



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 28th May 2020.

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

Also Present: One member of the public and one member of the press.

10. PUBLIC FORUM

10.1 There were no representatives from the Police

10.2 Representations from members of the public.

There were no representatives from the Public.

10.3 Representations from the public on planning applications – None.

10.4 Questions submitted in advance in writing.

Members had received in advance of the meeting correspondence from a member of the public relating to a request for amendments to the rules and regulations of the allotments at Brookfield. The member of the public was invited to speak to his request.

The resident recognised that the current rules and regulations are very detailed, however he believed that the regulations were not being enforced effectively. He also requested that the Town Council consider the introduction of a total ban on the use of bonfires at the allotments and to have opening and closing times. At present the neighbouring properties can be disturbed by the allotment holders as early as 6am.

The Mayor thanked the resident for his attendance and advised that the Town Council would consider his request and a response would be provided in due course.

11. APOLOGIES: There were apologies from Councillor Stephanie Wedgwood.

ABSENT: none

12. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests expressed.

13. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

13.1 Resolved: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd April 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

13.2 Resolved: That the minutes of the Mayor Making Meeting held on 15th May 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, approved and signed by the Mayor.

14. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's report that due to the lockdown she had not yet been able to carry out any activities, but is hoping to organise a virtual on-line quiz.

15. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk spoke to the report advising members that as she had not yet received the professional advice as she had hoped she would not be seeking a resolution on the recommendations within the report and asked that the agenda item be deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

Resolved: It was resolved the defer the Finance Report on Capital and Revenue to the next meeting of the Town Council on 11th June 2020.

16. COVID-19 RETURN TO WORK

The Clerk informed members that the Facilities Manager along with other officers had worked on developing safe return to work risk assessments with the Health & Safety Advisor for both the Market and the Civic Hall. The Facilities Manager welcomed any questions to the report. Councillor Statham asked if the traders had been spoken to. The Facilities Manager confirmed that the traders had been contacted to discuss the new operating proposals. In addition, the Facilities Manager advised members that one trader had decided to close their business and another was thinking about closing. Following a question from Councillor Moran the Facilities Manager confirmed that the Café and hairdressers would remain closed at present based on Government guidance. Councillor Moran also asked about the Civic Hall, and the Facilities Manager confirmed that all shows and events had been rescheduled starting October at present. The Facilities Manager also confirmed that the public toilets would only be available for traders to reduce the risks associated with social distancing and cleaning surfaces etc. Councillor Statham asked for clarification on the process for re-opening and the Facilities Manager agreed to send the plan of the Hall and outside stalls to all members, showing the new opening arrangements and one way system.

The Clerk sought support for the proposals within the report for the reintroduction of rent charges at the market. Members discussed the issue of traders who have to shield, self isolate, or could not yet trader such as the hairdressers and cafe and agreed that rent charges should not be made for those in these categories.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) That members support and approve the proposals for the safe return to work and business operations of the Town Council once Government approval to reopen is received.
- b) That members approve the proposals for the reintroduction of rent charges at the market;
- c) That those traders who have to self-isolate, shield or are not yet permitted to trade will not be charged rent

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Thomas spoke to her motion thanking Cheshire East for the work that had been carried out to the highway in Nantwich, but added that there were a number of areas in the Town that were a high priority and sought the Town Councils support to address them. She added that Beam Street needed improvements and measures should be taken to prevent heavy goods vehicles from driving onto the pedestrian areas and damaging the paving. Councillor Groves supported Councillor Thomas' comments and suggested that the matter could be considered by the Policy Committee. He added that he believed that Beam Street is on the schedule for work. Councillor Moran added that the issue of heavy vehicles had been raised previously and consultation by Cheshire East had been carried out with traders, he agreed the issue could be raised again adding it would be pointless making improvements if the vehicles went on to damage the paving. Councillor Moran confirmed that Beam Street is on the schedule of works for 2020.

Councillor Marren added that Pepper Street had been an issue previously, but traders had objected. He added that there is a traffic order at Pepper Street but this is not enforced by Cheshire East as the gates are never closed.

Councillor Statham advised members of the Cheshire East document released detailing planned works on Beam Street. However, this is the only time that Nantwich is mentioned in the planned maintenance programme. He advised members of the matrix used by Cheshire East in determining the maintenance programme.

Councillor Groves added that Southcrofts is an area that needs improvements and members and residents need to continue to keep pressure on Cheshire East for this area.

Councillor Bostock in supporting the comments asked where heavy goods vehicles could park. Suggesting the Town Council could work with the Civic Society and Nantwich Town Partnership to address the issues and seek support from Cheshire East.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Policy Committee consider the issue further working with the Civic Society and Nantwich Town Partnership.

18. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

Resolved: That the schedule of payments be approved in accordance with the previous resolution of the Town Council to use the General Power of Competence, the total sums as follows:

- Current account = £234.73
- Trading Account = £86,426.29

19. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran informed members that Cheshire East have now introduced virtual meetings for committees, and he had attended his first Health Scrutiny Committee, and praised how Cheshire East had dealt with pandemic.

20. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Facilities Manager informed members that he had received confirmation that the Pride event had been cancelled for 2020.

Councillor Statham informed members of a new litter group in the Town, Nantwich Litter Action, which was a group formed through Facebook. He praised the work they had done to date, collecting over 250 bags of waste this year. He informed members that the group would like to invite members to take part in a litter pick once the restrictions are lifted. Following a question from Councillor Thomas, Councillor Statham confirmed that the new group would welcome the opportunity to work with the existing Nantwich Litter group.

Councillor Bostock advised that the Nantwich in Bloom volunteers had started preparing for the new plants to arrive next week. Thirteen volunteers had taken part over the last weekend. He informed members that the plant themes would represent the NHS colours and colours of the rainbow, in recognition of the work carried out during the pandemic.

The meeting ended at 7.05pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....