



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 10th September 2020

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

Also Present: One member of the press

53. PUBLIC FORUM

53.1 There were no representatives from the police present.

53.2 Representations from members of the public – None.

53.3 Representations from the public on planning applications – None.

53.4 Questions submitted in advance in writing – None.

54. APOLOGIES: Councillor Penny Butterill.

ABSENT: none

55. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest declared.

56. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

56.1 Resolved: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

57. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that due to the lockdown she had not been able to carry out many activities but had presented Sergeant Bennett with his retirement gift at the Civic Hall, she had also judged the planters and baskets for Nantwich in Bloom, met with Nikki The Morrison's Champion to discuss how Morrison's can help in the community, attended Nantwich Football Ground with volunteers and representatives of the Food Festival to receive donations for the food bank

58. PLANNING CONTROL

Resolved: It was resolved that the recommendations of the Clerk be approved and the observations reported to Cheshire East.

59. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2020/21

Resolved: It was resolved that Members are appointed to the various Committees and Panels of the Council as detailed below:

NB - The Mayor of the Council sits ex-officio on all Panels and Committees.

- (a) Policy Committee - 7 members
Councillors Peter Groves (Chair), Penny Butterill (Vice Chair), Carole Thomas, David Marren, Andrew Martin, Phil Staley and John Statham
- (b) Finance Committee – 7 Members.
David Marren (Chair), John Statham (Vice Chair), Arthur Moran, Stuart Bostock, Stephanie Wedgwood, David Greaves and Phil Staley.
- (c) Staffing Committee – 6 Members
Councillors Arthur Moran (Chair), Andrew Martin (Vice Chair), Stuart Bostock, Carole Thomas, Peter Groves and David Greaves.
- (d) Tenders Sub-Committee – 3 Members
The Mayor and Chairs of Policy and Finance

60. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Resolved: It was resolved that Members are appointed to the various Committees and Panels of the Council as detailed below:

- (a) Nantwich Partnership
Councillors Thomas and Staley
NB - Councillors who are also Cheshire East Councillors for Nantwich Wards are invited to Partnership meetings in that capacity i.e. Councillors Butterill, Groves, Martin and Moran.
- (b) Nantwich in Bloom Committee
Councillors Stuart Bostock and Stephanie Wedgwood
- (c) Nantwich Museum Trust
Councillors Pam Kirkham and David Marren
- (d) Allotments Panel
Councillors Stuart Bostock and David Marren.
- (e) Nantwich Civic Society
Councillor Carole Thomas and John Statham
- (f) Nantwich Senior Citizens Committee
Councillor Arthur Moran and Carole Thomas.
- (g) Trustees of Nantwich Consolidated Charities.
Councillors Pam Kirkham and Councillor David Moran.
- (h) Litter Volunteer group
Councillor David Greaves and Carole Thomas
- (i) Nantwich Food Festival Committee
Councillors Stuart Bostock and John Statham

61. AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES AND OTHER FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) that any two of the [named] three signatories plus the Town Clerk be authorised to operate and sign documents and cheques in regard to the Royal Bank of Scotland Nantwich Town Council current (Treasurer's) account and, where necessary, the Royal Bank of Scotland Direct Reserve account the Royal Bank of Scotland Town Council Charity Fund account. the Royal Bank of Scotland Nantwich Town Council Trading Account the Skipton Building Society account the CCLA Public Sector Property Fund and Local Authorities' Property Fund.
- b) Authorisation of the direct debits as detailed.

62. THERAPY/COMMUNITY GARDEN

Members considered the previously circulated reported detailing proposals for a community garden at Brookfield allotments. The project was being led by representatives from the Allotment Association but included key partners from the NHS, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPCA. The Clerk sought support from the Town Council to gift two allotment plots to the project and have a representative from the town council on the project. All members agreed the proposals were excellent supporting the idea. Councillor Stephanie Wedgwood volunteered to act as a representative on the project along with the Town Clerk.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) to gift plots 79 & 80 at Brookfield Allotment site for the project;
- b) that Councillor Stephanie Wedgwood and the Town Clerk would be representatives on the project.

63. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Members considered the previously circulated report detailing the current financial position of the town council. The Clerk advised members that during the recess staff had returned to work on reduced hours, income was now being generated from the market and the second instalment of the precept had been received on 1 September 2020. Given the current balances the Clerk advised that with continued caution the Town Council would meet all its financial obligations to the end of the financial year. Councillor Moran commented about the income now being received from the Market and the impact of the Civic Hall not currently delivering shows. The Facilities Manager advised members that he was having to move or cancel shows into the new year. Councillor Marren suggested that all members have a network of contacts and could be promoting what the Civic Hall had available.

- Resolved:**
- a) Note the report and approve the review of income and expenditure and the bank reconciliations as of 31 July 2020;
 - b) Continue to act with caution and refrain from unnecessary expenditure.

64. ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT

Members considered the previously circulated report to consider amendments to the tenancy agreement for Allotment Holders. The Clerk advised that the amendments related to the introduction of a rent deposit for all future tenants. If the Council were to approve the amendments then existing tenants would be notified of the changes 12 months in advance, with the new agreements for existing tenants coming into force in October 2021.

Councillor Statham suggested that section 6 relating to the future changes to rent should change from 'increase' to 'amend'. Members agreed to this amendment.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the tenancy agreement subject to the minor amendment as detailed.

65. 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:

One Card = £616.74
Trading Account = £132,711.94
Current Account = £101,902.70
CCLA = £345,356.00

66. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran advised members that he had attended the Corporate Services Scrutiny committee meeting where it had been confirmed that the Cheshire East deficit had been reduced from circa £70m down to £50m. He also advised that £1m is to be invested into the new Transit Site which will be considered by Cabinet in November.

Councillor Groves advised that he had asked at the recent Cabinet about car parking, and he had received confirmation that Town Centre Vitality Plans would include car parking reviews which would include spaces and charges.

Councillor Groves also advised that a representative from Town and Parish Councils is invited to join the Highways Group meetings to discuss the winter maintenance programme. The Clerk advised members that she would include the item on the agenda for the next council meeting for members to agree a representative.

67. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Facilities Manager advised members that a meeting had been held with British Legion to discuss the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. He confirmed that due to the pandemic there would be no service at the cenotaph or a parade through the Town. In order to manage social distancing arrangements were being made to hold the remembrance service at the Civic Hall with limited invitations to attend by organisation representatives and dignitaries.

The meeting ended at 7.00pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....