



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: David Greaves, Pam Kirkham, David Marren, John Statham, Carole Thomas and Stephanie Wedgwood with Sheryl Birtles Deputy Town Clerk and Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

Also Present: One member of the press

Before the start of the meeting members considered the appointment of a Chair for the meeting as both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were not present.

Resolved: It was resolved to appoint Councillor David Marren to Chair the meeting.

50. PUBLIC FORUM

50.1 There were no representatives from the Police.

50.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

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

50.4 There was a question submitted in advance in writing from a local resident relating to potential joint funding of path-works between Shrewbridge Road and Wellington Road. Members agreed that the Clerk should obtain further details on the scheme including additional cost and ownership of the public right of way.

51. APOLOGIES: There were apologies of absence from Councillors Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Peter Groves (Deputy Mayor), Penny Butterill, Andrew Martin Arthur Moran and Philip Staley

ABSENT: none

52. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

53. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

53.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

53.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 22nd July 2021, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

53.3 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 29th July 2021, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

54. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Chair advised that he was unable to provide an update on the Mayor's activities but a list of appointments were attached.

55. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and supported the recommendations of the Clerk.

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

56. CCTV QUARTER ONE REPORT

Members considered the previously circulated first quarterly report. The Clerk advised that she had met with the CCTV manager at the end of August, advising that the Manager would be happy to attend the next meeting of the Town Council. The Clerk also advised that there was an invitation for members to visit the Control room and she would make arrangements for the visit with interested members.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the content of the first quarterly report.

57. CHALC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members considered representation of the Town Council at the Annual General meeting and agreed that Councillors Stuart Bostock and David Marren would represent the Town Council along with the Clerk. Members also discussed the possibility of including a notice of motion. The Clerk suggested that as the issue of double taxation has been raised a number of times over recent months that maybe members would wish to include a motion relating to the issue. Members agreed that this would be suitable notice of motion.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) Councillors Stuart Bostock and David Marren with the Clerk would attend the Annual General Meeting;
- b) A suitably wording notice of motion be sent asking that ChALC investigate the issues of double taxation identifying local examples in the borough and developing proposals for Cheshire East to address the issues.

58. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – ASSET TRANSFER POLICY

The Clerk advised members that the consultation on the draft policy for asset transfer was open for responses until 17th September and suggested members may wish to provide a response given the recent interest by Council. Councillor Marren agreed that a response should be provided commenting on his concerns with a couple of areas within the draft policy. He added that the draft policy suggests that any proposed asset transfer from Cheshire East to an organisation would be cost neutral to Cheshire East, suggesting that any additional costs such as legal costs for both parties would have to be covered by the applying organisation. Councillor Marren also raised concerns relating to the need to develop an

acceptable business plan by the applying organisation. Whilst Councillor Marren understood the need for a business plan to ensure due diligence by an organisation, the plan should be for the benefit of the applying organisation and not form part of a requirement to the application.

Councillor Statham in supporting Councillor Marren's comments added that the draft policy appeared to be a one-sided document benefiting Cheshire East. Members also discussed the issue of the approval process as the document suggests office led decision making, whereas members agreed the decision of an asset transfer should be by Cheshire East Councillors.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Clerk would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council highlighting the concerns raised above.

59. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – BUS SERVICE REVIEW

The Clerk advised members that the closing date for responses to the consultation was 17th September, but if members wished to meet separately to consider a response she had availability during the following week to prepare a response. Councillor Statham provided comments relating to the removal of the bus service to Leighton Hospital and supported the expansion of the pilot scheme for the demand response service which he believed was the way forward.

Councillor Marren advised that he was aware of a service user group which may wish to comment and he would contact them suggesting they advise the Clerk should they have any comments.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Clerk would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council highlighting the observations raised above.

60. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – DRAFT SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Members considered the consultation and agreed to note the document.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the consultation document

61. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Marren reported that Cheshire East were currently consulting on the Community Governance Review and a Council Tax Support Scheme for low income households.

62. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Both Councillor Marren and Councillor Statham reported on a good meeting of Nantwich Museum.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....