

	Meeting (No)	Meeting of the Council (5)
	Time & Date	28th January 2020 at 6.30pm
	Location	Town Hall, High Street, Neston
Minutes		

Present: Cllrs Roberts (Mayor), Bolderson, Davies, Edwards, Hudspeth, Hutt, Griffiths, Jones, Kynaston, Roe, Warner and Wastell and A Kunaj, Council Manager and T Godfrey, Finance Manager.

In attendance: One members of the public.

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

82 Apologies for absence

Resolved to accept apologies given by Cllr Bennoch (business) and Flockhart (business)

Absent: Cllr Townsend

83 Declarations of Interest: None.

84 Questions and comments from residents

A resident read out their prepared statement and a series of questions regarding the safety of the Hinderton Road junction and the A540 through Neston, requesting that these be tabled at the next Places committee meeting.

The Mayor advised the resident, that via the Places committee (21.01.20) the Council have resolved to support specific aims and objectives of the Action 54 Zero Partnership, an action group whose aims are to make safety improvements to the A540 and its junctions through Neston.

85 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19.11.19 were a true and correct record. The Mayor signed the minutes.

The member of the public left the meeting

86 Chairman's Announcements

The Mayor has attended various Christmas events; Christmas light switch-on at both the Cross and Parkgate and various church services. Cllr Warner (Deputy Mayor) on behalf of the Mayor, attended the Showman's Guild Civic Lunch.

87 Council Manager's Report was received.

An extension to the dead line in order to receive our response to the CWaC Local Plan – supplementary planning document, has been given.

88 Budget and Precept

1. Members considered the following reports;
 - a. Budget detailed report and earmarked reserves;
 - b. Variance for all committees; previously tabled as each committee.
 - c. General reserve and cash balances graph;
 - d. Cheshire Parish Council comparison Band D graph and details;

Mayor's initial and date

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- e. Proposed cost per band for Neston residents;
It was noted in particular, that residents of bands A-D accounted for 74.30% of the population who would be paying £50 or less.
- f. Precept calculation and report was considered.

The Finance Manager advised that the Council was running on a deficit, unable to fully fund the budgets should they be fully spent.

Members were asked to recognise that there could be cuts from the Unitary Authority and council may be required to assist with other services. Council would not wish to cut services that they currently offer or decrease their reserves to critical levels, and now can see the result of not increasing the precept in previous years.

2. The Finance Manager was thanked for his help and support to the precept T&F group in providing many comparisons and budget scenarios, which they had found very helpful in assisting with their deliberations.

Members considered the recommendation from the Policy committee (17.12.19) noting that this will result in an increase of £5 per year for residents living in band D properties.

The percentage increase of the precept request against inflation was also considered.

A vote took place

Result of vote: *For: Eleven Against: One Abstain: None*

Resolved

- a. That Council submit to CWaC a precept request of £270,082 to meet their 2020/21 budget requirements.

The Finance Manger was formally thanked for the works that he had undertaken in putting the precept information together.

The Finance Manager left the meeting.

89 Co-option of members

- 1 No applications or nominations were received for the co-option vacancy to the Council for Neston ward.
- 2 No applications or nominations for the co-option vacancy to the Council for Parkgate ward.

90 Election of Members to Standing Committees

Withdrawal of membership of Members to any committee: None.

Appoint Members to serve on the People committee (one vacancy).

None nominated.

91 Recommendations from Committees

- 1 *People Committee 26.11.19, for 14.01.20 see below*

A. **Resolved** that;

- the grants policy be amended to include a limit of £2,500 for any single grant application;

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- from 2020 onwards the Mayor's poppy wreath be funded from the Mayor's allowance and the Mayor's allowance to be increased accordingly to allow for this additional expenditure(item 63a)

B Members considered the recommendation from Resources Committee that the donation currently made by NTC to the National Poppy Appeal of £100 is split, so that going forward £50 is paid to the National Poppy Appeal and £50 is paid to the Neston Royal British Legion Club friendly society account be approved by Council alongside the other recommendations as detailed in 63a (item 66)

Council requested that this be taken back to the People committee so that following discussions with the Neston Royal British Legion Club members, a decision on the payment can be made.

2 *People Committee 14.01.20*

A **Resolved** that the amended donations policy be approved *item PE7/86*.

B Council considered paper PE7/87 *Power for the People (electricity)*

Council via the agenda were asked to;

I) Note how the Local Electricity Bill aims to address the current situation,

II) resolve to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs during the 2017-19 Parliamentary session; and

III) resolve to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or info@powerforpeople.org.uk <<mailto:info@powerforpeople.org.uk>> expressing its support.

The above items I, II & III were withdrawn.

3 *Policy committee 17.12.19*

a. **Resolved** to approve the strategic objectives and RAG ratings.

The Council Manager had received feedback that the current Strategic Objectives format should be simplified for ease of understanding.

b. Cllrs Kynaston, Roe and Roberts were nominated as CIL Task & Finish Group members. Cllr Davies is Lead.

92 Minutes of Committee meetings

Council noted the minutes of the meetings

- 1 *People 26.11.19 & 14.01.20*
- 2 *Places committee 03.12.19*
- 3 *Resources 10.12.19*
- 4 *Policy committee 17.12.19*

93 **Any other Items:** None.

94 Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council was noted as the 31st March 2020.

Signed _____

SB Went

Dated _____

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

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