



MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING **HELD ON 9th February 2023**

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

Also present: Three members of the public, and one member of press.

127. PUBLIC FORUM

127.1 Inspector Andy Smith reported that January and February were quieter months for the officers, but that they had been successful in making an arrest relating to the vehicle thefts that had been happening in the town. He also reported that they were preparing for Jazz Festival and having an increased presence, especially on the Sunday when the town is particularly busy. He also informed members that 3 vans were being adapted for their Safer Streets initiative and would be supporting the night-time economy to keep the young safe.

Councillor Butterill requested a return of the Speed Indication Device on Birchin Lane, to which Inspector Smith advised that there are limited devices available and are being used at different locations but would return to Birchin Lane.

Councillor Moran commented that residents had complained about dogs being off leads at Mill Island and attacking the wildlife. Inspector Smith advised that they need to catch people doing this or have a witness come forward but suggested that the PSCOs patrol this area.

Councillor Bostock commended the officer who had dealt with an intimidating incident on the square during the week.

127.2 There were no representations from members of the public.

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

127.4 There were no questions submitted in writing in advance.

128. APOLOGIES

There were apologies of absence from Councillor John Statham

ABSENT: none

129. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Moran declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning applications 23/0169N and 23/0170N, and also said he would leave the room for Agenda Item 13 as he is a Director of ANSA.

Councillors David Marren and Penny Butterill declared they were members of the Southern Planning Committee.

130. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 12th January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

131. MAYOR'S REPORT

Councillor Groves reported that it had been quieter after Christmas but had attended the service at the Airman's Grave. He thanked The British Legion, Facilities Manager, Rev Hart and the Cadets. He advised that he had also been to the funeral of Colin Todd, a fellow Councillor who had been a stalwart in politics. Finally, he reported on attending the new boxing club commenting that he was hugely impressed and that it was well supported and he had thoroughly enjoyed being involved with the annual Battle of Nantwich, which was a great success.

132. PLANNING CONTROL

Resolved: It was resolved that the Deputy Clerk would submit the comments detailed below:

Application: 22/4901N

Address: 26 Lambert Crescent

Detail: Change of use from dwelling house to a C2 residential classification

Town Council Comment: The Council wishes to support the concerns of the residents.

Application: 23/0094N

Address: 13 South Crofts

Detail: Addition of a new garage

Town Council Comment: The Council raises no objection.

Application 23/019N

Address: Oddfellows Arms, 97 Welsh Row

Detail: Pergola in the rear garden of a public house

Town Council Comment: The Council raises no objection.

Application 23/0170N

Address: Oddfellows Arms, 97 Welsh Row

Detail: Listed building consent for a pergola in the rear garden of a public house

Town Council Comment: The Council raises no objection.

133. CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk advised Members that there had been two applications for the vacancy. She welcomed Mr Gary Poole to speak to Members. In the unavoidable absence of the second applicant Mary Slinn, Councillor Moran was invited to propose her.

The Clerk provided ballot papers for each member to vote on the casual vacancy.

Resolved: The outcome of the ballot was to elect Mary Slinn to fill the casual vacancy.

134. KING CHARLES III CORONATION

Councillors considered the previously circulated report containing options for the town to acknowledge the Coronation.

Councillor Groves commented he would support an event similar to that put on for the Queen's Jubilee as he'd received some very positive feedback. Councillor Marren agreed stating that flags around the town distinguish the event.

Councillor Moran commented that he thought it was a unique occasion and welcomed giving local children memorabilia and thought a mug was a good idea, to which Councillor Martin and Thomas agreed.

Councillor Bostock put forward the idea of a bench and some new planting at Coronation Gardens and suggested that it would be nice if the Council invited guests over from Bischofsheim and Dzierzoniow.

Resolved: It was resolved to:

- a) Hold a community event on Saturday 6th May for the Kings Coronation, including children's entertainment, free refreshments and extend an invitation to Bischofsheim and Dzierzoniow.
- b) To put flags up on the buildings around the town.
- c) To run a competition to create a card to send to the King.
- d) To purchase mugs for all the children in Nantwich Primary schools.
- e) To purchase and a Coronation bench and liaise with Cheshire East about planting.

135. INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT

Members considered the previously circulated Interim Internal Audit, the Clerk highlighted to members that it had raised two minor issues to which she had responded to. The first being the need for a debt write off policy which would be brought to the next Policy Committee and the second requires the Council to seek 3 quotations in the future for Christmas tree lights installation.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the content of the third interim internal audit and support the actions by the Clerk to address the observations.

136. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Moran advised members that Cheshire East Council had released the report by external auditors Grant Thornton. He also advised that the budget had been out for consultation and had received the most replies ever from consultation. Councillor Marren asked if the Town Council had commented, to which The Clerk advised Members that due to the timings and dates of Council meetings we had been unable to.

137. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from representatives.

138. **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.

139. **HANGING BASKET/FLORAL DISPLAY CONTRACT 2023-2025**

Councillor Moran declared an interest in this item as a Director of one of the companies providing a Tender application and left the meeting at this point.

Members considered the previously circulated report in relation to the hanging basket and floral displays contract for 2023-2025.

Resolved: It was resolved that the contract be awarded to ANSA Environmental Services as recommended by the Tender Committee.

The meeting ended at 8pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....