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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th November 2020.

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

Also Present: One member of the press

81. PUBLIC FORUM

81.1 There were no representatives from the police present.

81.2 Representations from members of the public – None.

81.3 Representations from the public on planning applications – None.

81.4 Questions submitted in advance in writing – None.

82. APOLOGIES: There were apologies from Councillor Penny Butterill.

ABSENT: none

83. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Arthur Moran expressed a personal interest in Agenda Item 6. Planning Control, planning application no. 20/4629N.

84. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

84.1 Resolved: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

84.2 Resolved: To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held 15th October 2020, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

85. MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Thurs 22nd October 2020
Sun 25th October 2020
Mon 2nd November 2020
Wed 4th November 2020

Retirement presentation to Christine
Bridgemere Memorial Service
Tree of Light
CAT radio interview.

The Mayor informed members that she would also be attending St Mary's Church for the Remembrance Sunday service which will be streamed live.

86. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and agreed with the recommendations of the Clerk, other than planning application 20/4400N – 11 St. Anne's Court and planning application 20/4658N – Savers, 28 High Street. Whilst there were no planning grounds for objecting to 11 St. Anne's Court concerns were expressed by members on the likely impact of noise nuisance from dogs should a dog kennel be approved. Members also agreed that they could not support the application for Savers as the visual impact would be detrimental to the High Street.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) the recommendations of the Clerk for all planning applications other than 20/4400N and 20/4658N be approved and the observations reported to Cheshire East;
- b) The Council would not support the planning applications 20/4400N and 20/4658N

87. INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT

Members considered the previous circulated report of the internal auditor. The Clerk advised members that the first five recommendations of the report related to the current financial year, and the Clerk had provided comments to the recommendations for council to consider. The Clerk also advised members that the later recommendations of the report related to the previous year which council had already considered, but asked members to note that the internal auditor had provided comments on many of the recommendations that in his view had been implemented. The remain recommendations could not be reviewed by the internal auditor until the year end.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the interim internal audit report and approve the actions by the Clerk to address the recommendations.

88. SITE ALLOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES DOCUMENT – CHESHIRE EAST CONSULTATION

Members considered the benefit of the town council responding to the consultation document and agreed that as there is little land available for development within the town boundary then there would be little impact on any site allocation policy on the town.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the consultation document.

89. CHESHIRE EAST CORPORATE PLAN - CONSULTATION

Members considered the benefit of responding to the consultation document and agreed that Councillors Peter Groves and David Marren would work with the Clerk in preparing a response to the consultation document on behalf of the Town Council.

Resolved: It was resolved that Councillors Peter Groves and David Marren would work with the Clerk in preparing a response to the Cheshire East Corporate Plan consultation.

90. DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Members considered the responses received from residents and key stakeholders, with Councillor Moran adding that he was very pleased with the level of response received. Given the amount of comments received which were very relevant Councillor Moran suggested that the original working group should consider how the comments could be incorporated within the plan. Councillor Groves who had been an original member of the working group supported this suggestion. Councillor Statham asked if it would be possible for other members to join the working group if they wished. The Clerk agreed that she would send details of the working groups meeting to all members to give them the opportunity to take part if they wished.

Resolved: It was resolved that the original working group would consider the consultation responses and provide recommendations for approval of the Corporate Strategic Plan to the next meeting of the Council

91. ENGIE INTRODUCTON

Members consider the request from Engie for representation from the Town Council on the Special Interest Group to assist Engie in delivering their social value commitments. It was agreed that Councillors Peter Groves, Arthur Moran and Stephanie Wedgwood would represent the Town Council on the group.

Resolved: It was resolved that Councillors Peter Groves, Arthur Moran and Stephanie Wedgwood would represent the Town Council on the Engie Special Interest Group.

92. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Wedgwood spoke to her motion seeking support from the Town Council to look at options to increase CCTV coverage around the town. She referred to areas including the railway station.

Councillor Groves in supporting the motion added there had been instances of problems at Love Lane and the Shrewbridge Road area and he was aware of a mobile camera that is available to that could be deployed to problem areas.

Councillor Bostock added concerns of safety around the town during the late evenings and supported the idea of a blanket coverage.

Councillor Statham broadly supported the motion but suggested that Transport for Wales should be responsible for CCTV coverage at the railway station. He also suggested that without adequate lighting around the town CCTV would not be as affective. Councillor Groves suggested that he and Councillor Statham review any street lighting issues that could be reported the Cheshire East.

Councillor Bostock added that there is also a need for a police presence around the town.

Following a question from Councillor Statham the Clerk confirmed that she did have available the details of the existing CCTV provision and would provide this to members.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) That the Clerk would forward details of the existing CCTV provision to members;
- b) The Clerk would contact Transport for Wales in relation to additional CCTV at the railway Station;
- c) The Clerk would contact the CCTV Manager at Cheshire East to enquire about additional CCTV costs and the provision of a mobile camera;
- d) Councillors Statham and Groves would review the street lighting in the town and report any defects to Cheshire East.

93. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Moran informed members that Cheshire East held its first full council meeting (virtually) since February on 21 October which had 81 members present, 26 members of the public. There will be a further special meeting of the council on 19 November where proposals for the new Committee system will be considered.

94. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Mayor, Councillor Kirkham advised members that Nick Dyer the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Museum had now retired with Helen Cooke taking over the role temporarily. The Mayor expressed her thanks to Nick Dyer for all his commitment to the Museum. This was echoed by all members.

The meeting ended at 7.17pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....