



## NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**Present** – Councillors: Peter Groves (Chair), Penny Butterill (Vice Chair), Carole Thomas, John Statham with Sheryl Birtles Deputy Clerk and Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

**Also present:** Councillors Stuart Bostock and David Greaves

#### **7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor David Marren, Andrew Martin and Phil Staley

#### **8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

#### **9. MINUTES OF POLICY COMMITTEE OF 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Committee approved the minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

#### **10. PUBLIC CONVENIENCE CONSULTATION**

Members considered the revised draft public conveniences consultation questionnaire prepared with the working group. The Clerk advised members where she had made amendments, adding that there had also been a suggestion by Councillor Marren to include a requirement for respondents to provide personal contact details. The Clerk advised members that requiring respondents to provide contact details can deter people from completing a questionnaire and suggested that to understand the demographics of the responses the questionnaire could request the provision of a post code to identify which responses are from residents and which are from visitors to the town.

Councillor Statham added that he understood the suggestion by Councillor Marren, to prevent duplicate responses from the same person but felt it unlikely that there would be significant responses to have such concerns with this survey.

Councillor Thomas suggested it may be useful to understand the age range of the responders as well as the area they are from.

In supporting the suggestions, the Chair also suggested an additional question to the survey relating to the opening times of the toilets including Sundays.

In response to a question by Councillor Statham the Clerk confirmed that the Town Council would require a response to the survey before the end of October to allow for Council to determine potential budget demands.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the questionnaire subject to the amendments as detailed above.

#### **11. CHESHIRE EAST – HIGHWAYS/TRANSPORT**

As requested at the previous Full Council meeting, members consider the options to the Town Council in relation to the highways and transport pilot scheme run by Cheshire East. The Clerk advised members of the potential areas that the scheme could aid the Town Council including the re-instating of the No. 78 bus service, and the upgrading of the gateway signs around the town, both of which are actions within the Corporate Plan. She did advise members of caution given that there is no budget provision in the current year.

Following a suggestion by Councillor Statham members agreed that the scheme should be consider if and when the Town Council is able to commit funds to any project that could be provided through the scheme

such as the gateway signs, given the current continued concerns of the impact of covid on town council income.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to monitor the scheme offer by Cheshire East and consider an application to the scheme should the Town Council commit funds to a project in the future.

## 12. CODE OF PRACTICE ON LITTER AND REFUSE

Members considered the Code of Practice, with the Clerk highlighting significant areas of the code. Councillor Statham suggested that from the evidence of the Code it appears that Cheshire East are failing in their duties.

Councillor Thomas asked if there was anything that could be done to address littering caused from cafés and take-aways', with Councillor Bostock highlighting the littering issues around Swine Market take-aways'. The Clerk confirmed that the Code does provide advice on the powers of local authorities to issue notices to businesses which could result in fines.

Members agreed that the Code could be used as a tool to hold Cheshire East to Account with their duties.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to use the Code of Practice as a tool to hold Cheshire East to Account.

## 13. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Members considered the draft Equality and Diversity Policy prepared by the Deputy Clerk. The Deputy Clerk advised members on the requirement to have an approved policy in place for the application to become a Connected Communities Centre, adding that this policy would compliment the Equality and Dignity at Work Policy within the employee handbook.

Members thanked the Deputy Clerk for the draft policy and supported the approval of the document.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to recommend the approval of the policy to Full Council

## 14. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN CONSULTATION

Members considered the survey monkey questionnaire relating to the draft Police and Crime Plan and agreed responses to the questionnaire. In addition to the direct question responses members made additional comments relating to the issues associated with the 101-reporting line, the priority of tackling anti-social behaviour and speeding vehicles in the town, the need to work with other key partners including Town and Parish Councils, attending regular council meetings.

**Resolved:** It was resolved the send the agree responses to the survey monkey along with the additional comments as detailed above.

## 15. 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.

**16. 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.

**17. TOWN CRIER**

Members considered the previously circulated report relating to the appointment of a Town Crier.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to recommend that Full Council advertise for the appointment of a Town Crier.

**The meeting ended at 8.00pm**

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....