



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th December 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Peter Groves (Deputy Mayor), Pam Kirkham, David Marren, Andrew Martin, Arthur Moran, Philip Staley. John Statham, and Carole Thomas and with Sheryl Birtles Deputy Town Clerk. Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk joined the meeting online via Zoom.

91. PUBLIC FORUM

91.1 There were no representatives from the Police.

91.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

91.3 There was no representations from members of the public on planning applications.

91.4 There was no questions submitted in advance in writing.

92. APOLOGIES: There were apologies of absence from Councillors Penny Butterill, David Greaves and Stephanie Wedgwood.

ABSENT: None

93. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

94. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

94.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

94.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 25th November 2021, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

95. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor informed members of his engagements since the last meeting of the Council. He commented that he had particularly enjoyed the Christmas Lights Switch On and thanked Nantwich Town Council staff for their hard work organising the event and making the town look fantastic. The Mayor also commented that the Charity Bingo that he attended at the Civic Hall had been a great success and an enjoyable evening, as too was the Royal British Legion Christmas Party.

96. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and supported the recommendations of the Clerk. In relation to planning application 21/5298N Members supported the installation of a new shop front, however concerns were raised over the outdoor seating area. Councillors were keen to support local businesses with adaptations required due to Covid-19 but commented that we had to be mindful about how it would affect events on the Square.

Resolved: It was resolved that the recommendations of the Clerk be reported to Cheshire East Council along with Members concerns in relation to Planning Application 21/5298N.

97. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23

Members reviewed the previously circulated reports in relation to the 2022/23 budget. The Town Clerk highlighted that she had been working alongside the Finance Committee and following their last meeting there was scope within the budget to reduce the precept further. Councillor Moran supported the recommendations commenting that the Council still need to be cautious with the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Resolved: It was resolved to:

- a) Approve the budget for the coming year, noting that regular reviews will be Undertaken.
- b) Approve the Planned Maintenance Programme.
- c) Note the current capital reserves held and approve the proposed spend from Capital during 2022/23.
- d) Approve the revenue reserve (ear-marked) proposals for 2022/23.
- e) Approve a precept reduction of 12.5% which equates to £816,068 or £152.94 from each Band D household (equivalent to £12.75 per month or £2.94 per week) for the year 2022/23.
- f) Approve the income proposals and rent charges for 2022/23.

98. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (FINAL DRAFT HOUSING SPD)

The Town Clerk reported that the document had been produced in line with the Local Plan for all of Cheshire East and whilst we had little development land at the present time, future changes of the boundary may change this.

Resolved: It was resolved that no Town Council response was required.

99. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATION – SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The Deputy Clerk reported that the strategy was an update to the previously published one in 2016 and was intended to provide safer road environments, encourage more active travel, and increase transparency about the management of speed and traffic flow. Councillor Groves indicated that speed was an issue that he and residents were concerned about and that he would be responding to the consultation. He also commented that he was keen to encourage residents to respond to the consultation.

Resolved: It was resolved that individual members would complete the consultation and that the Town Council would publicise it on social media and the website.

100. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Moran brought to the attention of Members that a long-standing agreement with Cheshire East Council to allow Antique Fair Traders to park for a full day on the car park had

suddenly ended with traders at the last event being fined. He asked Members to support a formal written agreement which could not be disputed in the future.

Councillor Marren added that since the Civic Hall has been owned by the Town Council it pays for electricity to the carpark meters. Trying to receive payment from Cheshire East for the electricity has been an ongoing issue. Councillor Marren proposed that Nantwich Town Council write to Cheshire East asking for the Antique Fair's parking agreement to be reinstated in return for continued electricity supply.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Clerk would write to Cheshire East Council with members' recommendations of full days parking for the Antiques Fairs in return for electricity use for the parking meters.

101. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran reported that he had received a response from Cheshire East relating to the process of how a late licence application at Dorfold Hall had been dealt with. He commented that Cheshire East said that they had followed the Licencing Act 2013 and if the residents wanted to act any further, they would have to appeal and go through Magistrates.

Councillor Moran also reported that unfortunately funding for the skate park at the Barony had not been secured due to more in depth consultation being required. A second bid will be submitted with results in March.

102. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Martin reported that at the last Food Festival meeting Cheshire East were in attendance and advised that the committee should be applying for a licence for the event. The group have a meeting before meeting again before applying to Cheshire East.

Councillor Moran reported that he had recently attended, with the Deputy Clerk and Mayor a meeting regarding Cheshire Local List. He commented that the meeting was very informative, and that Nantwich could build a good database of landmarks for the town. He suggested a working group for this project should be set up in the new year.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm

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