



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Councillors: Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Penny Butterill, David Greaves, David Marren, Arthur Moran, Philip Staley, John Statham, and Carole Thomas with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

Also Present: Councillor Andrew Martin as an observer only virtually.

129. PUBLIC FORUM

129.1 There were no representatives from the Police.

129.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

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

129.4 There was no questions submitted in advance in writing.

130. APOLOGIES: There were apologies of absence from Councillors Peter Groves (Deputy Mayor), Pam Kirkham and Stephanie Wedgwood.

ABSENT: None

131. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Arthur Moran declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 – Local Council Award Scheme as he is a Cheshire East representative for ChALC on the accreditation panel, Councillor Moran also expressed a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14 – The Nantwich Show grant application as he is a director of the show and agreed to leave the room during its consideration.

132. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

132.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

132.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 3rd March 2022, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

133. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor informed members of his three engagements last month including meeting Paralympian Dame Sarah Storey during the opening of Nantwich Leisure Centre and the two shows at the Players Theatre.

134. PLANNING CONTROL

Resolved: It was resolved that the recommendations of the Deputy Clerk be reported to Cheshire East.

135. INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND RESERVE POLICY REVIEW

The Clerk advised members that the only amendments she had made in the existing policy was to update the outstanding balances of loans to the Nantwich Players and St. Mary's Church. The Clerk informed members that she was not advising to amend any of the existing investments. Councillor Statham reminded members that when the strategy was reviewed last year it was agreed to include an additional bullet point relating to the investment objectives which was not in the version being considered. The Clerk agreed that this was the case, and she would ensure that the correct strategy was updated and posted on the website.

Resolved: It was resolved that subject to the inclusion of the additional bullet point under investment objectives that the Investment Strategy and Reserves Policy be approved for 2022/23.

136. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

Members considered the previously circulated draft Local Council Award Scheme application form providing evidence that all documentation and information is in place for the Quality Gold application.

Resolved: The Council confirms by resolution that all documentation and information is in place for the Local Council Award Scheme, Quality Gold award

137. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered the previously circulated draft Terms of Reference and agreed that the aims of the group should firstly include understanding the base line carbon footprint of the Town Council. In addition, members agreed to amend the wording of the first aim to "*Consider how the Council could reduce their (direct and indirect) carbon emissions*".

Resolved: It was resolved that subject to the above amendments the Terms of Reference be approved.

138. REMOTE/HYBRID MEETINGS

Members considered the request from SLCC to support the motion to allow councils in England to have the choice to meet remotely and write to the Secretary of State to show support. Councillor Marren in supporting the idea of remote meetings, aired caution that it did not become the norm but the exception to meet remotely. Councillor Moran in supporting Councillor Marren's concerns suggested any new legislation would provide the flexibility. These concerns were also supported by Members. The Clerk advised that should Government pass new legislation allowing for remote meetings then it would likely be a blanket policy, but the Town Council could incorporate criteria for the use of remote meetings within its Standing Orders to avoid abuse of the legislation.

Resolved: It was resolved to support the SLCC's motion and that the Clerk should write to the Secretary of State but will include the caveat that remote meetings should not replace face to face meetings.

139. CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY

Members considered the proposals to have five helpdesks at police stations across the county, a reduction from the current 16 helpdesks. Councillor Moran sought support from members to oppose these proposals. Councillor Statham suggested that the way members of the public communicate with the police has changed over the years, with many people communicating electronically and through the local surgeries. Councillor Thomas suggested that many residents may not even be aware that there is a police station in the town.

Resolved: It was resolved to object to the proposals and for the Town Clerk to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council.

140. CCTV QUARTER 3 REPORT

Members reviewed the previously circulated quarterly report from Cheshire East on the CCTV provision and the Town Clerk reported that a further invitation had been extended to members to visit the CCTV control. Councillor Marren also asked that the Town Council write to the Control Centre Manager thanking him for the report and invitation.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) to note the quarterly report and
- b) that The Town Clerk will plan for a further visit to the CCTV control room for Councillors Thomas, Greaves and Marren.

141. BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Members considered the need for a response to the consultation on proposals for amendments to the parliamentary constituencies in England. The Town Clerk suggested that a small working group could meet with the Clerk and provide a response on behalf of the Town Council.

Resolved: It was resolved

- a) that a small working group with the Clerk would prepare a response on behalf of the Town Council;
- b) Councillors John Statham, Arthur Moran and Stuart Bostock would form part of the working group, with the Clerk giving members not present during the meeting the opportunity to join the working group.

142. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members considered the request for two large grant applications from the Jazz Festival organisers and the Nantwich Show Organisers. Member agreed that further information was required to help make a decision on the applications. The Clerk suggested that she could arrange a special meeting of the Town Council and extend an invitation to representatives of both organisations to attend the meeting and respond to additional questions.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Clerk would arrange a special meeting of the town council in early April and extend an invitation to both applicants to attend the meeting.

143. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Moran advised members that at the last full council meeting of Cheshire East he had proposed Councillor David Marren as the Mayor Elect for Cheshire East for 2022. Councillor Moran also advised that advice had been provided by the Monitoring Officer that special dispensation will now be given to elected members to allow them to speak on the proposals for the Community Governance Review.

144. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Bostock advised that he had attended both the Nantwich in Bloom and Food Festival committee meetings which were progressing well. He also advised that the Nantwich Food Festival organisers were not concerned about the additional festival taking place at Dorfold Hall this Summer.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

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