

KNUTSFORD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 October 2011

11/0098 PRESENT

Cllr S A Gardiner (Town Mayor)
Cllr Mrs V Davies (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr P D Coan
Cllr A Dean
Cllr Ms B Emmett
Cllr N R Forbes
Cllr J Goodrich
Cllr S G Hutchence
Cllr G Lasham
Cllr A Malloy
Cllr C Nicholson
Cllr Mrs J A Nicholson
Cllr P S Raynes
Cllr M J Houghton
Cllr Ms B H Coan

Also in attendance

S. McQuade (Town Clerk)

11/0099 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

11/0100 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Cllrs B Coan and Malloy declared an interest in relation to the finance item as recipients of the training provided by ChALC.

11/0101 MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of 5 September be accepted as a true record subject to the following amendments:

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- 11/0087 – Cllr Forbes had identified a need to monitor the budget closely due to the likelihood of year-end cash flow problems.
- 11/0091 – Typographical change ‘my’ replaced by ‘By’.
- 11/0092 – Typographical change ‘ad’ replaced by ‘and’.
- 11/0084 – The resolution to be amended to add ‘and report initially to Council in October’.

11/0102 CLERKS REPORT

The new Clerk introduced himself.

11/0103 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town Mayor clarified the arrangements for public speaking at meetings.

Mrs M Taylor – Asked the Council to formally express its thanks to Knutsford in Bloom for its work in recent months and especially for the enhancements around the railway station.
Clerk to draft letter of thanks.

Mrs Peters-Rock – Asked that the Council take action to protect the interests of residents in terms of the recent health care proposals.

Mrs D Jamison – Asked that the Council consider further public engagement in relation to potential transfer of assets and asked whether the Council was aware of the potential increase in visitor numbers associated with the Tatton Vision.

11/0104 TO RECIEVE A PRESENTATION FROM INSPECTOR STEVE GRIFFITHS

For operational reasons Inspector Griffiths was unable to attend. Clerk to identify a future opportunity and liaise with the Police.

11/0105 TO RECIEVE PRESENTATION FROM CHESHIRE EAST ECONOMIC REGENERATION

A presentation was received from Officers of Cheshire East covering actions to improve the vibrancy of the town centre, continuation of a benchmarking study in the town centre, development of the ‘Love Local Life’ project and matters relating to the Local area Partnership including Embrace the Games.

Members noted the presentation and thanked the officers for their update.

11/0106 TO RECIEVE A PRESENTATION ON Knutsford.com FROM LISA REEVES

Members noted the potential of the communications channel as a means of community

engagement.

11/0107 TO RECIEVE A PRESENTATION FROM NIGEL HULME ON LIVING LOCAL

Mr Hulme was unable to attend, but had sent his apologies.

11/0108 TO RECIEVE A PRESENTATION FROM CHESHIRE PEAKS AND PLAINS

Nigel Bennet and Andy Lofthouse provided Members with an update on the strategic direction of the housing provider and on the specific projects affecting the Knutsford area.

Resolved – That Cheshire Peaks and Plains be invited to provide an update at the January Council meeting.

11/0109 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO SUPORT IN NON FINANCIAL TERMS THE INSTALLATION OF AN AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM

Cllr Davies introduced the item and explained the rationale behind the proposal. Members debated the issue and expressed concerns on a number of grounds including civil liberties.

Resolved – By a majority decision of eight members in favour and 6 against to invite Inspector Steve Griffiths to attend a future meeting to provide further information on which the Council could decide if it wished to support the proposal.

11/0110 EXTERNAL EVENTS

Cllr Davies reported on the most recent Local Area Partnership meeting. Cllr Dean added an update on Embrace the Games and asked Members and the public to support the event.

Cllr J Nicholson reported on attendance at a Manchester Airport update meeting.

11/0111 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Forbes updated members in relation to the most recent meeting. It was reported that there is still concern in relation to cash flow, on matters relating to Kings Coffee House were ongoing, one grant application had been accepted and one rejected. The Committee had received an internal audit report.

11/0112 PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Raynes reported that the Committee had met twice and responded in relation to the Local development framework.

11/0113 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr J Nicholson reported on activities related to Embrace the Games, potential Jubilee events and on Moor Pool. It is planned to seek Council approval of revised terms of reference for the Christmas Lights Committee to expand its role as an Events Committee.

11/0114 COUNCILLOR SURGERY

Cllrs Dean and Forbes reported on the most recent surgery. Matters arising included:

- Various problems related to grass, gardens and trees.
- The usage of communal bins.
- Pedestrian crossing facilities.
- Noise and disturbance in Canute Square late at night/early morning. It appeared much of this was related to the use of the area as a central pick up point for taxis and other vehicles. Cllr Raynes identified a possibility that through licensing arrangements there may be a means to improve or mitigate the situation.

11/0115 TRANSFER OF ASSETS WORKING GROUP

Cllr Forbes reported that building surveys had been obtained, that a negotiation meeting was planned with Cheshire East Council and that the mandate for progressing these matters stemmed from the Town Plan consultation.

Cllr C Nicholson provided an update on matters relating to the Cemetery.

11/0116 UPDATE ON TUPE LEGISLATION

Cllr Emmett provided a review of the legislation and its relevance to any potential transfer of assets.

11/0117 HEALTHCARE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Malloy reported back on the activities of the working group. The group had met twice and were expected to meet again within a week and to invite various representatives from the local health services and Cheshire East to that meeting.

Resolved: That the group co-opt the additional external members to support the work of the group.

11/0118 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS

Resolved that the schedule be approved and payments made subject to:

- 1) The subscription payments to CPRE and the Cheshire Playing Fields Association being deferred pending a decision at the next meeting as to whether the Council wished to

subscribe.

- 2) The deferment of the payment to the Festive Lighting Company pending clarification of the contractual arrangement.

11/0119 MAYORAL EVENTS

The following events were attended since the previous meeting:

September

8th - Greenflag Ceremony on the Moor

9th - Pod launch at the Canvas Lounge

11th - Mobberley Civic Sunday

16th - Knutsford Lions Concert

17th - Joan Leach Memorial Tree Planting

18th - Civic Sunday Bollington and Civic Sunday Winsford

22nd - NW Ambulance Service Open Event

24th - Gaskell Society Autumn Meeting

25th - Civic Sunday Middlewich and Bandstand Marathon (Mereside Brass)

October

7th - Scouts Annual Dinner

7th - Tuscano opening (Deputy Mayor)

11/0120 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions and comments were made and the Town Mayor closed the meeting thanking everyone for their contributions.