. The Mayor advised that this year's festival would be extended into the Town square with stalls and entertainment until 3pm, with the festival moving back to the Railway pub later in the day.

Councillor Kirkham reminded members that it is the 40th anniversary of the museum this year with an event on Friday evening at the museum to celebrate.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....