



## MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Stuart Bostock (Mayor), Penny Butterill, David Greaves, 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: Michael-John Parkin, Alex Ellwood and Abbi Ellwood

**145. APOLOGIES:** There were apologies of absence from Councillors Peter Groves (Deputy Mayor), Philip Staley and Stephanie Wedgwood.

**ABSENT:** None

### **146. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Councillor Arthur Moran declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3 – The Nantwich Show grant application as he is a director of the show. He advised that he would only provide factual information, but not vote.

Councillor Moran also expressed a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 22/0720N as the land is owned by the Beam Heath Trust of which he is a committee member.

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 would not be contributing on this item.

### **147. GRANT APPLICATIONS**

147.1 The Council invited Michael-John Parkin, Chairman of Nantwich Agricultural Society to provide a summary of the reasons for Nantwich Show applying for a grant of £12,000. Michael-John indicated that cancelling two previous shows because of poor weather and Covid had had an impact on the organisation. He also discussed that the show no longer included the Cheese Awards and had moved to a new location. He highlighted that the organisation required the grant to assist with the upfront outlays to help with getting the show up and running again.

Following a number of questions from Councillor Marren, Michael-John confirmed that this year Nantwich Show would be manned by all volunteers, that it had already secured some finances and that even though the show was out of town, it still is beneficial to the town's economy. He also confirmed that any profit would contribute towards future infrastructure of the show.

Councillor Marren questioned that as the organisation were requesting the grant for initial outlay and that no budget had been set, would the organisation consider a partial payback should the event be profitable, to which Michael-John confirmed this could be an option.

147.2 The Council invited Alex and Abbi Ellwood, organisers of Nantwich Jazz Festival to provide a summary of the reasons for their application for a grant of £3,000. Abbi informed the Council that the Jazz Festival had been running for over 24 years and had been established to bring business into the town at what had been a very quiet period. Whilst the event has always been very successful, she advised that Covid had too affected this festival and money had been lost over the past couple of years. They identified that the grant would only be to cover the cost of a free, open event on the square comprising of live music and dance suitable for all ages.

A number of members raised concerns over litter from the event to which Alex confirmed that he had organised extra measures including additional pick-ups from ANSA and voluntary sessions from the scouts.

Councillor Statham put forward several questions to Abbi and Alex who confirmed that the event was a Public Limited Company and that their accounts could be viewed on Companies House website and that they felt the event was good for the town, was widely know and helps local businesses.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that

- a) Whilst there is no budget set for the Nantwich Show, given the benefits the show brings to the town and the number of volunteers involved, the Council recognises the importance of supporting the event. For this reason, the Town Council agreed to provide £12,000 to the Nantwich Show, in return for sponsorship benefits to include a trade stand and recognition of support within the main ring. However, given that the Town Council has been unable to identify budget provision of the full £12,000, the Town Council ask that should the event turnover a profit in excess of £40,000 a refund £4,500 being the shortfall in the budget, will be returned to the Town Council.
- b) Within the Town Council's criteria for grants the Town Council is not able to provide grants for organisations that are predominately of a commercial nature. However, given the benefits to the town the event brings, the Town Council recognised the importance of supporting the Jazz Festival and have agreed to provide £2,000 to the Jazz Festival by means of sponsorship, in return for a banner placed on your stage in the Square next Saturday. The Town Council will cover banner printing costs. In addition, the Town Council require a profit and loss statement of the event by October 2022, before its budget setting process for 2023/24.

Councillor Andrew Martin joined the meeting at 6.45pm and left at 7.35pm and was not part of the voting on this item.

#### **148. RESOLUTION OF THE TWIN TOWNS FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE**

The Clerk advised members that she had received correspondence from Bischofsheim and Dzierzoniow seeking support concerning the attached from Russia against Ukraine. She advised that they would like the Town Council to include the resolution on the Nantwich Town Council website.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to the resolution and for it to be displayed on the Nantwich Town Council website.

Councillor David Marren left the meeting before item 5 – planning control at 7.50pm.

**149. PLANNING CONTROL**

Members discussed planning applications and raised concerns about planning application 22/1042N. Members mentioned that the entrance is on a bridge with poor visibility and the road's speed limit is 60mph.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the recommendations of the Clerk be reported to Cheshire East with members observations on application 22/1042N

The meeting ended at 7.55pm

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