



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING **HELD ON 13th March 2023**

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

Also present: Four members of the public.

140. PUBLIC FORUM

140.1 Inspector Andy Smith sent his apologies but asked that Members were updated that they are in preparation for the Jazz Festival in April and that following the recent assault outside Nakatcha six people had been arrested.

Councillor Moran commented that had received several complaints about the use of electric scooters around the town and teenagers misusing bikes on the square, which he will be reporting to the Police.

141.2 The Deputy Clerk reported that a resident had wanted her to bring to Council an issue with the ramp from the service doors of the Civic out onto the bus station pavement. He commented that it was hazardous for those with disabilities or visually impaired and ask if Members could do anything about. The Deputy Clerk advised that it was Cheshire East owned and Members asked her to write to Highways about the issue

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

143.4 Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Insights Bereavement Service, Nantwich Buddies and Thursday dementia club, seeking to support to obtain alternative accommodation.

Councillor Moran comment that whilst he fully supports the groups, he didn't think that the Section 106 money they were enquiring about would covering their intentions, with Councillor Statham asking if we could ask Cheshire East if it could be considered. Councillor Marren commented that the original conditions of the Town Council taking on the Civic Hall was it being used for community use, to which the Deputy Clerk advised Members of increased used of the hall by the community and that Nantwich Buddies were starting to use the venue from this month.

Councillor Statham suggested that the Clerk arrange a meeting with the representatives to discuss the matter further.

141. APOLOGIES

There were apologies of absence from Councillor Stephanie Wedgwood.

ABSENT: none

142. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

143. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

143.1 **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 9th February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

143.2 **Resolved:** To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23rd February 2023, and to accept and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

144. MAYOR'S REPORT

Councillor Groves reported that it had been a quiet month, but commented that the Mayor's Quiz on the 10th February had been a great success. He informed Members that he had raised £1900 in tickets sales and £560 in raffle money and donations. He thanked Chris Radford for comparing and Sue for catering voluntarily. He went on to also thank Devlin Hobson, Councillor Moran and Bostock and the Deputy Clerk for this support on the evening.

145. NATIONAL LOTTERY GRANT – GROWING HEALTH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Members considered the previously circulated agreements. The Deputy Clerk advised Members that The Clerk had been successful in receiving a grant for a Co-ordinator for the Health Community Garden, however as a condition the National Lottery required her to sign their agreement before the funds were released. Also as a condition of the funds, the Council were to have an agreement with the Growing Health Community Garden CIC.

Councillor Moran commended The Clerk on achieving the funds and commented that he thought it was a good scheme and supported the agreements.

Councillor Marren raised a few concerns in relation to the difference between the funds granted against what is required, that fact that it is a fixed term contract and we may lose the employee before the end, Governance and accounts of the CIC, what happens if the outcomes can't be reached due to sickness and if we had a whistleblowing policy. The Deputy Clerk responded to advise members that the Council had a whistle-blowing policy was in place, the difference would be made up by additional funds secured by the CIC and co-ordinator, and it was hoped that the Council would assist them in the first few years with the intention that these funds would make them self-sufficient.

Councillor Statham agreed with Councillor Marren's comments but stated that when the Council had agreed on the position, Members felt the pitfalls were outweighed by the benefits. He also suggested a Volunteer Policy should be in place to protect the Council's reputation. Councillor Marren added that the role needed to be included in the Risk Management report.

Resolved: It was resolved to approved the signing of the agreement with the National Lottery and also the Partnership Agreement between Nantwich Town Council and Growing Health Community Garden CIC

146. CCTV QUARTER 3 REPORT

Councillors considered the previously circulated CCTV report. Councillor Statham asked if in future the statistics report could be accompanied by a brief written overview to provide Members with more information.

Resolved: It was resolved to acknowledge the CCTV Quarter 3 Report.

147. BUDGET VIREMENT

Members considered the previously circulated request for a virement from the training budget to cover the cost of surveying the Council's buildings for insurance purposes.

The Deputy Clerk advised that whilst there was no budget for the surveys it was important to have them done to ensure that the Council's insurance is valid.

Councillor Moran supported the virement and questioned whether the Council needed a disaster recovery plan. Councillor Statham also supported the request commented that the training budget may need to be reviewed during budget planning if there is a reoccurring underspend.

Councillor Marren questioned if staff were receiving all the training required if the budget hadn't been spent and requested that a training plan for staff be brought to Council for approval, which would help with budget setting in the future.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) To approve the virement of £4,600 to cover the cost of surveying the Council's buildings for insurance purposes.
- b) To give the Clerk authority to instruct a suitable surveyor to carry out the work.

148. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran advised members that Cheshire East Council had approved their budget and a 4.9% increase on Council Tax.

149. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from representatives.

150. 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.

151. EXTERNAL MARKETS

Members considered the previously circulated report providing an update on efforts to support external markets.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the attempts made by officers and bring the item back to Council in May for further discussion.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....