



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING **HELD ON 9th June 2022**

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Groves (Mayor), David Greaves, Pam Kirkham, David Marren, John Statham, Carole Thomas and Stephanie Wedgwood with Sheryl Birtles the Deputy Clerk and Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

Also Present: There were no members of the public or press present.

19. PUBLIC FORUM

19.1 There were no representatives from the Police present.

19.2 There were no representations from the public present.

19.3 There were no representations from the public on planning applications.

19.4 There were no questions submitted in advance in writing.

20. APOLOGIES: There were apologise of absence from Councillors Andrew Martin (Deputy Mayor), Arthur Moran, Penny Butterill, Philip Staley, and Stuart Bostock.

ABSENT: none

21. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

22. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

22.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 12th May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

22.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 26th May 2022 and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

23. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor informed members of his engagements since the last meeting of the Council, commenting that his visit to Insights Bereavement Listening Service, one of his charities for the Mayoral year was most interesting and how wonderful it had been seeing the Town so packed for the Jubilee weekend and events. The Mayor thanked Nantwich Town Council for their work over the weekend.

24. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications, discussing a neighbours objection on application 21/6226N, and supported the recommendations of the Deputy Clerk.

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

25. ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members considered the previous full year's Internal Audit. The Clerk advised members that in the last quarter there were no matters arising and that throughout the whole year there had only been five observations.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the internal audit report and approve recommendations by the Clerk for addressing the observations.

26. ACCOUNTS 2021/22 – GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Members considered the Annual Governance Statement prepared by the Clerk and approved the responses to points 1-9 of the statement for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the responses to points 1-9 of the Annual Governance Statement

27. ACCOUNTS 2021/22 – ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

Members considered the Accounting Statement for 2021/22 prepared by the Clerk and approved the figures contained within boxes 1-11.

Members also considered the previously circulated income and expenditure report for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Resolved: It was resolved to:

- a) approve the Accounting Statement for 2021/22;
- b) Note the details within the Income and Expenditure report for year ending 31 March 2022;
- c) Note the report on variances for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022
- d) Note the Asset Register for 2021/22.

28. ACCOUNTS 2021/22 – ANNUAL RETURN

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/23 Part 3, and for the Chair to sign the approved document.

29. ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the previously circulated Annual Report detailing the activities of the Town Council for 2021/22. The Clerk advised members that once the report is approved it will be published on the website.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the Annual Report for 2021/22

30. SNOWHILL TOILETS

Members considered the previously circulated report detailing recommendations of the public toilets working group. The Clerk advised that there were two elements for members to consider. The first was the recommendation of the working group to reinstate the Snowhill toilets by remodelling the current structure using Capital reserves. The Clerk confirmed that the toilets are fully owned by Nantwich Town Council including the land.

Councillor Kirkham questioned access to the toilets and security. The Clerk confirmed that the toilets would be pay on entry and access would be timed, advising that members could consider longer hours in the summer.

Councillor Marren arrived at 6.55pm.

The Clerk advised the second element for members to consider was the cleaning of Nantwich Town Council Toilets. She advised that since the General Assistant had left 18 months ago staff had been managing the cleaning between them, but advised that this was becoming more difficult to manage due to the poor condition they are often left in. Members were asked to allow the Clerk to gain costs for outsourcing.

Councillor Marren questioned how many times the toilets would be cleaned and what would happen between cleans if fouled. The Clerk confirmed that cleaning would take place twice daily, with staff attending on occasion.

Resolved: It was resolved to:

- a) Refurbish the existing building to incorporate two toilets, one unisex and one disabled.
- b) To use the remaining part of the building for storage.
- c) To install a pay to use system at both toilet sites
- d) That the Town Council approve contracting out of cleaning and maintenance of both sets of toilets at the Market and Snow Hill.

31. CHESHIRE EAST – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members noted the previously circulated letter relating to the Community Governance Review. The Clerk advised that it had been confirmed that from April 2023 the Nantwich Boundary would incorporate Edleston and Henhull and the numbers of Councillors would increase to 15. Councillor Statham enquired what the budgetary impact would be to the Town Council, with the Clerk responding that she wouldn't be informed of the tax base from Cheshire East until later in the year but would contact them and ask for an estimation to allow for budget setting.

