



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2022

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Groves (Deputy Mayor), David Greaves Pam Kirkham, Andrew Martin, Arthur Moran, Philip Staley, John Statham, and Carole Thomas and with Sheryl Birtles Deputy Town Clerk and Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

Also Present: There was one member of the press present.

103. PUBLIC FORUM

103.1 There were no representatives from the Police.

103.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

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

103.4 There was no questions submitted in advance in writing.

104. APOLOGIES: There were apologies of absence from Councillors Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Penny Butterill, David Marren and Stephanie Wedgwood.

ABSENT: None

105. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

106. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

107. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Deputy Mayor read out the Mayors activities since the last meeting of the Council.

108. CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Mr John Dwyer, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire to the meeting and invited him to speak.

Councillor Andrew Martin arrived at 6.35pm.

Mr Dwyer thanked members for the invitation and offered out copies of his Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2024. Mr Dwyer advised members that in developing his current budget he had sent out letters to every household in Cheshire asking for their policing priorities and seeking views on the support for an increase in their precept contribution for policing. In the previous year before Mr Dwyer's appointment the increase in the precept had been 7.1%, but the proposed increase for 2022-23 is 4.4% or 83p per month for a Band D property. The proposed increase will allow for an additional 120 police officers and 63 support staff in the 999/101 call centre. There were over 19,000 responses to the consultation with the majority

happy with the proposals. The increase will result in an additional £5.1m and a further £4m has been identified in savings.

Councillor Moran advised that the night-time economy in Nantwich is well policed, and he is also looking at introducing taxi wardens with a local security company. Councillor Moran commented that he was glad to see additional investment in anti-social behaviour as there had been an increase of anti-social behaviour in the town over recent weeks.

Councillor Moran also supported the additional funding for road safety, advising that speeding vehicles are a problem. Councillor Moran asked Mr Dwyer for his view on Out of Court Disposals, which gives Police Officers the authority to deal with issues. Mr Dwyer confirmed his support for the orders in the right situation, adding that he would like to see Police Officer involved in dealing with the reasons why people commit crime, helping to deal with the underlying reasons.

Councillor Statham asked for Mr Dwyer's view on how the additional funding would improve tackling anti-social behaviour or would this be at an operational level. Mr Dwyer confirmed it would be decided at an operational level, however he had been told by the public that they want more police, so with an additional 2345 police officers by 31 March 2023, the most since 1974 it should help tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Deputy Mayor thanks Mr Dwyer for his attendance the information provided.

109. 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.

110. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL – 2022-2026 BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Clerk sought guidance from members for the representatives on a town council response to the proposed budget when they attend the consultation sessions. Councillor Moran suggested the representatives request additional funding within Highways as the patching of potholes is not sufficient, he also suggested that a request is made to reinstate the Car Parking Strategy as there is a significant amount of potential income being lost. Councillor Moran also commented that the budget does not refer to the potential gain from 50% NNDR reductions announced by the Government.

Councillor Thomas suggested comments are also made relating to poor paving and footpaths within the Highways budget. Councillor Statham asked if Cheshire East could be asked about the level of funding invested in Highways compared to other Highway Authorities of a similar size. Whilst the Town Council understood funding from Central Government has reduced, the level of funding invested in the highway as a percentage of the total budget should be comparable with other authorities.

Resolved: It was resolved that the representatives attending the consultation session would provide the feedback from members.

111. CHESHIRE LOCAL LIST

The Deputy Clerk advised members that the consultants working on the Local List would be finishing with the project during February and they are keen to update the new website with buildings/places of interest within Nantwich. Members considered the request and agreed that the Alms Houses on Beam Street and Welsh Row should be included, the Player's Theatre, Cocoa Yard, the Pillory (stocks) and the Old Biot should also be included on the list. The Deputy Clerk advised members that she would also seek views from the public within the next Talk of the Town.

Resolved: It was resolved that the locations detailed will be provided to the Consultants for inclusion on the website.

112. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

There were no reports from Borough Councillors.

113. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from representatives

114. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: It was resolved to exclude Press and Public pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960 as personal or financial details of individuals are likely to be discussed.

115. TOWN CRIER

The Town Clerk advised members of the applications received for the role of Town Crier and the process followed for the proposed appointment. The Clerk sought support from Council for the appointment of Mr. Devlin Hobson an experienced Town Crier.

Resolved: It was resolved to appoint Mr Devlin Hobson as the Town Crier for Nantwich.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....