



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 30th March 2021.

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

Also Present: Five members of the public.

148. PUBLIC FORUM

148.1 Representatives from the Police.

There were no representations from the Police.

148.2 Representations from members of the public.

Three residents spoke in relation to the consultation on Planning Application 21/0954N, The Nook, 1 Vauxhall Place, Nantwich. The residents each raised concerns relating to the proposal which included concerns that the developers had already commenced work, that the proposed property would overlook and invade the privacy of neighbouring properties with proposals for a balcony and windows overlooking neighbouring properties. Concern was raised about the existing drainage in the area, which currently struggles and regularly has to have blockages cleared by residents. The addition of a further property would only add to the drainage problems. The residents also raised concerns about noise nuisance from the development with work being carried out at weekends particularly Sundays.

A resident spoke in relation to a later agenda item for the appointment of a Deputy Clerk. The resident raised concerns of openness and transparency and that previous discussions had been held with the exclusion of the public and press. The resident opposed the appointment of the position stating it would be insensitive given the current climate and the need for the Town Council to manage its finances during the pandemic. The resident perceived the exclusion of the public and press to be used to consider contentious issues, with the Council hiding behind legislation. He asked that the Town Council sought to work harder on openness and transparency in the future.

The Clerk provided some background to the appointment, advising that there would not be any additional members of staff employed by the Town Council as a result of the appointment. With the Town Council's approval, the role would be incorporated within an existing role. The Clerk advised that she had sought legal advice on the exclusion of the public and press in relation to the topics raised by the resident.

148.3 There were no representations from the public on planning applications.

148.4 There were no questions submitted in advance in writing.

149. APOLOGIES: There were apologies of absence from Councillors David Marren and Phil Staley.

ABSENT: none

150. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillors Arthur Moran advised that the applicant for planning application 21/1189N was known to him as a neighbour.

151. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and supported the comments of the residents who had spoken earlier in relation to application 21/0954N.

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

152. 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.

153. DEPUTY CLERK

Councillors Arthur Moran and David Greaves, members of the interview panel provided their recommendations for the appointment of the Deputy Clerk. They gave details of the process followed together with their scoring and observations of questions asked during the interview. The Clerk supported the recommendations of Councillors Moran and Greaves.

Resolved: It was resolved to appoint Sheryl Birtles as the Deputy Clerk to be combined within her existing role of Marketing Manager, with the new title being Deputy Clerk and Marketing Manager at the recommended Local Government Services (LGS) pay grade SCP 38.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....