



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th October 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Penny Butterill, David Greaves, Peter Groves (Deputy Mayor), Pam Kirkham, David Marren, Andrew Martin, Arthur Moran, 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 public

63. PUBLIC FORUM

63.1 There were no representatives from the Police.

63.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

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

63.4 There was no questions submitted in advance in writing.

64. APOLOGIES: There were apologies of absence from Councillor Philip Staley. Council also approved Councillor Staley's continued apologies in advance of his absence for six consecutive months to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor.

ABSENT: none

65. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Councillor Moran, Councillor Martin and Councillor Groves for agenda item 9 Cheshire East Council – Community Governance Review. Councillor Moran also declared an interest in agenda item 6 Planning Control, planning application 21/4557N.

66. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

66.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

66.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23rd September 2021, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

67. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor informed members of his engagements since the last meeting of the Council, explaining how interesting Arley Hall was and how they planned and maintained the gardens.

The Mayor also shared with Council details of his visit to the library where he gave out certifications to young people for the summer reading challenge.

68. 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.

69. INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members considered the previously circulated first quarterly interim internal report. The Clerk advised members that there were just three observations from the audit, and the Clerk had provided a response to each of the observations which will be dealt with through the Finance Committee.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the content of the first internal audit report and support the actions by the Clerk to address the observations.

70. ACCOUNTS 2020/21 – ANNUAL RETURN

Members noted the previously circulated completed Section 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) by the external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the completed AGAR for 2020/21 by external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP.

71. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members considered the proposals within the consultation document and agreed that the proposals did reflect the Town Council's response to the earlier consultation, which was that the new build properties within Henhull and Edleston be transferred into the North and West ward of Nantwich. The proposals from Cheshire East also make recommendations to increase the elected members from 12 to 15 which is supported by the Town Council. This proposal by Cheshire East would result in the North & West ward having 10 elected members and the South Ward having 5 elected members. The Town Council discussed the idea of requesting a third ward to be introduced to allow for 5 members in each of the three wards. This would make it easier for the electorate particularly when voting during elections.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Clerk would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council supporting the proposals for Nantwich and requesting a third ward to allow for a 5-member ward in each.

72. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Moran advised members that Cheshire East were currently consulting on proposals for a new primary school to be opened in 2024. The Clerk confirmed that she had received details of the consultation and would include it within the agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Marren advised members that Cheshire East were currently consulting on a draft members Code of Conduct. The Clerk suggested that if a small group of members would like to respond she would facilitate a meeting. In addition Councillor Marren reminded members that the new “Go-too” demand response bus service had been launched that week.

Councillor Groves informed members that the Police & Crime Commissioner John Dwyer has recognised the issues with the 101 service.

73. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from representatives of outside bodies.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....