	Meeting (No)	Extraordinary Council Meeting (6)
	Time & Date	Friday 20th March 2020 at 9.30am
	Location	Town Hall, High Street, Neston
Extraordinary Meeting Minutes		

Present: Cllrs Warner (Chair for the meeting), Bolderson, Davies, Edwards, Jones, Kynaston, Roe, Townsend and Wastell and A Kunaj (Council Manager).

In attendance: CWaC Cllrs Gittins and Barker and NCYC Manager Mr Prytherch.

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

95 Apologies for absence

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllrs Bennoch (business), Griffiths (personal), Hudspeth (business) and Roberts (Chair)(personal)

Absences for Cllrs Flockhart and Hutt were noted.

96 Declarations of Interest: None.

97 Questions and comments from residents

An email received from one of the market traders, requesting that we take the opportunity to embrace the outdoors and keep Neston trading, was read out by the Chair. It also asked us to recommend to visiting customers to keep a safe distance.

The Chair proposed and Council suspended standing orders to allow those in attendance to speak, and to enable Cllrs to ask them questions.

CWaC response: CWaC Cllr Gittins gave an overview of what CWaC are currently doing and plans they have in place. The director of Public Health, Cllr Gittins and the team have been watching as the COVID-19 virus has spread and have systems in place to cover contingencies, with the key priority being to mobilise adult and children's social care. Some 3000 CWaC staff are now working from home.

The Library and Brio Leisure Centres will be closing and Greenways collections are stopping. Annual meetings are being postponed. As for urgent matters such as Planning and Licensing, these meetings are taking place remotely. Although very busy at this time the director of Public Health, Ian Ashworth will respond to any email message that you send to him. There is over 7000 people in the CWaC area over the age of 70 and those who have to self-isolate will need help over the next 12 weeks at least. The message for residents is to stop socialising; keep social distancing and follow the Public Health and NHS guidelines. CWaC are receiving daily government briefings and that information is being shared locally on AMA website. There are volunteer support groups, Cheshire Community Action have put together a comprehensive list of these.

Q&As

Green Bin Collections: These are stopping at a time when people will be active in their gardens what should people do? – Compost. This is already having a positive environmental and climate impact. Grow a vegetable patch, hedgehogs love areas that are left unkempt. A business has taken this

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opportunity to collect green waste for residents and to deliver it the composting centre in Hapsford. Green bin collections are low on the Council's list of priorities.

Food Banks: Have people stopped buying for these?

There is a community response team focusing on this, is this something that the Council can do?

Could the School Dinner food allocation be re-purposed / distributed?

Supermarkets and Chester Racecourse have a stock of food in preparation for up and coming events that are now postponed and they are looking to get this to the Foodbanks to get it distributed. It was noted that the Foodbank stock looked low in Sainsbury's as it had been moved into storage whilst awaiting distribution.

The Chair thanked CWaC Gittins for her comprehensive briefing. (A more detailed report of the briefing is held in the Council's records).

CWaC Cllr Barker asked the Town Council to take more of a lead and have a co-ordinated response to stop people panic buying.

NCYC response: Mr Prytherch explained how the NCYC have been nominated as the primary care and voluntary sector lead network and to work with CWaC to form a strategic approach for Neston. The NC&YC hub of activity, is now empty and this has been very emotional for all. The Primary Care network has 3 surgeries in Neston and have advised that there are over 4000 over 70's in Neston. There has been a priority to ensure that they get the medication to them. The NCYC website has two columns: One; 'Do you need help' and Two; 'Volunteers'. If you are able to volunteer please complete the form.

The second priority is to get food to people and offer a shopping service. Bank transfer details and NCYC lines of credit are being set up with Sainsbury's.

Thirdly is food poverty, benefits and this will evolve as time moves on.

Neston Angels are continuing but in a different way due to social isolating.

NCYC have remote adult learning classes such a yoga and look towards enabling Church services via a live stream in the near future. A request was made to those with IT abilities to set up their friends and neighbours who may not be able to, whilst they still can (before they may have to isolate).

