



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL **HELD ON 9th January 2020.**

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

Also Present members of the public and one member of the press

112. PUBLIC FORUM

112.1 Representations from the Police

The Clerk advised members that the Police were unable to attend the meeting but had informed the Clerk that the Christmas period had been very quiet for anti-social behaviour and other incidents in the town.

112.2 Representations from members of the public.

Two members of the public spoke about the traffic calming proposals by Cheshire East for Welsh Row, advising that in their opinion the double yellow lines were to be placed in the wrong section of the road. They believed that the yellow lines should be located between Marsh Lane and Nixon's Row where the road is at its narrowest. The residents suggested that a new assessment should be carried out during school term time before any work is completed.

Councillor Moran advised that this issue was on the agenda for discussion but informed residents that this had been an on-going issue since 2011. He was aware of two recent accidents on the road and an issue with the refuse collection service not being able to empty bins. Councillor Moran informed residents that following the recent consultation on the proposals there had been two objections received and five comments received from members of the public. He added that as a member he would have to take the advice of the professionals' recommendations and suggested that the work should be carried out and reviewed to see if there had been any improvements to the traffic management.

112.3 Representations from the public on planning applications - None.

112.4 Questions submitted in advance in writing - A letter from a resident had been received relating to concerns for the condition of some commercial properties in the town centre. The resident attended the meeting and spoke to the letter seeking support and action from the Town Council to address his concerns. The resident made particular comments relating to the Union Pub, Well Chem ist, the old Royal Bank of Scotland building and estate agents. Councillor Groves supported the resident's concerns and advised that representatives of the Civic Society had identified the owner of the chemist and had discussed erecting vinyl's and painting the chemist to improve the appearance. Councillor Groves suggested that the Clerk could write to the owners/management agencies of the Union Pub and Royal Bank of Scotland building. Councillor Groves added that a meeting had been held with Highways officers at the end of last year to discuss improvements to the pavements, but the officer had

since left. In addition, Cheshire East pre-budget consultation identifies a significant shortfall for 2020/21. Councillor Moran advised that the RBS building has recently been sold.

113. APOLOGIES: Councillors John Statham and Stephanie Wedgewood

ABSENT: none

114. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests expressed.

115. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th December 2019 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

116. MAYORS REPORT

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

Sun 22nd Dec	Nantwich Football Youth Football Tournament
Wed 8th Jan	Nantwich Museum Art Exhibition

The Mayor added his thanks to the Deputy Mayor Pam Kirkham for giving up her Christmas day to attend the Methodist Christmas lunch. Councillor Kirkham advised that she had been very humbled at the event and gave thanks to the excellent work of the volunteers preparing a fresh three course Christmas lunch.

117. PLANNING CONTROL

Resolved: It was resolved that there were no objections in respect of the applications listed in Appendix A.

118. ALLOTMENT RENT PROPOSALS 2020/21

Members considered the previously circulated report providing further information and advice to consider when agreeing the future rent of the allotments. In addition, the Clerk provided a spreadsheet showing the income and expenditure relating to the allotments and a breakdown of each of the allotment sizes advising that the size ranged between 55 sqm and 311sqm. The Clerk also provided a guidance sheet issued by the National Allotments Association relating to rent setting.

Councillor Marren suggested that the proposal of £52 per year was appropriate and gave an example of Shavington allotment rents which are set at £50 per year. In addition, to address the issue of the various plot sizes he suggested working with the Allotment Association to develop an appropriate rent setting policy which would take into account the various plot sizes for future years. Councillor Marren added that from the income and expenditure spreadsheet it was evident that the provision of the service to date has cost the town council approximately £6,000.

The Clerk also sought agreement on the original proposals for a deposit for new allotment tenants, advising members to consider the social and economic factors before making a

decision. Councillor Marren, recognising the proposal of £250 may be unaffordable to some suggesting a refundable deposit of £100 for new tenants, which would hopefully act as a deterrent to prevent allotments being left in poor condition whilst still being affordable. Councillor Martin suggested an alternative deposit equal to a years rent, but this was not supported by council.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) That the rent for all allotments will be £52 for the year 2020/21;
- b) That the Town Council will work with the Allotments Association to develop a suitable pricing policy for future years which will take into account the various plot sizes;
- c) That a refundable deposit of £100 will be introduced for all new tenants from 2020/21.

119. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Bostock and members agreed that his motion had been covered within the public forum session under point 112.2.

Resolved: It was resolved that action has been taken by Cheshire East to address the traffic management at Welsh Row.

120. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Martin informed members that the new CEO had not accepted the offer of the permanent position as she had received an alternative offer of employment. Councillor Marren added that he had raised concerns relating to the recruitment costs for the position particularly as consultants had been used for the process. Councillor Groves informed members that the Housing Land supply figure had increased from 7.2 years to 7.5 years and reminded members of the new refuse collection service that is being rolled out from 6 January 2020. Councillor Moran informed members that he had been involved in the scrutiny of the draft budget and raised concerns relating to the cost of the Crewe market, and the budget proposals for an expected increase in income from car parking revenue. Councillor Groves also advised that he had written to Cheshire East raising concerns on the impact to the town following the closure of St. Anne's car park and the loss of parking spaces. The response he had received was that a review of all car parks in Cheshire East would be undertaken, but Councillor Groves was concerns on the length of time this may take. The Mayor suggested this item should be included on the next agenda for consideration.

121. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Greaves advised that he and the Clerk had attended The Pledge Partnership meeting on Tuesday evening where 17 businesses, 12 education partners and 13 other partners had met. The aim of the project being to link young school leavers with further education, work experience and employment, linking current skills and identifying skill gaps.

The meeting ended at 7.03pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....