



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 8th October 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, Carole Thomas and Stephanie Wedgwood with the Facilities Manager David Thomas and Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

Also Present: One member of the press

68. PUBLIC FORUM

68.1 There were no representatives from the police present.

68.2 Representations from members of the public – None.

68.3 Representations from the public on planning applications – None.

69.4 Questions submitted in advance in writing – None.

70. APOLOGIES: There were no apologies for absence.

ABSENT: none

71. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest declared.

72. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

72.1 Resolved: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

72.2 Resolved: To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held 24th September 2020, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes

73. MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Sat 12th September 2020
Friday 2 October 2020

Weaver Wander
Reaseheath Graduation Ceremony

The Mayor informed members that she had also visited the market to welcome the new stall holders.

Councillor Andrew Martin arrived 6.35pm

74. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and agreed with the recommendations of the Clerk, other than planning application 20/4024N – 2 Parkland View, Shrewbridge Road. Councillors Groves and Martin advised that there had been concerns raised by neighbouring properties and would forward this information on to the Clerk.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) the recommendations of the Clerk for all planning applications other than 20/4024N be approved and the observations reported to Cheshire East;
- b) The Council would not support the planning application 20/4024N due to concerns raised by neighbouring properties;
- c) The Council would express disappointment that a call-in request by members was refused by Cheshire East.

75. WELL MANAGED HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE STREAMLINED CONSULTATION – WINTER SERVICE

Members considered the request for a representative of the town council to attend a future meeting to discuss proposals for the winter maintenance service.

Resolved: It was resolved that in addition to Cheshire East members Councillor David Greaves would represent the Town Council

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

76. CIVIC HALL EXTENSION

Members considered the previously circulated report relating to the work undertaken to ensure that the proposed extension would allow for an additional floor in a future phase of the development. The Clerk advised members that since the report had been issued there had been a further meeting with the consultants where additional information was provided. The Clerk advised members that the additional cost referred to in the report for the foundations and steel work would equate to approximately £40-£50K uplift on the overall estimate for the build of £260-£300K. The Clerk sought the continued support from members to continue with the proposals for future proofing the build.

Councillor Moran advised that it had always been envisaged that a further floor would be added in the future. Whilst the costs have increased, he reminded members that there had also been additional elements added to the build including additional toilets. Councillor Moran added that this would be a major investment into the town and will enhance the facilities available making the Civic Hall a premier hall of South Cheshire.

Councillor Statham asked about the idea of the library or museum moving to the Civic Hall. The Facilities Manager advised that there had been agreement in the past that should these services be at risk in the future then having the space to accommodate the services would help protect them. Councillor Moran added that without predicting the future decision of Cheshire East it is possible further assets could be transferred to town and parish councils. Councillor Groves supported this comment from Councillor Moran, adding that there is a lot of merit in future proofing the development.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the proposals and additional costs linked to allowing the extension to have an additional floor in a future phase of the development.

77. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran advised that Cheshire East were at mid term for the budget and excluding the extra costs of COVID of around £28m the budget is currently £0.5m in surplus. He also added that there had been training for the new committee system set to be introduced in May 2021.

Councillor Moran also highlighted his support for the repair or replacement of the skate park, and that he was in close liaison with ANSA about this. Councillor Wedgwood thanked Councillor Moran, stressing the importance of the park to the young people. Councillor Statham suggested that the young people who use the park should be consulted as they have some good ideas for the park. Councillor Wedgwood supported this suggestion adding that Market Drayton was a good example of how the park could be invested in.

Councillor Marren advised that at the Cabinet meeting set for 10 November 2020, there will be consideration on the £1m traveller site. He added that Cheshire East were currently consulting on its Corporate Plan. The Clerk added that she would include this on the agenda for the next council meeting.

78. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Facilities Manager advised members that he was to have a meeting with the British Legion the following day where revised arrangements for this year's remembrance service would be agreed. 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.

Councillor Bostock informed members that the draft Corporate Strategic Plan had been well received by Nantwich in Bloom (NiB) and the Civic Society. He advised that NiB would be meeting next week to consider a response and asked how this could be provided to the Council. The Clerk suggested that either Councillor Bostock could provide the response direct to the Clerk or the group could send through comments by email to the Clerk.

79. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: It was resolved to exclude the 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.

80. STAFFING MATTERS

Members considered the previously circulated report relating to casual staff.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the recommendations in the report.

The meeting ended at 7.16pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....