NCYC communications will be via the website, Facebook and AMA.


There have been no Government announcements for the volunteer sector, with 40% of income lost this week at NCYC. NCYC are surviving but smaller groups and organisations many need help to survive, reassurance that funds are available would help.

NCYC have set up 8x8 meetings. This company are offering free licensing.

Resources are required to reassure residents.

CWaC have two sources of communication; the CWaC website COVID-19 for meals and food shopping, and a Facebook page.

Information is to be added to the NTC website. Community Cars and drivers are still available to help residents.

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NCYC will be calling people who can help and sending out the information calmly and clearly. It was expressed that the main thing is 'social distancing' and to get that word out and for people to understand what they can do to keep themselves and others safe. The easiest way is to keep in touch with your neighbours, friends and family – talk but don't hug or kiss.

Start by looking at the Public Health Information on Social Distancing.

CWaC Cllr Gittins advised that GDPR rules are being relaxed and information is being shared locally by NHS departments.

CWaC Cllr Gittins left the meeting.

Germs were reported to have a longer life on hard surfaces such as stainless steel, hard plastic and plastic coated surfaces and living less long on softer materials, but this is all subject to the type of surface and temperature.

Basic information for the Town Council website was needed such as how germs can be transmitted and the Public Health Information on Social Distancing.

The Chair thanked Mr Prytherch very much for the information he had provided and for the valued work that he is doing. A round of applause was given.

CWaC Cllr Barker and Mr Prytherch left the meeting.

98 Delegated Authority to deal with unprecedented circumstances

- 1 **Resolved** unanimously: To approve delegated authority to enable the Council Manager in liaison with the Chairman of the Council to;
 - cancel all meetings, markets, Town Hall bookings, closing the Town Hall, approve market trader and Town Hall hire booking fees, agree NTC participation at events and close reception as deemed appropriate and in line with health official and recommended guidelines.
 - approve where possible, and when necessary for staff to work from home and expenditure for IT adjustments to enable home working for staff (costs will apply when / if the service is implemented).
 - take decisions on behalf of the Council for payments as necessary
 - take decisions on behalf of the Council for grants and donations if required / urgent.

It was noted that recent circumstances had resulted in the cancellation of many events that the Town Council support and as such, within this budget line there will be surplus funds available to support our community. There needs to be an assessment of available funds, what can done and what is needed.

The Council Manager has made contact via Cheshire Community Action. More volunteers and cash were needed. Different ideas to boost morale were mooted such as delivery of craft materials, perhaps an exhibition of the arts and crafts culminating in a celebration of what has been achieved. Projects could potentially be funded by the Town Council.

It is hoped that the twelve weeks talked about, is the time needed to get the virus under control, it will not eliminate it.

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- 2 **Resolved:** To approve purchase of sundry items of £70.19 NET from budget 4415, this will take the budget over by £138 to end of year.
- 3 Members noted that the Annual Meeting of the Council has been scheduled for 19th May and cannot take place later than 29th May under normal circumstances.
- 4 Members noted that the latest the Annual Town Meeting can take place is 1st June inclusively. This is a meeting facilitated by the Town Council on behalf of its residents, it is not a Town Council meeting.
- 5 Members noted that Council is restricted by legislation for council and annual meetings, further guidance is awaited.

99 Parkgate allotment site – central access path

- 1 *Recommendation from Resources committee 04.02.20 item 107c & 19.02.20 item 114 respectively*
 - a. **Resolved:** To approve that NHB money previously allocated for station CCTV (a project that had since been abandoned) be reallocated for the creation of a level access path at the Parkgate allotment site.
 - b. **Resolved:** To approve that any funds generated from the sale of any of the gazebos would be used to generate income for the running of the market.

100 Any other Items: The Chair thanked members for turning out to the meeting and encouraged communication by phone and emails.

101 Next Meeting

Members noted the next meeting of the Council had been scheduled for the 31st March 2020. It was uncertain if this would go ahead.

Later that day guidance from NALC suggested that meetings go ahead as scheduled for the time being.

Meeting closed at 10.45am

Signed _____



Dated _____

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