

Meeting (No)

FULL COUNCIL (7)

Time & Date

6.30pm, 6th December 2016

Location

Neston Town Hall

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shipman (Mayor), Barker (from item 97), Carter, Cray, Chambers, Clayton, Fleetwood, Griffiths, Jilani, Lloyd, Loch, Marlow and Montgomery, Pilley, Roberts and Wilkie and Mrs Kunaj (Council Manager)

In attendance: Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cllrs Barker (to item 97), Gittins and Jones. Ten residents.

There was a delay in the start of the meeting, meeting started at 6.35pm.

PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public

96 Questions and comments from residents

- a - b Mr L Williamson asked if the Council knew about recent changes for residents of Hallwood Court residential home: No meals at weekends; introduction of a £35 levy for entering the day care centre and the standard of care and staff morale at an all-time low.

Members were asked to note apologies from CWaC Cllr Williams (business)

The Mayor confirmed that Council were unaware of any changes of circumstances for Hallwood Court. Enquiries would be made and discussions taken forward at the next Society & Culture committee meeting.

Nine of the residents left the meeting

- c **Resolved:** To suspend Standing Order number 1, sections e, f and g for the duration of agenda item 96d.
- d Questions were raised from Council members, and responses were provided by CWaC Cllrs Barker, Gittins and Jones (*summarised*)


- A. Is there anything within the current CWaC budget consultation that affects Neston (directly or indirectly) and that we might need to consider in our own budget planning exercise?

Cllr Gittins: The deficit in the CWaC budget is set to rise to £7million by 2019. The main consultation took place last year, a shorter consultation is due to start in the new year. There is nothing to report that will impact on Neston at this stage. More funding will be available for Social Care, the extra 2% raised in Council tax should be sufficient to cover.

- B. Is there any news about the proposals for the regional economic development linking CWaC, Cheshire East and Warrington which were being discussed earlier in the year?

Cllr Gittins: The Government are keen for the devolution deal to go ahead, but no hard facts have been made available. CWaC would prefer a deal with Warrington as opposed to Liverpool.

- C. The Town Council undertook a major exercise to produce a transport standard for Neston almost a year ago – Why are we still awaiting a response from CWaC about the standard? Where is consideration of this up to? Have any changes been made to our transport provision as a result? How does it affect CWaC's wider Transport Strategy?


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Cllr Gittins: CWaC officers will arrange a meeting with Council to discuss the adopted Neston Standard; CWaC officers had overlooked the document when it was submitted to them.

- D. Why does Neston have such an abysmal bus service in comparison (apparently) with rest of CWaC area?

Cllr Gittins: Only the 487 bus has subsidies and there are no more funds available for subsidies. The private sector has to be relied upon, and so they have to have their business case in place in order to operate. Now that the Arrowe Park service is in place, a review of the service will be undertaken.

- E. A great deal of fuss was made of a petition presented to the Borough Council to revive a Transport Forum for Neston. Since then one open forum was held over a year ago. In view of this, would it not be better for the Forum to be organised by the Town Council?

Cllr Gittins: CWaC will be arranging another Transport Forum and wish to have feedback from residents. CWaC will investigate weekend and evening services to Chester.

Cllr Barker: If private operators are willing to try, CWaC should support a Hooton loop service.

Cllr Jones: Hopes to enlist the help of Mr Madders MP in support

Cllr Gittins thought it inappropriate to compare the bus services of Blacon with Neston.

Cllr Jones: It was really important for the Town Council and residents to consider the Parking Strategy consultation.

CWaC Cllrs Gittins and Jones left the meeting, and Cllr Barker took his seat at the Council meeting.

97 Apologies for absence

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Kynaston (personal).

98 Declarations of Interest: None.

99 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 18th October 2016 as a true and correct record for the Mayor to sign.


100 Council Manager's Report FC7/100 was received.

Cheshire West and Chester briefings 1074 & 1075 'Let's Talk Some More' budget consultation and 'Mid-year review of Council Plan performance' has been received and circulated to Councillors

Community Pride Competition: Notification received that the 2017 competition will not be taking place.

ChALC Clerk's and Councillors Induction training session is being held on 25th January 2016 at 6.30pm in Northwich. Councillors were encouraged to attend if they were available.

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101 Chairman's Announcements were received.

Responses to consultations: A request was made for councillors to be proactive and play their part, rather than leaving this to the same few members to draft responses.

Victorian Christmas Festival: The overwhelming success of the event was acknowledged, and many positive comments have been received. Thanks to the staff and volunteers and particular thanks to Claire Evans (Assets and Events Manager) and Nicky McMahon (Support Officer) for putting the event together.

The meeting was adjourned to sort out some technical issues.

