

	Meeting (No)	Meeting of the Council (6)
	Time & Date	26.01.2021 at 6.00pm
	Location	Remotely via Zoom
Minutes		

Present: Cllrs Warner (Mayor), Bolderson, Davies, Flockhart, Griffiths, Jackson, Hinks, Hudspeth, Kynaston, Marple, Roberts, Samuel, Townsend and Wastell, and Mrs A Kunaj (Council Manager) and Mr T Godfrey (Finance Manager).

In attendance: One resident (AMA representative)

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

72 Apologies for absence

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Hutt (business reasons)

The absences of Cllrs Jones and Lynch were noted.

73 Questions and comments from residents: None. The Mayor welcomed the resident.

74 Declarations of Interest: None.

75 Minutes of the meeting

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2020 as a true and correct record.

The minutes will be signed at the next Full Council face-to-face meeting to be held.

76 Mayor's Report

The Mayor's oral report was received.

On 17th January, via Zoom the Mayor along with Cllrs Kynaston and Wastell met up with Flint, Mold and Frodsham Mayors. This proved to be an interesting and informative meeting. It is hoped that a Civic Service will be arranged for May. As noted in the Council Manager's report, the town hall remains closed. Covid risk assessments have been updated.

Members noted the passing of the Mayor of Wirral back in October 2020.

Cllr Hudspeth joined the meeting

77 Council Manager's report

The Council Manager's report FC6/77 was received.

78 Precept

- 1 The RFO presented his reports; summary sheet, precept report and band rates, all had been previously received by Council members. An overall increase of 3% which equates to a 3.8% increase for band D residents (£1.74 per year) was considered. This is due to an increase in the number of people claiming council tax reduction support.
- 2 Council considered the Resources and Policy recommendation 15.12.20, "for a 3% precept increase for 21/22 with the proviso that CWaC's band D tax base should be considered by Council when agreeing the precept request."

Much debate and considerations ensued: The impact of Covid has taken its toll.

Mayor's initial and date

SA

NTC has reduced costs and had underspends which have helped the Council to keep the increase down, it would be hard to identify where other cuts could be made. Loss of income via rental and the market revenue have been significant. The situation has been exacerbated by past decisions not to have any increase in the precept whatsoever. Council would have to prioritise and will consider a zero based budget review mid-year. Members noted that other Councils of similar size request £70-£75 per band D resident.

Resolved that Council is to submit to CWaC a precept request of £278,184, resulting in an overall increase of 3% (3.8% increase for band D residents) to meet their 2021/22 budget requirements.

79 Finance

- a **Resolved** to approve expenditure of £57,176.74. net from the Council's current account as authorised by the RFO from 01.10.20 to 30.11.20, and Equals card payment of £154.05 net from 01.10.20 to 30.11.20.
- b Council noted the current account income of £26,390.38 net from 01.10.20 to 30.11.20.
- c **Resolved** to approve the reconciliation of the Council's three bank accounts to 30.11.20.

80 External Audit

- 1 Council received and **Resolved** to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) external audit report section 3 from auditors PKF Littlejohn, noting that, on the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR, in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
- 2 Council noted that the Notice of conclusion of audit had been displayed.

81 Financial Regulations

Resolved to approve amendment of the Financial Regulations section 6.17 by replacement of 'Clerk and Assets and Events Manager' with 'Council Manager and Finance Manager (RFO).

Resolved that a debit card is to be ordered in the name of the RFO for specific use of the Mayor's Charity Account (MCA), to enable amounts to be paid into the MCA over Post Office counters.

82 Covid Recovery Package for Town & Parish Councils

Following some amendments, council approved that the draft response FC6/82 would be sent to Justin Madders MP in report.

The Council were hopeful that financial support should it be required, would be forthcoming from CWaC and agreed that our MP should be kept informed.

83 Committee Membership

- A No Councillor/s withdraw membership from any of the standing committees.
- B No additional appointments to standing committees were made.

Mayor's initial and date



22 JUN 2021

84 Amendment of Standing Orders

To consider reviewing Standing order 15 (iv) to permit Councillor members of designated Committees or Sub Committees to hold office for 2 years. This will not preclude any Councillor not wishing to continue on that Committee to leave at any time. *This item was withdrawn*

85 Notice boards

Members confirmed the current ward notice board:

- Parkgate – Cllr Wastell
- Little Neston – Cllrs Jones and Kynaston
- Ness – Cllr Roberts
- West Vale – Cllr Davies

The condition of the noticeboards will be brought to the attention of the committee at the next C&E meeting.

86 To note the minutes of the committee meetings

Council noted the minutes of the committee meetings:

Community & Environment 01.12.20 & 12.01.21

Resources & Policy 15.12.20.

87 Any other Items

Member noted that two extraordinary meetings had been scheduled for Monday 1st February to consider the employment of a Market Officer.

88 Date of next meeting

Council noted that the next scheduled Full Council meeting would be held on 23 March 2021.

Meeting closed at 19.16pm

Signed _____  _____ Dated 22 JUN 2021