



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th September 2022

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

Also present: one member of press.

COUNCILLOR PHILIP STALEY

Councillor Groves opened the meeting delivering the news that Councillor Philip Staley had passed away on Wednesday 7th September. Councillor Groves told members that he had led an interesting life having been a professional footballer and a football manager. He commented that Councillor Staley was fondly thought of, a true gentleman, would be sadly missed and that the Council's thoughts are with the family. Members held a one-minute silence in his memory.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Council received notification at the beginning of the meeting of the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The Mayor commented that Nantwich Town Council would join the nation in mourning her death and Members held a one-minute silence.

59. PUBLIC FORUM

59.1 There were no representations from the Police, however Inspector Andrew Smith had emailed with an update for Members. He advised that there had been a police presence at the recent Food Festival but had been drawn away at times to deal with parking complaints. He also commented that suggestions had been made about closing Pillory Street in the future for the event for the safety of pedestrians.

59.2 There were no representations from members of the public

59.3 There were no representations from the public on planning applications

59.4 There was one question submitted in writing in advance by a resident asking Members to consider the pedestrianisation of Swine Market. Councillor Groves commented about his concerns relating to disabled access and Councillor Marren raised that businesses may be affected. Members agreed that it wasn't a decision they could make and that it would require further consultation.

Resolved: That Nantwich Town Council would forward the residents request on to Cheshire East for further investigation.

60. APOLOGIES

There were apologies of absence from Councillors Stuart Bostock, David Greaves and John Statham.

ABSENT: none

61. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

62. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

62.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 7th July 2022 and 28th July be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

62.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 21st July 2022, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

62.3 **Resolved:** To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Salt of the Earth Awards held on 12th May 2022, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

63. MAYOR'S REPORT

Councillor Peter Groves reported that he was enjoying being out and about. He reported that some highlights had included visiting Insights Bereavement Service, The Thursday Club, Nantwich Show which had been a success at its new venue and the Food Festival which had welcomed over 40000 visitors to the town. He also commented that he had really enjoyed the two police events for children.

64. PLANNING CONTROL

Members considered the planning applications and supported the recommendations of the Deputy Town Clerk.

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

65. CCTV QUARTER REPORT

Members considered the previously circulate CCTV report. The Town Clerk commented that she had recently met with Stuart Hobson relating to the CCTV provision. They had discussed the peaks in incidents during the morning period and he promised to investigate this matter and report back to members. Stuart had also reported that the tender had gone through and 50% of the cameras around the town would receive an upgrade (the other 50% has already been done). Some of these cameras will be repositioned to allow for wider visuals. The Clerk reported that unfortunately the infrastructure for the cameras at the lake at been installed in the wrong place, this was due to be corrected. Councillor Bostock requested feedback on the number of prosecutions from the cameras.

Resolved: Members accepted the report, and the Town Clerk agreed to obtain further information from CCTV control relating to prosecutions.

66. ACCOUNTS 2021/2022 - ANNUAL RETURN

Members noted the previously circulated completed Section 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) by the external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the completed AGAR for 2021/22 by external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP

67. SAAA 2022 OPT-OUT COMMUNICATION

Members considered the previously circulated email advising of the option to opt out of the central procurement and appointment scheme run by SAAA.

Resolved: It was resolved to remain part of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime.

68. LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME – QUALITY GOLD ACCREDITATION

The Town Clerk advised Members that the Town Council have recently been awarded Quality Gold Status of the Local Council Award Scheme. Councillor Kirkham thanked officers for their work on this application.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the accreditation.

69. CESHIRE EAST CONSULTATION – TOWN CENTRE VITALITY PLANS

Members were asked to consider a response to the Cheshire East Council's consultation on the draft Town Centre Vitality Plans. Members agreed that Cheshire East need to make it clear that they need to manage public expectation as no finance in place for the plans. It was also suggested that Members would like to invite Jo Wise for a look around Nantwich.

Resolved: Members noted the Cheshire East Vitality Plans but asked the Clerk to respond to Cheshire East about managing public expectation and to invite Jo Wise to Nantwich.

70. CESHIRE EAST – SOCIAL FRANCHISE APPLICATION

The Clerk informed Members that the Town Council's application to become a Connected Communities Centre had been successful. Members were asked to approve the agreement with the Clerk advising that it would be good for the Council to support the voluntary sector. Councillor Marren commented that he supported the application but that we should be aware that it will mean the Town Council will need to do more in terms of promotion and delivery.

Resolved: Members approved the agreement to become a Connected Communities Centre.

71. CESHIRE EAST CONSULTATION – LOCAL HIGHWAYS SERVICE

Members were asked to consider the town’s highways priorities to allow the clerk to respond to the questionnaire from Cheshire East. Councillor Groves commented that resurfacing of South Crofts should take priority with Councillor Thomas agreeing and asking if the works could be extended to Monks Lane.

Councillors Wedgwood and Moran put forward Queens Drive which had seen some damaged from the Malbank Waters development.

Members expressed that Cromwell Court behind M&S needed some attention.

Councillor Marren commented that we should also consider works to less expensive items such as gully clearing and street lightening.

Councillor Groves suggested better lights from the football club heading into town as we are trying to encourage visitors to use the club’s carpark. Councillor Moran also suggested that Fairfax bridge in the same area would benefit from a wash and painting of the lamps.

Resolved: That the Town Clerk complete the Cheshire East Questionnaire incorporating Members suggestions.

72. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

There were no reports from Borough Councillors.

73. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Deputy Clerk commented that Councillor Bostock had passed on that Nantwich In Bloom were due to go to Northwest In Bloom Awards Ceremony in Bolton and that they were hoping to collect another award. He had also wanted to comment on how successful the Food Festival had been and thanked all those involved.

74. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: It was resolved to exclude press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960 as personal or financial contract details are likely to be discussed.

75. WELSHMAN’S LANE ALLOTMENTS TENDER

Members considered the recommendations of the Tender Committee in relation to awarding the contract to address the flooding issues at Welshman’s Lane Allotments.

Resolved: It was resolved that the contact be awarded to Dunkill Developments Ltd as recommended by the Tender Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....