32. ChALC – ANNUAL MEETING MOTIONS

Resolved: Members noted the request for the inclusion of a notice of motion at the ChALC Annual General Meeting.

33. ChALC – DOUBLE TAXATION SURVEY RESULTS

Members considered a response from ChALC with their investigations into the motion put forward at 2021's ChALC Annual Meeting by Nantwich Town Council in relation to double taxation.

Councillor Marren comment that the results were in conclusive and felt that ChALC should be putting pressure on Cheshire East to address the issue. Councillor Marren highlighted that other parishes across the country were already addressing double taxation and Councillor Statham added that Cheshire East were already acknowledging double taxation in some cases by compensating one Town for having their own grounds maintenance team.

Resolved: It was resolved that Nantwich Town Council would respond to ChALC asking them to pursue the matter of double taxation, including the point that Cheshire East are already compensating in some areas and provide examples from other parishes.

34. NANTWICH FOOTBALL CLUB

Members considered correspondence from the Football Club seeking the opportunity to meet with the Town Council to discuss how they can work together.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Mayor, Councillor Wedgwood and the Clerk would make a visit to the Football Club.

35. DYSART CAR PARK NANTWICH

Members considered previously circulated correspondence from Cheshire East following a request from Chatwins Bakers for the provision of 6 parking bays on Dysart car park. The Clerk advised that a further email had been received from Cheshire East advising that they had made an offer to Chatwins and were seeking the Town Council's opinions.

Councillor Thomas commented that their use of high-powered jet washes was having an effect on the road/carpark surface and also if the size of the spaces for vans had been considered. Councillor Groves pointed out that a number of spaces were used by the medical centre and it worked well, but requested that Councillor Thomas's comments are included in the response. Councillor Statham questioned if the income from Chatwins could be put towards resurfacing and questioned how much the income was.

Resolved: It was resolved that Nantwich Town Council would respond to Cheshire East supporting the proposal, but would raise the concerns about jet-washing, the road surface, and size of the car park spaces.

36. BROOKFIELD PARK ROUNDABOUT

Members were asked to consider a financial contribution for the replacement of a roundabout at Brookfield Park. The Clerk advised that contributions were being sought for a number of sources, but asked Council to contribute from the Earmarked Reserves. Councillor Groves

highlighted that they would like to proceed with a more expensive roundabout that would be accessible to all including wheelchairs and pushchairs. Councillor Statham proposed a 25% contribution, with further support being reviewed once other funding became available.

Resolved: It was resolved that Nantwich Town Council would contribute 25% of the cost of the roundabout at Brookfield.

37. NANTWICH CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

The Clerk provided members with an update of the Climate Change working group. She commented that they were a very knowledgeable group but are keen to incorporate residents. She advised that the group were seeking approval to hold a stall at Societies Spectacular to promote a larger consultation event in September at Nantwich Civic Hall.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) £1000 from the earmarked reserves would be used for Societies Spectacular and the consultation event.
- b) That the Civic Hall would be used for the consultation event.

38. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillors Groves and Moran asked members to consider and agree a course of action relating to concerns for planning control and enforcement.

The Clerk commented that concerns had been raised over some shop frontages in the town and whether the relevant planning permissions had been sort. Councillor Groves also highlighted the need for keeping the town attractive and the opportunities to liaise with premises owners to decorate windows of empty shops.

Councillor Statham agreed for the need to have control, but also commented that we need to be cautious and should be seen to support businesses. Councillor Statham also suggested creating an initiative to drive positive behaviour such as a yearly award for best shop front. Councillor Greaves asked how any planning issues can be reported with Councillor Groves highlighting that Borough Councillors have the facility to do this.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Council write to Cheshire East asking how they enforce planning regulations in relation to signage and shops fronts.

39. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

There were no Borough Councillors' reports.

40. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from representatives.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....