



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th November 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Penny Butterill, 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 press, Mel Kirby of Northwest In Bloom, nine members of Nantwich In bloom and nine members of the public.

74. PUBLIC FORUM

74.1 There were no representatives from the Police.

74.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

74.3 There was one representation from the public seeking support from the Council to object to planning application 19/0015N

74.4 There was no questions submitted in advance in writing.

75. APOLOGIES: There were apologies of absence from Councillors Philip Staley and David Greaves.

ABSENT: None

76. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Councillor Groves, Councillor Butterill, Councillor Moran and Councillor Marren in relation to agenda item 7 planning control. Councillor Moran also declared an interest in agenda item 7 Planning Control, planning application 21/4988D.

77. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

77.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

77.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 11th October 2021, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

77.3 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 28th October 2021, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

77.4 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 21st October 2021, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

78. NORTHWEST IN BLOOM

The committee welcome Mel Kirby from Northwest In Bloom, who praised the Nantwich In Bloom members for their work around the town. Mr Kirby went on to present the group with a 2021 Gold Award in the Town Category, followed by also presenting the group with an award for Joint Best Town 2021.

The Mayor congratulated Nantwich In Bloom members on behalf of the Town Council.

79. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor informed members of his engagements since the last meeting of the Council, explaining that he had thoroughly enjoyed his Civic Service at St Marys Church and had found the climate walk extremely interesting. He commented that the switch on of the Tree of Light had been a memorable occasion, as too were the Remembrance Services.

80. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and supported the recommendations of the Clerk. Written objections were received from members of the public in relation to planning application 19/0015N. Members supported these objections and felt that legal ownership of the wall should be sought, and the design proposals were not in keeping with the area.

Resolved: It was resolved that the recommendations of the Clerk be reported to Cheshire East Council along with objections in relation to Planning Application 19/0015N

81. CCTV QUARTER 2 REPORT

Members reviewed the previously circulated quarterly report from Cheshire East on the CCTV provision and the Town Clerk reported that some members had visited the CCTV control centre and found the visit of great interest. Councillor Marren commented that the service was a great asset, and its services should be more widely advertised.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Clerk writes to Cheshire East Chief Executive thanking the CCTV team for their continued hard work and support.

82. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – CODE OF CONDUCT

Members noted the previously circulated draft Code of Conduct from Cheshire East. Councillor Marren highlighted that several small amendments had been changed by Cheshire East from the National Code of Conduct and thought they should be reinstated, including under 1.2 of the document CEC have omitted reference to reporting social media incidents to the Local Authority. He also commented that there should be a 'right of appeal' for a Councillor found to be in breach of the code, but also a right of appeal for the complainant should a Councillor be found **not** in breach.

It was highlighted Paragraphs 5.1 and 8 do not currently complement each other and, in some ways, contradict in relation to bringing the Council into disrepute.

Councillor Groves highlighted that there are no sanctions when a member is in breach of the conduct with the Town Clerk highlighting this is a national issue that needs to be addressed.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Clerk responds to CHALC on the matters of concern raised.

83. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – PARKS STRATEGY

Members considered the previously circulated consultation. Councillor Statham advised that the survey was quite individual and would be particularly easy to respond to as an individual.

Resolved: It was resolved that individual members would complete the consultation.

84. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – PROPOSED CONVERSION OF PELICAN CROSSING TO ZEBRA CROSSING - WATERLOAD

Members considered Cheshire East Council's plans and two written objections from the members of public relating to the Waterload crossing conversion.

Councillor Wedgwood raised concerns about how busy this road is and that there had just recently been a very nasty accident. Councillors Groves, Martin and Moran commented that the crossing is regularly used by the elderly and pupils of the local schools and that Zebra crossings would be dangerous.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Clerk would respond to Cheshire East Council with members' objections.

85. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL – PROVISION OF FOUR FREE DAYS OF PARKING FROM NOVEMBER 2021 TO OCTOBER 2022

Members considered Cheshire East Council's provision of four free days of parking across the town.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Clerk will confirm with Cheshire East Council that free parking will be offered on Thursdays 16th & 23rd December and Saturdays 11th & 18th December.

86. POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Members considered reports previously circulated and recommendations from the Policy Committee in relation to Climate Change and introducing a Tourism Strategy.

Councillor Wedgwood commented that the Council needs to recognise that there is a Climate Emergency and as a Council we need to act. Councillor Statham commented that not only should the Council make changes but also lead the community in change with Councillor Groves commenting that we have some valuable links in the community that we should embrace.

Resolved: It was resolved

- a) that the Town Council would declare a Climate Emergency and that Councillors Wedgwood and Bostock would be on a working party for Climate Change
- b) that Councillors Moran, Statham and Groves would join a working party to develop a Tourism Strategy.
- c) the Town Clerk will invite key representatives from the community with vested interests to join the working groups.

87. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran reported that although there had been 30 objects for a late licence at Dorfold Hall, the licence had been granted. Councillor Moran said that he would be supporting objections to the process of how the licence had been dealt with.

Councillor Moran also told members that Covid rates in Cheshire East are still high.

88. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from representatives.

89. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: The exclusion of press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960 as personal and financial details of individuals were to be discussed.

90. CIVIC HALL FLAT ROOF TENDER

Members considered a verbal report from the Town Clerk and approved the appointment of a contractor as recommended by the Tender Committee.

Resolved: It was resolved to authorise the Town Clerk to appoint the contractor as recommended by the Tender Committee subject to the conditions detailed by the Clerk.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

Signature of Chair :.....
Date :.....