



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2022

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

**Also present:** 10 members of the public

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillors David Greaves, Phil Staley and Stephanie Wedgwood

### 2. REPORTS FROM TOWN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

- 2.1 Damien Gear from Nantwich Food Bank reported that the Food Bank now had 46 volunteers across varying roles and during Covid the team saw a rise in numbers to up to 4000 people that required support equating to 80,000 meals. He commented that demand had dropped during the past year but not as much as he'd expected and now with food inflation at 12%, and rising fuel costs he predicts the numbers will begin to rise again. He thanked the town for being so supportive but said that donations had dropped off and they are now buying food again. He thanked Nantwich Town Council for their ongoing support.
- 2.2 Maureen Coulter, coordinator of Insights Bereavement Service highlighted that this new organisation had been established in October 2021 to fill a gap for bereaved listening. The organisation, now with 20 trained, DBS checked volunteers have already welcomed 53 individuals, mainly GP referrals, but also self-referrals. They have also extended their services offering a Wednesday friendship group to those who have received one-to-one but may still be lonely, grieving, or isolated. Maureen thanked Nantwich Town Council for their support.
- 2.3 John Coulter, one of the directors of the Food Festival informed those at the meeting that because of Covid there had been no festival for the past two years, but that their volunteers had been busy with Lockdown Awards and Foodbank collections. He commented that they were now preparing for this year's food festival and have many exhibitors and guest chefs booked. They are keen to make it a memorable occasion and encourage return visitors to the town. John too thanked the Town Council commenting that the staff always go out of their way to assist the organisation.
- 2.4 Sue Sherwood, Chair of Nantwich in Bloom, reported that the organisation now has over 30 volunteers whose main focus is the design and maintenance of the town centre's floral beds. They also manage the planters at the railway station, community orchard, an allotment, Lakeside copse, community projects with schools and nursing homes. She reported that last year they were delighted to win a Best Kept Station Award, Northwest in Bloom Gold Awards and Northwest in Bloom Best Town Award.
- 2.5 Jeff Stubbs, Chair of Nantwich Civic Society, highlighted that during lockdown members of the society had started to work on a new project to introduce some new building plaques around the town. He detailed that in total 5 new plaques will be installed in the near future at Nantwich Civic Hall, Nantwich Museum, Chatwins Bakery, Pockets/Clive Christian Building and the Welsh Row Bridge. These places of

interest had been selected as all important parts of Nantwich's history and will be installed to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Jeff commented that more recently the group had been back out in the town assisting other organisations with projects.

### **3. RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no written resolutions submitted by the public.

### **4. OPEN FORUM - QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A resident expressed an interest in cycling and asked what plans and opportunities there were for Nantwich Town Council to work with Cheshire East to improve cycling facilities. The Town Clerk responded informing the resident that this was a very topical item at the moment and during lockdown that Council had responded to a consultation about sustainable transport. She also reported that four of Nantwich Town Councillors are also Cheshire East Councillors and that Nantwich Town Council has set up a climate change working group and will be looking at actions to support sustainable transport. Councillor Marren responded to say that Cheshire East have a Councillor who champions cycling and advise he would connect the resident with the Councillor.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_