Cllr Barker left the meeting

The meeting was resumed.

102 Formal Complaint (Full Council 18.10.16 item 88)

- a Members were advised that an appeal by the complainant is expected. Members received the working group's recommendations that Council.
 - reviews its complaints procedure to enhance clarity,
 - drafts a supplementary guidance document for those applying for co-option, and
 - Subsequently reviews Standing Orders to ensure they support the points above.
- b Members agreed that the Council Manager's review of the complaints procedure and co-option guidance be presented to the next meeting of the Council.

103 Flintshire Local Development Plan consultation

Resolved: To approve response to consultation as outlined in report FC7/103, subject to a minor textual amendment.

104 Annual Town Meeting / Annual Meeting of the Council

Resolved: To change the date for the Annual Town Meeting to 9 May 2017 and Annual Meeting of the Council to 16 May 2017.

The remaining member of the public left the meeting

105 Media Training

Members considered report FC7/105 and agreed to commit to undertake media training for its staff and Councillors.


106 Police & Crime Commissioner Invitation

Council nominated Cllr Jilani to attend at the Commissioner's first meeting of Town and Parish Councils on 18th January 2017.

107 Recommendations from Committees

- 1 Finance and General Purposes Committee 22/11/16

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- i **Resolved:** That £2,000 of budget line 4150 (tourism) be vired to the Town Centre Committee for the specific purpose of supporting projects instigated by the Assets and Events Manager (budget line 4131, Assets & Events)
- ii *Communication Strategy:* Council appointed Cllrs Chambers, Montgomery, Roberts and Shipman to the Council's Media Editorial Board with Cllrs Carter, Cray, having a "consultant" role and acting as substitute members as and when required
- iii *CWaC Special Expenses Scheme Consultation:*
 - a Council considered the recommended response to the consultation FC7/107iii, and
 - b. Council agreed a response to the consultation, adding option 1 for question 4 regarding Christmas Lights.

The issues of Christmas Lights expenses and PCSO costs and benefits for the town were to be considered by the S&C and P&E committees respectively.

Junior Mayor and Council

Council agreed to the principle of establishing a Junior Mayor and Junior Council from years 5 and 6 of local primary schools.

Council appointed a task and finish group, to include school representation, to draft a constitution and terms of reference for these. Cllrs Cray, Lloyd and Roberts were nominated.

109 Minutes of Committees & Working Groups

1 The minutes of the meetings listed below were noted.

a *Society and Culture* 25/10/16 & 29/11/16

The Council Manager confirmed that for meeting 29/11/16 paper SC6/85 reference made to Chamber of Trade should have been to AboutMyArea.

b *Town Centre Committee* 01/11/16 & 28/11/16

c *Planning and Environment Committee* 08/11/16

d *Human Resources Committee* 15/11/16

e *Finance and General Purposes Committee* 22/11/16

Cllr Cray left the meeting

110 Finance

- a **Resolved:** To approve expenditure of £4,079.32 net for the council's current account.
- b The income from 17.11.16 to 30.11.16 of £1,262.27 was noted.
- c The FairFX card expenditure of £142.92 was noted.

111 Assets List

Resolved: To approve the Council's Assets List, subject to amendment of the location of the staging, from NCYC to Community Office, Sainsbury's.

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112 Standing Committees

- a) Members noted that the Finance & General Purposes has 1 vacancy
- b) No requests were made for nomination to alternative committees, and / or retirement from committees.
- c) Members agreed not to fill the Finance & General Purposes vacancy.

113 Special Report of Council Manager

The Council Manager gave an oral report relating to inaccurate information published on our website, subsequently referred to on a local media website and apologised to Council for this error. Internal procedures had been reviewed to prevent such future errors.

114 Other Items: None.

115 Next meeting: Due to the nature of the anticipated agenda items Council **Resolved:** That the 17th January 2017 budget meeting, would be held at Neston Town Hall.

PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public

116 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved: To exclude public and press for the remaining items because of likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

117 Asset Management Agreement with CWaC

Resolved: To accept the sum offered and terms for the 2016/17 Management Agreement.

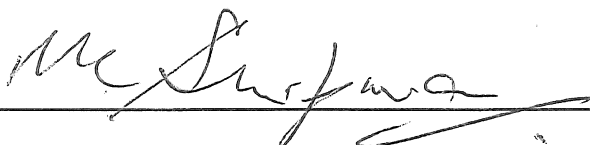
The Council Manger gave an oral report regarding the future of the Asset Management Agreement.

118 Formal Complaint (*Full Council 18.10.16 item 88*)

Report of the working group's report findings. *This item was withdrawn in the light of an anticipated appeal*

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed



Dated

21 FEB 2016