



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2022

PRESENT: Councillors: Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Peter Groves (Deputy Mayor), Penny Butterill, David Marren, Arthur Moran, John Statham, Pam Kirkham, Andrew Martin and Carole Thomas with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk and Sheryl Birtles as Deputy Town Clerk.

Also Present: One member of the public and one member of the press

150. PUBLIC FORUM

150.1 There were no representatives from the Police. The Town Clerk informed members that unfortunately PC Matthew Stonier, had moved to a new position at Crewe.

150.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

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

150.4 There was no questions submitted in advance in writing.

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies of absence from Councillors David Greaves, Philip Staley and Stephanie Wedgwood.

ABSENT: None

152. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Pam Kirkham declared an interest in planning application 22/1263N as a neighbour of the property.

Councillor Moran also expressed an interest in Item 9 as he is a director of ANSA.

Both Councillor David Marren and Councillor Penny Butterill expressed a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 – planning control as they are members of the Cheshire East Southern Planning Committee and would not be contributing on this item.

153. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

153.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

153.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17th March 2022, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

154. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor informed members of his engagements over the last month including meeting an event to support Ukraine, an Easter Bonnet parade at a nursing home and he commented on how successful his quiz had been.

155. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and supported the recommendations of the Deputy Clerk. Members discussed planning control over shop frontages and asked the Clerk to include this issue as an item on the next agenda.

- Resolved:** a) It was resolved that the recommendations of the Deputy Clerk be reported to Cheshire East
b) Planning control and enforcement be a motion on the next Town Council Agenda

156. POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Clerk asked members to consider three recommendations by the Policy Committee relating to the introduction of a Business Continuity Plan, and Cycle to Work Scheme and amendments to the Grants Policy

- Resolved:** The Council agreed to the implementation of the Business Continuity Plan and the Cycle to Work Scheme and also to the amendments to the Grants Policy.

157. TOURISM WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Deputy Clerk advised members that following their agreement on 18th November a Tourism Working Group had been established and the first meeting was scheduled for 3rd May. She asked members to consider the previously circulated Terms of Reference for the working group.

- Resolved:** The Council agreed to the Terms of Reference for the Tourism Working Group.

158. PLANTING, SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE OF FLORAL DISPLAYS 2022

The Clerk informed members that ANSA had been maintaining the towns planters and hanging baskets for many years and when budgets were set she was not aware of any cost increases. ANSA contacted the Town Council in February to advise that costs were to increase as they had been undercharging and in April sent through these costs. The Clerk advised that the costs had risen to £29,000 however the budget is only set for £16,000. She advised that ANSA had been informed of this and were willing to work with the Council for this year. She advised members that it was too late to go to tender for the work this year, but asked members to consider putting the work out to tender next year.

Councillor Moran advised that he had spoken Kevin Melling from ANSA and confirmed that they understood that it was late notice for this year's budget, that they had been under charging and would work with the Council for this forthcoming year.

Councillor Statham agreed that nothing could be done this year but felt that we should go out to tender next year and that we would require a full breakdown of what the costs included.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Clerk would liaise with ANSA to provide the best value for money for this year and within the budget of £16,000, and that we would seek tenders for 2023/24.

159. WELSHMAN'S LANE ALLOTMENTS – FLOODING ISSUES

The Town Clerk reminded Members that originally £60,000 had been budgeted for flooding works at Welshman's Lane, however Members had reduced this to £30,000 hoping that the Town Council would receive support from the Kingsbourne Estate Developers. She commented that the Developers had responded and that they were not willing to make a contribution. The Town Council are now at the Tender stage and the Town Clerk asked members for approval to progress to seek Tenders. Councillor Statham questioned how many allotments are affected by the flooding to which the Clerk confirm that it affects all allotment holders as the access road floods. Councillor Statham commented that we had a legal duty to provide allotments and should keep them in good order.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Clerk should start the tender process for works to alleviate the flooding at Welshman's Lane Allotment Site.

160. BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY GARDEN – NATIONAL LOTTERY GRANT APPLICATION

The Town Clerk commented that the Town Council had supported the set up of the Community Garden by donating an allotment and providing a grant for tunnels, etc. She reported that the garden has been progressing but that it needed an officer to manage it, the volunteers and referrals and that she had been working with Deb Lindop from Cheshire East on a Grant Application to fund this position. The Clerk was seeking the Councils approval before submitting the grant application to be the applicants of the grant and to be the employer.

Councillor Marren questioned what would happen in the circumstances of sickness especially long term, to which the Clerk agreed would have to be investigated. Councillor Statham raised concerns in relation to the Town Council being the employer and the hidden costs that could be involved. Councillor Martin suggested that the position could be self-employed, but managed by the Town Council to alleviate the issues raised by Councillors Marren and Statham.

Resolved:

- a) It was resolved that the Town Clerk would proceed with the grant application and would be responsible for the distribution of the grant
- b) It was resolved that the position would be self-employed and managed by the Town Council

161. CHALC ANNUAL MEETING – MOTIONS

The Town Clerk requested motions for the ChALC Annual General Meeting in October. Councillor Marren asked if a response had been received about last year's motion relating to double taxation. The Clerk advised members that she had received some information and that she would share in due course.

Resolved: It was resolved that this item be included on the next agenda to allow Members time to consider ideas.

162. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Moran thanked Councillor Martin and the committee for all the hard work they had put in creating a report for the Cheshire East Boundary Review which is due to be presented at Full Council on 27th April 2022.

163. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

The Mayor commented that the reports received from the organisations at the Annual Town Meeting prior to this meeting had been very informative and comprehensive.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

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

DRAFT