

RECORD OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR NESTON TUESDAY 14 May 2019

In attendance: Ten electors (six NTC Councillors, one CWaC Councillor and three residents), and Mrs Kunaj (Council Manager)

The Mayor opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and took the Chair.

1. Record of the meeting

The record of the Annual Town Meeting 08 May 2018 was approved and signed by the Mayor, Cllr Kynaston.

2. Annual Report from the Town Mayor

A copy of the Annual report and the unaudited accounts for financial year ending 31st March 2019 were made available to attendees. An overview was provided by the Mayor who reported that this had been another 'challenging year' and she wished to report a number of thanks; to the staff and for their support; Cllr Lloyd for the tasks that she had undertaken during her time as a councillor and in particularly her efforts with Sytchcroft Park; Mr Lloyd for his hard work and involvement as our lead for the Transport working group, and personal thanks to the serving Councillors who have supported her during her time as Mayor.

3. Question Time

A residents congratulated Councillors on their elections. A report was presented which was then read out to attendees by the resident.

The resident spoke about the A540 road infrastructure through Neston and how they felt that traffic control, support and safety had to be improved. At the previous Annual Town Meeting the resident had been advised that CWaC were in the process of undertaking an investigation and would report on the outcome, there was nothing more that Neston Town Council (NTC) could do at that stage. The resident reported that there was a vast increase of number of articulated vehicles from the Aldi Distribution Centre and also from the new High School development and the Leisure Centre, and no sign of changes to the roads to accommodate this. It was estimated between 250 vehicles possibly resulting in 500 journeys by the Aldi drivers per day. The resident exhibited great concerns for resident's safety, and spoke of Mrs Fielding's 25 year campaign and the petition of 2000 names submitted but which had come to no avail.

A number of questions were put to the Mayor as the Council representative;

- What was the investigation and result of the investigation?
- What progress has been made by NTC through CWaC to make the A540 and its junctions safer?

Chair's initial and date

E.V.W.W.
20/4/2021

- Does NTC fully support a request and will they confirm that they will make every effort to request to CWaC in 2019, to provide a working solution that will make the A540 through Neston safer for all its residents?
- After sharing this report amongst the Councillors will you please convey it to the Chief Executive of CWaC for his consideration and would NTC inform them of any progress?

The Mayor advised that she was unaware of the result of the investigation, but knew that the Major Roads network application by CWaC had not been successful. The Deputy Mayor said that the proposals would have to be assessed thoroughly, there had been cases of light and filters which made had made road conditions worse.

CWaC Cllr Barker took the full dossier from the resident and advised that he would present this to CWaC and make enquiries into the outcome of the incident and traffic safety report.

Another resident spoke about their disappointment that it had been down to a resident to investigate the volume of traffic and felt that it should be the Councillors who did this. In response it was suggested that there was an expectation that this would form part of the highways review.

It was then asked who takes ownership of the issue, who is taking this forward and who is on Highways backs? In their view it was critical for Neston residents getting into Neston and this issue is being neglected by CWaC. They would like the Town Council to do something about it.

The Mayor advised that she would take this issues and questions raised to the Planning committee for them to investigate, and she confirmed with CWaC Cllr Barker that he would look into these issues with CWaC officers.

Several retirements from the Council had come about this year; Cllr Barker a founder member who would still be keeping his hand in, but concentrating on his CWaC Cllr role; Cllr Carter who had been with the council for the last five years, both having been very active and proactive members. Cllr Lloyd who also had been very active, but had felt that she had done her turn and wished to concentrate on her business affairs. And Cllr Marlow, a founder member who had served before the formation of the Town Council as an Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Councillor, giving many years of public service to our residents. The Mayor conveyed thanks to them all.

The Mayor presented Cllr Marlow with a leaving card and a gift to say thank you, which was well received.

Cllr Roberts gave thanks to Cllr Kynaston our Mayor, for her time as Mayor and keeping the Council on track.

Signed B.V.W. Warner Dated 20/4/2021

Meeting closed at 7pm