



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 15TH APRIL 2021.

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

Also present: 17 members of the public, and two officers from Cheshire Police

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. NANTWICH COVID HERO AWARDS

The Mayor presented four COVID Hero awards for:

Organisation Hero – to Dr. David Holden and Natalie Sneyd on behalf of the NHS team involved in the vaccination programme at the Civic Hall, Nantwich.

Community Group – to the Nantwich Buddies formed during the early stages of the pandemic, which has aided in the smooth running of the vaccination programme, helping the community with shopping and prescription collections.

Community Hero – to Maureen Coulter for her work during the pandemic, organising food drop-offs for the Foodbank and those most in need, organising volunteers, liaising with the Foodbank, organising the logistics of tonnes of food donations.

Extraordinary act of kindness – To Mr Nick Bunting, who whilst working from home, home schooling donated his time to refurbishing old and broken laptops and tablets for children of the Home Learning project, giving children without access to technology the change to learn from home.

The Mayor thanked all the recipients for their contributions to the community during the pandemic, highlighting how difficult it had been to choose the winners, as she was aware of many stories about amazing achievements during the lockdown from people helping their community.

3. REPORTS FROM TOWN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Sue Sherwood from Nantwich in Bloom provided a colourful powerpoint presentation of the groups achievements during the last 12 months despite the pandemic, highlighting some of the work of the volunteers together with their ambitions for Nantwich in Bloom.

4. RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

There was one written statement from a member of the public containing two specific questions relating to the likely assets to be transferred from Cheshire East to Nantwich Town Council, and the second relating to the appointment of a Town Ranger, Deputy Clerk and purchase of a Cherry Picker.

The Town Clerk was able to provide a verbal update relating to the questions to the resident, confirming that a decision on the appointment of a Town Ranger had not yet been made, the Deputy Clerk would be appointed internally from an existing member of staff and so there will not be any additional staff employed as a result of the appointment. Instead the role will be combined with existing duties. The Clerk also confirmed that the purchase of the Cherry Picker had been through Capital Reserves which would not impact on the precept.

5. OPEN FORUM - QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident raised concerns relating to the safety of Mallards around the lake with the speed of the traffic. He suggested that there were once slow down signs. Councillor Moran agreed to take this issue up with Cheshire East. In addition, PC Matt Stonier advised that the PCSO's did currently patrol the area for 1-2 hours per week, but they would look to increase the patrol time, together with the speed indicator device.

A resident asked about the poor condition of pavements around Cheyne Walk. Councillor Peter Groves agreed to take this issue up with Cheshire East Highways department.

A resident raised concerns about the feeding of pigeons in the town, which attracted pigeons and causes problems from the mess created from them. Councillor Moran advised that he was aware of the issues that St. Mary's Church were having with pigeons and agreed to take the problem up with Cheshire East.

A resident raised concerns relating to the recent increase in anti-social behaviour and littering at Brookfield Park. Councillor Groves confirmed that along with Councillor Martin they had been working with the police, the local litter group and Allotment Association as well as officers from Cheshire East and Nantwich Town Council to address the problem. PC Stonier confirmed that the police were working with all interested parties to address the issues at Brookfield Park, added that should residents have concerns to call 101, or report it online, or in the case of an emergency to call 999.

Signature: _____

Date: _____